



TRC news & views

TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

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AROUND THE REGIONS

Sensing the spirit of positiveness

By **JOHN K. HALLORAN**
Director, Region V

In being asked to make a few comments in the new TRC NEWS & VIEWS, I have chosen the subject of positiveness.

I, personally, have sensed the spirit of positiveness on behalf of many of our staff. This is especially true following the Supervisor/Administrators' meeting in Austin referred to as the "Oktoberfest."

We have all gone through some rather trying experiences in the past 24 months, and there is still a rocky road ahead. However, if our new approach is one based on positiveness, as it surely seems to be, I think that we may be on the right path.

We need to realize that we are all part and parcel of one group and dedicated to serving the handicapped. Many things that we are being asked to do are dictated through regulations and policies that at times we have no control over. Perhaps we have been remiss in explaining the whys and wherefores of these rules. This then becomes a problem in

Public information guide

A new Public Information Handbook has been printed for the use of employees with communication responsibilities in Texas Rehabilitation Commission offices throughout the state.

Copies will be distributed initially to regional directors and supervisors and key personnel in the Division of Disability Determination.

Commissioner W. K. Harvey, Jr. notes in an introduction to the 36-page book that . . . "TRC can better serve the handicapped persons of this state if the public has a better understanding of what the Commission can do for the handicapped and how it is done."

"To provide the public with more information about Commission activities, an increasing effort is being made to assist the media in reporting Commission activities."

The handbook advances ideas and establishes guidelines for further development and refinement of TRC's public information program. It covers such subjects as media lists and contacts, news releases, feature stories, media kits, news conferences, photography, radio and television, public service and magazines.

communication, another subject that is receiving a great deal of attention presently.

I think we need to realize that what happens in Muleshoe could have a bearing in Austin, Houston or wherever. What happens in Austin or San Antonio could have implications in Brownsville or Paris or Port Arthur. In other words, we are all, first and foremost, employees of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the best rehabilitation program in the nation, and the best of state agencies! If you don't believe that, ask around.

Back to positiveness. I know we have "cussed and discussed" the machine in Austin, but the new "smart terminals" in the field and in the Central Office are certainly a plus. All I keep hearing about is that with their capability, we should have had them long ago. All of us are thrilled with their operation.

We still, comparatively speaking, have many leeways in decision-making with our clients. We are still being encouraged to be innovative and resourceful. New ideas are welcomed. Budgeting of case service monies is another positive move. We have problems in this area, but it is a move in the right direction. Administration is aware of field problems, and is able to relate to the day-to-day operations of a caseload.

This positiveness is going to be shown also in our new approaches to communicating, and particularly in our renewed effort with the media. I understand plans are in the mill to develop a good and positive image to the public through all means of communications.

I know that 1979 looks brighter with emphasis on the positive approach to our jobs and to our clients.

Supervisory units shifted

Assistant Deputy Commissioners John Fenoglio and Jimmy Jackson have announced that, effective February 1, the two supervisory units headquartered in Corpus Christi will be shifted from Region V to Region VII.

All personnel presently assigned to these units will, thusly, become Region VII employees. Personnel records and computer programming will be changed to reflect the moves.

These geographical changes, coupled with a recent change to shift the Pasadena supervisory unit from Region VII to Region IV, represent all of the anticipated changes that will occur within the state.

THE commissioner's CORNER

Fiscal 1979 represents the 50th year that Texas has operated a state vocational rehabilitation program for the disabled.

In 1929, through an enabling act of the Texas Legislature, the State Board of Education was authorized to receive funds and administer a program of services for the physically handicapped.

In 1943, the federal rehabilitation act was amended to provide a range of services, including subsistence during training, physical restoration services, diagnostic evaluation and other services not previously offered.

Also, the amendments extended provision of services to the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

As a result of the amendments, in 1945 the first substantial staff increase was experienced and the program has enjoyed steady growth and services to more and more disabled citizens — from a handful of clients in 1929 to the many thousands served each year at the present time.

The program continued to be administered by the Texas Education Agency (which succeeded the State Board of Education) until September 1, 1969 when the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was established by the Legislature and the Division of Disability Determination and Vocational Rehabilitation Division were transferred to the Commission.

Under the leadership of a dedicated board, the TRC program has achieved national recognition for efficiency of operation, numbers of people served, number one standing for many years for numbers successfully rehabilitated, and national recognition for establishing an administrative services component to free up counselor time for more direct dealing with clients.

More than a quarter million citizens become known to the agency through its two divisions each year.

In spite of the remarkable record that has been achieved, the number of disabled Texans needing rehabilitation services is increasing at a greater rate than the resources available to provide services.

We are looking forward to new challenges and after 50 years of dedicated service to disabled Texans we can justifiably be proud of our program.

More than ever before, we stand dedicated to our motto of helping the handicapped to help themselves.



Governor's Conference on Handicapped report

On January 11, Governor Dolph Briscoe received the final report from the 1978 Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

Jim B. Grey of Fort Worth, Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Problems of the Handicapped; Sam Millsap of San Antonio, Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped; and Bill Harvey of Austin, Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission; were among those taking part in the presentation of the report, which is a statewide assessment of problems facing the physically and mentally disabled.

Governor Briscoe, following the 1977 White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, established the Committee on Problems of the Handicapped by executive order.

Governor Briscoe called on the Committee to convene a statewide conference of interested individuals to examine and make an assessment of current problems facing individuals with mental and physical handicaps, to make the general public aware of their problems, to ascertain from handicapped individuals how Texas state government can be most responsive to their problems, and to make recommendations to the Governor to insure that governmental services assist handicapped individuals in living an independent life with dignity and full participation in community life to the greatest extent possible.

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission served as the avenue to obtain a federal grant to pay expenses and administrative costs.

Martin, Burns retire

Frank H. Martin, Assistant Commissioner for Field Administrative Services, and Wilson R. Burns, Personnel Management Specialist, retired on December 31 from their Central Office positions with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Martin was employed by TRC on March 30, 1970 as the first Administrative Officer in the system. He worked in the Dallas Regional Office until succeeding James A. Giddings in January, 1976.

Martin initiated career opportunity requirements for Administrative Technicians and Central Office training sessions for Clerical Supervisors. He traveled extensively to regional and district offices throughout the state, furthering the effectiveness of TRC's Administrative Services operation.

Prior to his employment with TRC, Martin worked as a construction supervisor, insurance office manager, accountant, and Bank Examiner for the State of Texas.

Burns had served 16 years in state government, eight at TRC. Upon retirement from the military, as Chief Master Sergeant in Personnel, he was a Personnel Assistant at Austin State School (1972) and Personnel Officer at Travis State School (1964).

He joined TRC in October, 1970 as Personnel Officer III and was promoted in 1974 to Personnel Management Specialist.

IMPART activities grow in second funding year



CHARLES J. LAENGER, SR. is using a bite switch which fits in the mouth and is activated by closing the teeth to operate a HandiVoice communication device. The HandiVoice is one of the devices included in the demonstration center at the IMPART office, 1138 Airport Boulevard, Austin. Counselors may see a demonstration of a device or may bring a client to use the device to determine if a specific device meets the client's needs. A catalogue of the devices at the center is being prepared by John O. Robinson, Assistant Commissioner for Purchasing and Supply.

IMPART started its second year in December, looking back on some solid achievements and looking ahead to expanded activities.

Liaison counselors identified during the first 12 months of operation are as follows:

REGION I — Paul Rostad, Lubbock; Irwin Van Deman, El Paso; Duane Mitchell, Lubbock; Dan Osborn, Fort Stockton; Augustine Lopez, El Paso; and Billy Davis, Amarillo.

REGION II — Ken Koenig, Fort Worth; Gene Tone, San Angelo; Roger Owen, Vernon; and Tom Cook, Abilene.

REGION III—Clyde McWhorter, Fred Roy, Don Buck and Connie Beeson, Austin; Ted Elliot, College Station; Lonnie Benson, Waco; and Marilyn Macdougall, Temple.

REGION IV—Joe Kremberg, Terry Smith, Mickey Ford, Sharon Ulrich, Joyce Zeok, Brenda Owens, James Moore, Kay Lord and Debbie Ross, Houston.

REGION V—Mel Fajkus, Jeanne Pfeil, Aaron Wallace, Rolph Dean and Robert Hasbrook, San Antonio; Mark Lemon, Gonzales; Neil Gilliam, Kerville; James B. Howard and Adalberto Barrera, Corpus Christi; Arturo Longoria, McAllen; and Joe Rodriguez, Eagle Pass.

REGION VI—O. C. Bridges, Corsicana; Darwin Rogers, Dennis Kutach, John McNair and Cynthia Stone, Dallas; Charlotte Gates, Grand Prairie; Charles Wasson, Greenville; and Carroll Graves, Longview.

REGION VII—Elizabeth Coppock, Bay City; Mary Valentini and Lee Arvie, Beaumont; Tom King, LaMarque; Bob Reeves, Angleton; Billy Feltman, Lufkin; and Josalyn Harris, Baytown.

These counselors met in regional workshops and discussed problems which they had experienced with clients that were appropriate to be linked with technological solutions. Counselors were encouraged to submit additional problems and to discuss with each other solutions which they had devised.

The IMPART staff responded to 168 problems during the first

funding year. Approximately 230 problems were received. Some of these were referral problems and did not require more than a referral letter to the originator.

The 168 problems are categorized by disability (Table 1) and by problem area (Table 2). Of the problems responded to, 74 were from TRC staff and 94 were from other originators, including out-of-state originators.

In the second funding year, IMPART is expanding to serve Oklahoma and New Mexico counselors while continuing to provide a resource for Texas Rehabilitation Commission counselors. Workshops are scheduled with supervisory units so that all counselors, in addition to liaison counselors, can discuss problems they may have.

A demonstration center of innovative devices is being accumulated at the new IMPART office, 1138 Airport Boulevard, Austin. Counselors will soon receive a list of the devices contained at the demonstration center. Additional devices will be purchased when possible. Counselors are invited to submit the names and specifications of devices they would like to see included in the demonstration center.

IMPART is a Texas Rehabilitation Commission resource for rehabilitation practitioners. As independent living and severely disabled clients enter the case-loads of counselors, more and more technological aid will be necessary to render these clients employable or to enable them to live more independently.

Problems may be submitted to IMPART by sending a problem statement form or letter to Chuck Laenger, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, San Antonio, 78284, or to Dr. Fred Bohls at 1138 Airport Boulevard, Austin, 78702. Telephone numbers are (512) 684-5111, Ext. 2696, for Laenger, and (512) 926-1681 for Dr. Bohls.

IMPART TABLE 1

<u>DISABILITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Amputee	6
Arthritis	3
Birth Defect — Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)	3
Cardiac Disability	1
Cerebral Palsy	33
Deaf/Blind	5
Dwarfism	4
Epilepsy	1
Hearing Impairment	36
Hemiplegia	3
Hypotomia	2
Laryngeal Disorder	3
Learning Disability	1
Mental Illness/Mental Retardation	4
Multiple Sclerosis	4
Muscular Dystrophy	3
Neoplasm	1
Osteogenesis Imperfecta	2
Paraplegia	13
Polio	5
Pregnant	1
Quadriplegia	37
Skin Disorders	3
Spina Bifida	2
Stroke	8
Vision Impairment	38
Other Physically Handicapped	46

(See IMPART TABLE 2 on page 4)

286 get service awards

Texas Rehabilitation Commission service awards were presented last month to almost 300 employees throughout the state.

Among the 286 individuals saluted for years served (through August 31, 1978), four received special certificates: Marjorie Booker, Wichita Falls, 35 years; W. K. Harvey, Jr., Austin, 33 years; Martha Bursik, Fort Worth, 31 years; and J. K. Halloran, San Antonio, 28 years.

Twenty-year awards went to Gene H. Raiford, Central Office; Harold J. Walker and C. M. Woodworth, Disability Determination Division; and W. W. McFarland, Region III.

Nine received 15-year certificates: A. J. Turner, Disability Determination; Vernon M. Arrell, Central Office; Charles Foster, Region II; Benny Bowser and A. A. Williams, Region III; Yeura Smith, Region IV; Patricia Connor, Region V; Gordon Graves and Charlotte Sheppard, Region VI.

Ten-year certificates and pins were awarded to 69 employees and 200 received five-year awards.

REGION I

TEN YEARS: Joy Blackshear, Darlene Boykin, Eva Cisneros, Rebecca E. Davis, Maria Estella Ruiz, Mildred Sevey and Ruth M. Turner.

FIVE YEARS: Charles T. Armstrong, Barbara Ballard, Richard Benito, Delores A. Candelaria, Marilyn A. Clark, Woody R. Crouch, Sydna Louise Hamilton, Agustin Lopez, Patricia Razo, Gerald B. Seright, Emilia G. Valles, Darla D. Vaughn, Brenda L. Watkins and Alicia Zuniga.

REGION II

TEN YEARS: Hardy E. Bell, Linda B. Covington, Jim Dowell, Wendell Rowland, Gene Spann, Don B. Stringer and Charles Wolston.

FIVE YEARS: Ruthe E. Bolin, Bill Clark, Tom Cook, Wanda F. Ely, Jerry L. Hickman, Russell P. Howard, Karen K. Johnson, Josie Lalpui, Gene F.

Lane, Pat Lincecum, Rita Smetana, Verlon G. Strickland, Bud Wilkerson and Earnestine Williams.

REGION III

TEN YEARS: Lupe Ojeda, Tom C. Rainer, Jerry D. Simmons and Thomas F. Wallis.

FIVE YEARS: Linda M. Brown, Merrylyn Buerschinger, Walter S. Chamberlain, Jr. Pamulla Chase, Ralph J. Cooley, Jr. Melvin Haisler, James P. Hooks, Brenda A. Joyner, William B. Krieg, Jr. Derry J. Marris, Nancy N. Oatman, Frieda E. Steinfath, Judith A. Streett and Mary A. Williams.

REGION IV

TEN YEARS: Juanita E. Ceron, Mickey K. Ford, D. B. Harrison, Robert Hefley, Dale Warren and Martha Williams.

FIVE YEARS: Morris L. Alford, William T. Archer, Katherine Bendele, Nico G. Castillo, Lewis Edward Jones, Melba Lorange, Marie Marsh, Jo Ann Mautz, Bernadette L. Moses, William Mosley, Rick Lee Myers, Pankie L. Ned, Lily A. Rodriguez, Sharon Ulrich, Rudolph Wagner, Jr. Frankie Watson and Ellen Williams.

REGION V

TEN YEARS: Luis Alvarado, Alvis B. Brister, Jr. Gerard Conway, Berta De La Garza, Alice Gomez, Carlos J. Gutierrez, Don Hetherington, Jeanette Holland, Javier H. Leal, Frederick T. Mathews, Victor T. Naccarato, Lucian B. Oden, Tom C. Price, Olaya Solis and Julianne Wallace.

REGION VI

TEN YEARS: N. W. (Dub) Alexander, Bill Allen, Mae F. Goffney, Lester L. Martin, John J. O'Brien, Jake C. Reeves, Rod L. Sturman, Jack Sudderth Margaret C. Robbins and Harry Willbanks.

REGION VII

TEN YEARS: Lee E. Arvie, Ray Fenton, Robert F. Goodspeed, Mary Ann Jones, Judy May and Paul Ramirez.

CENTRAL OFFICE

TEN YEARS: Edward W. Austin, Martha L. Day, Lee Henderson, Dora S. Huston, Delvin E. Sparks and Ted M. Thayer, Jr.

DISABILITY DETERMINATION

TEN YEARS: Delia Campos, Bert M. Cottrell, Thomas W. Galbraith, Donald E. Hensz, Sharon Herring, Minnie Salinas, Robert Wallace and Floyd Warren.

(A list of others receiving five-year awards will be printed in February's NEWS & VIEWS)

IMPART TABLE 2

PROBLEM AREA	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	144
Amplification	6
Braille, Braille Writing	1
Command, Control Devices	3
Communication (Non-Vocal Aids)	13
Reading	17
Recording	2
Sensory Conversion (Tactile)	12
Special Signaling	32
Speech Producing	4
Speech Synthesis (Included in Non-Vocal Aids)	
Restricted Vision Aids	17
Telephone	9
Typewriting	13
Writing	11
General — Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)	4
DAILY LIVING	26
Attendant Case	3
Bathing	6
Dressing/Clothing	3
Eating/Drinking/Feeding	3
Reaching/Lifting	3
Sleeping	1
Toileting	6
General (NOS)	1
FURNITURE	12
Chair	2
Table/Desk	10
HOME ADAPTATION AND MANAGEMENT	5
MEDICAL/THERAPY	19
Muscle/Nerve Stimulation	3
Medical/Therapy (NOS)	16
MOBILITY	55
Lifts, Transfers, Elevators	14
Orthotics	7
Prosthetics	1
Public Accessibility	1
Stabilization, Positioning, Support Aids (Other Than Orthoses)	9
Walkers	1
Wheelchairs	6
Wheelchair Accessories	10
Mobility Aids for Visually Impaired	2
Personal Vehicle, Special, Unlicensed	2
Mobility (NOS)	2
RECREATION	4
Sports	2
Other Recreation	2
TRANSPORTATION	21
Adapted Van	6
Automobile Controls	5
Buses, Minibuses, etc.	3
Transfers, Lifts	4
Personal Vehicle, Specialized Vehicle	1
Transportation (NOS)	2
VOCATIONAL	46
Industrial Equipment/Tools/Devices	34
Training/Education	12
OTHER	7

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