

Directions Newsletter

Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services

Volume 16

Second Quarter, FY 1989

No. 2

Humanitarian and Local Board Member Honored Courthouse Renamed for Ward R. Burke

A ceremony and luncheon was held on March 3rd to observe the naming of the Lufkin Federal Courthouse as the Ward R. Burke United States Courthouse. The courthouse was renamed after Congress passed a bill sponsored by Congressman Charles Wilson, who said, "Mr. Burke is a person who has served his flag all his life." The renaming was unusual because Mr. Burke is still living, but officials said the honor is justified. David F. Godfrey, Regional Administrator for the General Services Administration, said, "too many times we don't recognize outstanding citizens until it is too late." Both the cities of Lufkin and Diboll declared Friday as Ward R. Burke Day. William Wayne Justice, Chief Justice for the Eastern District Court of Texas, said, "it is fitting that this courthouse should be named in Mr. Burke's behalf. His record for ethics and straight-shooting has been unsurpassed."

Over 400 people attended the ceremony and luncheon to honor Mr. Burke for his lifetime of numerous contributions to our area. Master of Ceremonies for the luncheon was Mr. Phillip Leach, Burke's long-time partner, who said, "Mr. Burke has added dignity to the mentally retarded and the people who work in that field." Mr. Burke is a state-wide leader in the development of mental health services. He was one of the organizers of the Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services, and has served on the Board of Trustees since its inception in 1974. He has also served in many other organizations for the mentally handicapped, and was instrumental in the development of Lufkin State School.

Mr. Burke has served as President of the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and the Lufkin Independent School District. His industry associations include the Texas Forestry Association, the American Bar Association, the Texas Bar Association, and the Angelina Bar Association.

The new Ward R. Burke United States Courthouse was originally constructed as a post office in 1935, and in 1965 was converted to a federal building. The General Services Administration moved the federal agencies from the facility in 1983 to make room for the United States District Court. Congressman Wilson was successful in securing funds for complete renovation of the building as it stands today.

The Board and staff of this community center are privileged to have Mr. Burke working with them and for the mentally handicapped. Thanks, Mr. Burke.



Ward and Anna Belle standing beside a picture of Ward and the Courthouse given to him by the Angelina Bar Association as a memento of his humanitarian services and his steadfast support of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

Psychosocial Programs In Full Swing

Two psychosocial programs, Crossroads and the Four Seasons Club, joined together for a valentine celebration at the Shelby MHMR Center on February 14th. Over 100 persons attended the festivities that included dancing, singing, eating, and meeting new friends. Friends from the Jasper MHMR Center were also invited. The highlight of the day was the various contests held. Ed Moore of Lufkin won the talent contest with his magnificent songs; Joyce Powell of Center looked very lovely and won the Queen contest; Charles Parker of Center won the Best Dressed Award looking very dapper in his derby hat and jacket; and Dale McBride of Jasper won the dance contest with his break-dancing.

The Crossroads and Four Seasons Club are both new programs that stress socializing and working together as an important part of rehabilitation. The club members plan their own activities, and this day was certainly an indication of what can be accomplished by working together. Staff members are equally enthused about the program. Crossroads Coordinator, Vanessa Slaughter, stated that "it was the perfect day. Everyone got involved and had fun participating in the contests, which had winners from each area." Lisa Hooper, Four Seasons Coordinator, stated that her club members said, "it was a little hard when they first arrived as the party had already started, but they were quickly welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed the day." The Four Seasons Club is now busy planning a spring celebration for the two clubs and friends at the Angelina MHMR Center on April 14, 1989.



Best Dressed Award winner, Charles Parker



Party-goers having a good time



Queen Contest contestant and escort

Who's Who



George Patterson

Last September, George Patterson became the Director of Quality Assurance and Staff Development for Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services. He has been with the Center for ten years. George, who holds a Master's Degree in Psychology and is a Licensed Professional Counselor, served as Director of Mental Health Services prior to his current position. The Quality Assurance division is responsible for maintaining and evaluating services to ensure the provision of high quality and appropriate client care, as well as compliance with all standards under which the agency operates.

Patterson is a member of the Association for Mental Health Administrators and the National Association of Quality Assurance Professionals.

TDMHMR Commissioner Visits Deep East Texas MHMR Center

Deep East Texas MHMR began the new year with a two-day visit by Dennis Jones, the newly-appointed Commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. This was a unique visit for the Commissioner in that he was not in Lufkin to discuss administrative issues and needs of the Center, but rather this trip was to educate him on the many services offered by Deep East Texas MHMR.

The Commissioner arrived at 3:00 P.M. on January 19th and spent the afternoon visiting with staff and clients at the Basic Skills and Respite Care Programs. He had dinner at the home of three clients who reside in one of the Center's alternate living units. The ALU's provide housing for adult individuals who function too low to live in a group home. During dinner, the Commissioner visited with both clients and direct care staff to learn firsthand the program's operation, and expressed his enthusiasm for this program. This casual setting provided an opportunity for the clients to talk openly with the Commissioner about themselves and the Alternate Living Program. After a full day of visiting units, the Commissioner was taken to Peavy Switch Farm, the Center's alcohol and substance abuse facility, to tour

the facility and spend the night. Clients were very impressed that the Commissioner spent the night with them rather than at a motel.

The second day of the Commissioner's visit was as hectic as the first, beginning with his participation in a full interdisciplinary team staffing at Peavy Switch Farm. The Commissioner left Peavy Switch Farm stating, "this is a very impressive program

and facility." Mr. Jones then made rounds with the Medical Director at Pineywoods Regional Treatment Center, and visited the Angelina Psychosocial Program and Workshop. The

Commissioner's last visit was a home visit to one of the agency's Cornerstone clients. "This was the first time I've been to any Early Childhood Intervention program or made a home visit," he said. The parents talked about their child's development and said,

"without these services, our son would not have developed to the level where he is currently functioning."

The Commissioner's last statement was, "you have a lot to be proud of."

Time did not allow for the Commissioner to visit other Center programs, but it is expected that he will make a return visit in the near future.



The Commissioner is discussing the upcoming issue of the Four Seasons with the editor of the newsletter. The newsletter is published by the clients of the Angelina County Psychosocial Program on a monthly basis.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

George Patterson, rights protection officer, has been designated to coordinate efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap.

**In an emergency
call MHMR's
toll-free**

**CRISIS LINE:
1-800-392-8343**

Deep East Texas MHMR Transfers Mental Health Authority To Hardin County

On March 1, 1989, Dennis R. Jones, TDMHMR Commissioner, appointed MHMR of Southeast Texas as the Mental Health Authority for Hardin County. The transfer of the Mental Health Authority from Deep East Texas MHMR to MHMR of Southeast Texas took place after a period of negotiations with the Hardin County Commissioners Court and the Boards of Trustees from both MHMR Centers. The Mental Retardation Authority will remain with Deep East Texas MHMR.

In March of 1985, Deep East Texas MHMR assumed

responsibility for providing mental health services to Hardin County from Rusk State Hospital and at that time became the Mental Health Authority for Hardin County. Last March, Deep East Texas MHMR signed a contract with the MHMR Center of Southeast Texas to deliver mental health services in Hardin County on a pilot basis. The major advantage to Hardin County in this arrangement was that it drastically reduced the time and personnel required to transport court-committed clients to a crisis intervention facility. In addition, management of the Hardin

County mental health programs could be more intensive due to the shorter distances supervisory and support staff would have to travel.

The mental health services provided by MHMR of Southeast Texas to Hardin County residents were well received by the county judge and local citizens, and the arrangement proved satisfactory to all parties involved. Therefore, Hardin County asked TDMHMR to transfer the Mental Health Authority from Deep East Texas MHMR to MHMR of Southeast Texas, and TDMHMR complied with the request.

Angelina County Worker Of The Month

On Tuesday, February 28th, an award ceremony was held to recognize the March Worker of the Month. This is a new program sponsored by the Angelina County Association for Human Development to recognize individuals who perform work duties in the Four Seasons Club, the Angelina Workshop, or the Job Coach Program. The qualities recognized are good record of attendance and punctuality, a willing, positive attitude, adherence to program rules, and supportive and cooperative relationships with supervisors and co-workers. The members must have participated in one of the programs for at least 90 days.

The award will be presented on the last working day of the month. Each winner's name will be inscribed on a plaque, and they will also receive \$10.00 donated by First City Bank and a free haircut donated by local salons.

March's Worker of the Month was John Barfus. Mr. Barfus entered the workshop in April, 1987, working five days a week on the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation Custodial contract. In January, 1988, he entered the Job Coach program and was placed at Albertson's Grocery Store. He continued his work in the workshop as well, and because of his excellent performance and attitude, was promoted to Assistant Crew Supervisor in October, 1988. The workshop staff

have depended heavily on John to train new workers, monitor supplies, and supervise work at the Central Administration and Angelina MHMR buildings. From January 11th to February 27th, John acted as Contract Manager during the illness of the staff contract manager. He managed the contract and both MHMR buildings and did an excellent job. John has also become somewhat of an expert in floor maintenance and will begin supervising a specialty crew that will perform stripping and rewaxing duties on all custodial contracts for the Angelina MHMR Center.



John Barfus

Employee Recognition Program

There is a new recognition program in the making. Plans are being finalized to give awards every 90 days to eleven or twelve employees who make outstanding contributions to the Center. Nominations may be made by ANY MHMR employee and will be received by the Personnel Committee, who will select one person from each group.

The groups of employees into which MHMR may be divided for this competition are:

- Sheltered Workshops North
- Sheltered Workshops South
- Outpatient Clinics
- Cornerstone and Shelby
- Child Development Center
- Case Management
- Group Homes
- Family Support Services
- Peavy Switch Farm
- Pineywoods Hospital
- Service Directors
- Central Administration

The Personnel Committee will announce the final

grouping in a few weeks, trying to have approximately the same number of employees in each group.

Each employee who is selected will receive a \$25.00 check, a certificate, a mug imprinted with the name of the award, and publicity in the local newspaper.

The name of this award is still to be decided. There will be a contest to choose a name, so start thinking now of a good one. Entry blanks will be sent to each unit soon, and entries will be received until mid-April. The winner of the **NAME CONTEST** will receive a \$100.00 check and an inscribed mug.

These awards are designed to recognize many kinds of contributions: for successfully completing difficult jobs, for having a positive attitude, for being enthusiastic, for going the "second mile," for being a good team member, and for the ability to get the job done. These are just a few examples of the kinds of things that someone could be nominated for.

This program is seen as a chance to recognize some of the accomplishments of MHMR employees, and an opportunity to give recognition to people by saying, "Thanks for a jobs well done."

Nancy Fuller Joins MHMR Board



Nancy Fuller

The Board of Deep East Texas MHMR recently welcomed Nancy Fuller of Sabine County as their newest member. Commissioners from Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties appointed Mrs. Fuller as their MHMR Board representative upon the resignation of long-time Board member, Perry Sampson.

Fuller's service to MHMR dates back to the many years she served as Chairperson of the Sabine County Advisory Council and was co-initiator of the Sabine County Empty Stocking Program for needy children, which is sponsored by MHMR and the Department of Human Services.

Fuller currently serves as the Director of Special Education for the Sabine County Co-op, which provides educational assistance to handicapped students in the Hemphill, West Sabine, Brookeland, and Broadus independent school districts. She is also a consultant speech pathologist for the Sabine County Hospital and in the past has been a consultant for the Sabine County Indigent Care Program. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and a master's in education from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Fuller and her husband reside in Hemphill with their two children.

Nacogdoches Takes Second

The Nacogdoches Sheltered Workshop and the Nacogdoches Halfway House combined forces for the regional Special Olympics basketball tournament held February 10th and 11th. The tournament took place at Stephen F. Austin State University. The men's team, coached by Sherman Kossie, Nacogdoches Group Home Houseparent, took second place losing a heartbreaker in the final minutes of the championship game. Of the players, Sherman said, "this is the first time they have participated in the basketball tournament and we

came away with second place...I'm proud of those guys." He added, "our guys learned more about team spirit and working together as the tournament went on." Jimmy Mascorro of the Group Home was Sherman's assistant coach.

The women's team was coached by Charlotte Kossie, Sheltered Workshop Trainer. Charlotte and the women's team fought to a second place finish also against some stiff competition. The women's team was classified in the "C" bracket and lost only to an "A" bracket team in the championship game. Charlotte

said, "we didn't expect to take second place since this is the first year we have participated."

Both teams were awarded second place trophies and each team member received a medal. One of the big surprises came later when the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks invited both teams to a March 4th basketball game in the coliseum. Team members will sit behind the Ladyjacks' bench and be honored at the game.

On April 24th and 25th, the Nacogdoches clients will again hit the competition for the regional Special Olympics Track and Field Meet in Lufkin.

Peavy Switch Welcomes Les Leach

Les Leach, the new Marketing Coordinator for Peavy Switch Farm, has just come on staff. His start date was February 1st, and he spent the entire month immersed in training from New Employee Orientation to actually participating in one week of treatment as a client at Peavy Switch. Les will be officing at Central Administration initially. Hopefully, he will open the new Marketing and Sales office by April 1st at a separate location.

Peavy Switch Farm has the unique mission of providing services for two client populations: those who are indigent and those who are employed. Funding depends on marketing and sales to both human service agencies and industry. Combining the public and private dollar to bring about self-sufficiency requires a tedious balancing effort.

Les will be responsible for approaching industry and private care providers to promote their utilization of our services. This will require extensive education and awareness programs geared toward the needs of our customers and the community. He will also be formulating marketing for all farm products plus general advertising and public relations.

Peavy Switch Farm welcomes Les and has great hope for the development of many marketing and sales customers. Good luck and great success to Les.



Les Leach

Client Rights

Any client, relative of a client or representative of a client who has a complaint, comment or suggestion regarding confidentiality of records or the health, safety, welfare or legal and human rights of a patient or client of this center is invited and urged to submit them in writing to:

Chairperson
Public Responsibility
Committee
P.O. Box 935
Lufkin, Texas 75901

The Public Responsibility Committee is an independent, impartial body. None of its members are employees of this center.

Copies of Deep East Texas MHMR's operating policies and procedures may be reviewed at Central Administration, 4101 South Medford Drive, Lufkin, Texas.

Jasper Job Placements

Since taking over the Jasper Vocational Services, Workshop Manager Paulette Lewis has found employment for three workshop clients. By following up on a community referral from a satisfied customer, Paulette was able to place one client in a private home to do housekeeping. Through the local hospital, Lewis arranged for another client to clean hospital

charts on a quarterly basis prior to Medicare/Medicaid inspections. A third client was accepted into the food service program at a local school district through the JTPA program. The school was very encouraging that this could turn into a full-time opportunity.

When asked how she was able to achieve these job placements, Lewis said, "I just get out there and talk

to them." Each of the three clients had previously developed their skills through the janitorial and cooking class programs at the Jasper MHMR Sheltered Workshop.

Lewis reports that her current project is discussing with the Visadore Corporation a subcontract to fold, form, and seal cardboard boxes.

Richerson Joins MHMR

Tim Richerson has joined the Deep East Texas MHMR Services staff as Director of Personnel Services. Tim brings twenty years of professional personnel experience from both manufacturing and service industries to the position. He has served as Division, Group, and Corporate-level Director, and Vice President of Human Resources for up to 3,600 employees.

Tim earned his Bachelor's degree from Lamar University and his MBA from North Texas State University. He and his 13-year-old daughter, Jill, recently moved to Lufkin from Atlanta, Georgia, where he was Vice President in a personnel consulting firm.



Tim Richerson

Retirement Cut Short

Allen Sturrock, Chairman of the MHMR Board of Trustees and former County Judge of Tyler County, has recently begun working part-time in the Probation Office at the Tyler County Courthouse. He started working in the office on December 20, 1988, and will work on a part-time basis three to four days a week.

According to the Judge, his job will involve supervising the misdemeanor probationers as they come in to report. "I'm really enjoying my job," he said. "I'm glad that my health is good enough that I can work part-time." Judge Sturrock said he is familiar with the job because of his experience as county judge, from which he retired in May, 1987.



Judge Sturrock

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Santa And Friends Arrive In Crockett

On December 21, 1988, Santa and eight elves paid a surprise visit to Houston County Sheltered Workshop and Basic Skills. The clients and staff were treated to a Clogging demonstration by the SPJST Lodge 74 Youth Group. Members of the group were Scott and Travis McKenny, Tanya Haynie, Samatha Lundy, Eric and Karen Dayl, David Spruill, Tallula Hyman and Christy Milliean. Not ones to set by as others have all the fun, clients and staff participated in several of the dances and learned a few new steps.

Following the entertainment, Santa appeared and delighted the clients with gifts. During the Christmas celebration, the clients exchanged gifts and were treated to a wide assortment of sandwiches and goodies.

Clients and staff of the Houston County MHMR Center would like to thank "Binky" Monk and the Houston County Association of Handicapped Persons for making the Christmas party a huge success.



There really is a Santa Claus