

	T · E · X · A · S	<h1>HIGHLIGHTS</h1>
	PLANNING COUNCIL	
	for	
	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	

Vol. 2, No. 2

Austin, Texas

June 1984

## DD grant projects grow in the Valley

When DD funds were granted to build a workshop for the mentally retarded citizens of Hidalgo County in 1975, the seeds for a string of residential and day care facilities were planted throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

It was under the direction and guidance of Lee Prodoehl, now serving as the Tropical Texas Center for Mental Health/Mental Retardation (TTC-MH/MR) director of special projects, that the Valley programs were developed. Prodoehl was a charter member of the DD Council and served as a Council representative for 11 years.

The TTC-MH/MR vocational training-sheltered employment facilities have grown to include three centers. Grounds for the latest, located in Harlingen, were formally donated to the TTC-MH/MR by the U. S. Department of Human Services in a ceremony last March. Following \$80,000 of renovations funded by the city of Harlingen, Prodoehl expects the new center to be functioning by September of this year.

The Harlingen Center will be similar to the others in that it will give young people over the age of 21 the chance to learn vocational training in a sheltered workshop environment, with some clients moving on into private industry.

Sheltered Workshop Industries, opened in Brownsville in 1979, and the Harlingen Center are both day care only programs. LaLomita, located in Mission, is the only TTC-MH/MR center that provides facilities for residential as well as day care clients.

DD funds were also used by TTC-MH/MR in the early 1970's for the construction of two of eight training units for special mentally retarded students in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Thirteen school districts used these units in the placement, training and education of mentally handicapped children at a time when few such facilities were available. Since then the school districts have taken over these facilities and are operating them with their own funds.

Prodoehl sees the importance of workshops for mentally retarded adults as a continuing training process in a young life that has been nurtured through the public school system and should not be left to stagnate after graduation.

"We make an investment in our young mentally retarded citizens, giving them the opportunity to learn and expand their capabilities in our school systems, that can be wasted after graduation if stimulating activities are not presented to them," he explained.

A new DD program grant award will provide community residential arrangements, including support services and domestic assistance, to 12 developmentally disabled clients in the Cameron County area.

"It's just a logical continuum of events," said Prodoehl. "This individual has a full life to live. He should not become a 24-hour burden to his family after the age of 21. In a workshop situation such as ours he is able to go on receiving the training he needs to become a citizen of the community."

Prodoehl emphasized that none of the workshops are designed to be long-term custodial facilities. They are geared to bring clients up to a level of personal and social adjustment in order to enter into the community as independently as possible.

As for his plans for the future, Prodoehl foresees the need for at least two more workshop facilities throughout the TTC-MH/MR area, which consists of Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy counties. "We now have facilities in the eastern, western, and mid-Valley regions," he said, "there is still room for growth."



*An onsite greenhouse provides vocational work experience for workshop participants at La Lomita in Mission.*



# Meet the Council

Four new Council members were introduced at the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities' quarterly meeting in March. The new members — Ward R. Burke, Lufkin; Diana Fricke, Fort Worth; Patricia McCallum, Seagoville; and Opal Hatch Washington, Austin — were all appointed to the Council by Governor Mark White.

## Ward R. Burke

Ward Burke comes to the Council with a long history of public service work with the mentally handicapped. He was co-founder and first president of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), Angelina County, and past director of ARC, Texas, both of which he is still a member. He served on the board of the Texas Department of Hospital and State Schools and its predecessor the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) for 8 years, chairing the organization during the last two years of his involvement. He has also been a member of the State Mental Health Advisory Council for 6 years.

Working in a 13-county-wide area, Burke also served as a community trustee of the Deep East Texas Community MHMR Center, for which he previously acted as chairman and now serves as a board member. He was also director of the Texas Council of MHMR Centers, an organization for trustees of community centers, of which he was past president, co-founder and currently serves as a board member.

Burke retired last year from Temple-Eastex, a land holding and wood producing company, as vice president of law after 27 years of service. He is now serving as a trustee and executive secretary of the P.L.L. Temple Foundation working to administer funds to charitable organizations.

As the parents of a 34-year-old daughter with Down's Syndrome, Burke and his wife have grown to be involved with a wide spectrum of services for the disabled over the years. He is familiar with the DD Council through his work with the TDMHMR.

## Diana Fricke

A lengthy involvement with ARC in several different states has given Diana Fricke a wealth of understanding and

experience with the mentally disabled. She has been working for ARC, Fort Worth, as advocacy coordinator for the past two years. Prior to that she was involved as a volunteer in ARC chapters in Atlanta and Omaha.

She believes her current position, which involves training people to be advocates for the mentally retarded, is a very important aspect of the ARC program. There are many individuals who don't have families to speak out for them, they need a knowledgeable person to work with them and help them secure the civil rights they deserve as citizens, she explains. Through her work she has delivered several presentations on advocating for the mentally handicapped at ARC regional and national conventions.

Working in a psychiatric hospital where she encountered several mentally retarded patients instigated Fricke's involvement with volunteer work. Her oldest son also has epilepsy which heightened her awareness of developmental disabilities. Nursing classes at the Mercy School of Nursing in Michigan and at the University of Nebraska gave her additional clinical insights into the problems of those not able to speak out for themselves.

As for her contribution to the DD Council, Fricke says she is interested in it as a vehicle for channeling money across the state to demonstrate a variety of services, since the Council is the primary advocate for the developmentally disabled in Texas.

## Pat McCallum

As immediate past president and current executive director of the Deaf/Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT), Pat McCallum has an extensive service record working with human service agencies.

In addition to working with DBMAT for 8 years, her memberships include: ARC, Dallas; the National Association for the Deaf/Blind, of which she serves as vice-chairman; and the Interagency Task Force for Future Services to the Deaf/Blind, of which she serves as co-chairman. Other memberships include the Association for Individuals with Disabilities and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. She was also a recent recipient of the Distinguished Parent Award given by the Texas Association for the Severely Handicapped.

Working as a volunteer peer counselor to parents and families of deaf/blind and special handicapped youngsters across the state is her favorite volunteer activity.

McCallum has a 19-year-old son who is deaf/blind and is currently involved in a pilot project in Dallas, the Extended Living Program, that teaches deaf/blind and nonspeaking blind young adults basic life skills.

Coming into contact with a variety of persons with different disabilities has made me more aware of the need for services for people with cross disabilities, explained McCallum. She has been involved with a resource core group locally among administrators, parents, and other facilitators to "help gather together community resources, enabling people to access a clearing house of information."

As a Council member she would like to assist in prompting interagency cooperation between different human service agencies to provide a lifetime of assistance to the developmentally disabled.

## Opal H. Washington

Opal Washington comes to the Council with a strong background of state-related work experience. She served as a County Extension Agent with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for 38 years before retiring. Currently she is working part-time as a consumer education consultant for Oster Appliance Co.

A member of several state and national home economics associations, Washington is also a member of ARC, Austin, and the State Health Department's Cardiovascular Advisory Committee and Crippled Children's Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Adult Services Council, which is part of the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Washington has a personal interest in developmental disabilities programs since her 23-year-old son is mentally retarded and has congenital cardiac problems. He is involved in a work/study program at New Industries in Austin, which Washington credits as "giving him a firm grasp on independent living skills."

"I enjoy working with people in order to help them better their standard of living and for that reason am very enthusiastic about serving as a Council member," she said.



# From the Executive Director



by Joellen Simmons  
Executive Director

I have noticed an increasing amount of interest from persons with developmental disabilities, various consumer groups and

special study groups on the availability of DD Program funds, as well as the focus of the Council.

This interest has been made even more apparent by the good turnout we have witnessed at our regional forums and the increase in grant applications for 1984 funding.

Many agencies, special committees, councils, and groups are currently in various stages of planning for the disabled in Texas and are compiling data, as well as researching cost effective programs. We provide assistance to these individuals and special interest groups and welcome their inquiries. The Texas Planning Council plays a very big part in this dynamic movement that brings people together working toward one common goal - helping the developmentally disabled live to their full potential.

Through our State Plan, the Council is committed to coordinating service delivery systems and advocating on be-

half of the developmentally disabled for alternative community living arrangements and nonvocational social development services. We appreciate your input and need to know what is happening in every community concerning services and projects involved in assisting individuals in these areas.

We are planning a state conference to provide information on current legislation, another conference on computers that assist the developmentally disabled, dissemination of a demographic survey model, several research grants to improve delivery systems, and a conference to disseminate information gained from our current DD Program projects.

Once again, I look forward to your input and inquiries on these and all activities concerning the Council's development of services benefitting the developmentally disabled. It's a movement we're proud to be a part of!

## 15 projects receive first-year grant awards

A total of \$1.5 million in federal grant monies has been awarded by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC), on behalf of the Developmental Disabilities Program, to 38 different projects benefitting the developmentally disabled throughout the state.

Fifteen projects are new, first-time recipients, 23 are continuation grants that were funded last year.

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, working with TRC, targets priority areas for funding. This year new projects will focus on nonvocational social development services and alternative community living arrangements.

Grant awards to new projects are as follows: (Listed as title or description of project; agency receiving the award; city; DD Program grant award.)

- Community Living for Deaf/Blind Adults; Lighthouse of Houston; Houston; \$70,842
- Teaching interpersonal and community living skills to developmentally disabled individuals; Region XIX Education Service Center; El Paso; \$64,507

- Family Educational Services; Beaumont State Center; Beaumont; \$61,679
- Community Utilization of Services Study (regarding mentally retarded citizens); Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences; Houston; \$60,066
- Self help for emotionally disturbed deaf individuals and their families; National Self-Help Center for the Deaf/Hearing Impaired, Inc.; Austin; \$53,492
- Community Living Center for Deaf/Blind Adults; The Deaf Action Center; Dallas; \$53,318
- Cameron County Alternate Residential Program; Tropical Texas Center for MH/MR; Edinburg; \$50,000
- Clinical services for autistic populations to develop independent living, social and leisure services; UT at El Paso; El Paso; \$48,612
- In-home training program; Austin — Travis County MH/MR Center; Austin; \$31,398
- Integrated Recreational Services; Heart of Texas Region MH/MR Center; Waco; \$25,343
- Project Amicus; ARC, Austin; Austin; \$25,001

- Promoting Social Development Experiences Through Peer Leadership: A Model System; El Paso Center for the Deaf; El Paso; \$23,500
- Integrated leisure time/social development; ARC, Austin; Austin; \$23,336
- Austin Spina Bifida Center; Brackenridge Hospital; Austin; \$13,516
- In-home respite care; Austin — Travis County MHMR Center; Austin; \$7,710

Each year the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, in cooperation with TRC, supports model projects that serve as prototypes for future programs. These "seed" grants are used as short-term financial support that help programs get started before turning to other non-federal sources for funding.

A listing of continuation grants will appear in the August edition of **Highlights**.



# Information Update

## TRC Appointment

Jerry Kane has been appointed by Governor Mark White as the new chairman of the Board of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC). Kane, a businessman from Corpus Christi, has served as a member of the TRC Board for two years.

## School Registration

Parents are reminded that the Education for All Handicapped Children Act gives handicapped children ages 3 through 21 a right to a free, appropriate public education. Children who have turned 3 or who have not turned 22 by September 1 are eligible for special education and related services from public schools during the entire school year. Parents of students who turned 22 during the 1983-84 school year and were denied educational services on the basis of their age should contact the Texas Education Agency at 1-800-252-9668. For more information on basic registration, contact your local school system.

## Fellowships for Handicapped Students

Graduate-level fellowships for the 1984-1985 school year and the 1985 summer session are available for handicapped students interested in careers in library and information sciences. Application deadline is June 18. For more information contact Dr. Kenneth L. Ferstl at (817) 565-2445 or 565-3564.

## TSAC

The Texas Society for Autistic Citizens (TSAC) has a new executive director. Hill Rylander was recently appointed to the post by TSAC President Joe Cutrer and the organization's Board of Directors. The group moved their headquarters in January to 1007 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705, telephone (512) 467-0799.

## Calendar

June 6, Council on Disabilities meeting, Austin. For more information contact Jeff Kaufmann at (512) 445-8280.

June 8, quarterly meeting, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Texas Law Center (Room 101-102), 1414 Colorado, Austin.

June 8-10, annual conference (for members and nonmembers), Deaf Blind Multi-handicapped Association of Texas, Texas School for the Blind, 1100 West 45th St., Austin. For more information contact Dellinda Henry at (512) 454-0147.

June 14-15, A Forum for Professionals Concerned with Child Development, sponsored by Project Any Baby Can and the UTHSC at San Antonio School of Nursing.

June 23, public hearing, National Council on the Handicapped, 158 E. Riverside Dr., Austin. For more information contact Virginia Roberts at (512) 445-8272.

June 23-27, annual meeting and conference, Association of Medical Rehabilitation Directors and Coordinators, Orlando, Florida. For more information contact the conference coordinator at (617) 877-0517.

July 8-14, international conference on autism, National Society for Children and Adults with Autism, Marriott Hotel, 711 E. Riverwalk, San Antonio. Call (512) 224-4555 for more information.

July 23-26, annual convention, Texas Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio. For more information contact Kathleen Varner at (214) 521-0070.

★	T E X A S	<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>
	PLANNING COUNCIL	
	for	
	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	

**Highlights** is produced by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for distribution to Council members, grantees and other interested persons throughout the state. Organizations that serve persons who have developmental disabilities are encouraged to submit news items for publication. Inquiries may be addressed to Judy DeDonato, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8867.

Texas Planning Council  
for Developmental Disabilities  
118 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Austin, Texas  
Permit No. 1605