

	T · E · X · A · S ·	<h1 style="margin: 0;">HIGHLIGHTS</h1>
	PLANNING COUNCIL	
	for	
	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	

Vol. 2, No. 4

Austin, Texas

October 1984

Community living begins with DD funding

When the Mary Lee Foundation applied for and received a Developmental Disabilities Program grant in 1978 to demonstrate a community-based, apartment-style transitional living program for adults with mental retardation, it laid the foundation for one of the most innovative community living projects in the state.

No one was able to gauge the success of the Foundation's Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF - MR's) at Southpointe at the time, but three apartment complexes later it is still going strong. In fact Mary Lee officials plan on adding a fourth complex that will serve as a model for their supportive living program if appropriate resources are available.

The Mary Lee Foundation, started in 1963 by Charlene Crump, specializes in services to children and adults who have the combination of emotional disturbance and mental retardation, often accompanied by other handicapping conditions. Headquartered in Austin, it is a private, non-profit agency that serves individuals from around the state.

Children usually come to the Foundation as wards of the state, often the victims of abuse and neglect, and are placed at a Mary Lee School. Located in rural settings, these campuses offer residential treatment services, as well as on-campus special education, to students from ages 5 to 18. In addition to treatment for special problems and educational programs, Mary Lee schools emphasize vocational preparation, linking classroom skills to the sheltered workshop and adult independent living continuum of care offered by the Foundation.

"All of the adolescents who come out of our treatment centers have the opportunity to move into one of our adult programs, such as an ICF - MR unit, a halfway house or the transitional living cooperative at Southpointe," explained Don Lilljedahl, director of the Foundation. "In addition, vocational training at the Mary Lee Foundation Work Center or

on-the-job training through placement in competitive employment are also available."

Many participants involved in the Foundation's adult programs come from private homes where they have outgrown special education classes in the public schools. Through Mary Lee these individuals are taught to use public transportation and other functional living skills.

At the Mary Lee Foundation Work Center, located convenient to Southpointe, adults with multiple disabilities have the opportunity to earn full-time wages while mass producing a variety of products.

An intake and referral center, opened this past summer with federal block grant funds, assists individuals with disabilities to prepare for employment and compete in the job market.

The Foundation prides itself in its ability to attract a variety of funding sources, from governmental grant monies and contracts to private donations and endowments, to support its programs.

Scott Ellis, the Foundation's development coordinator, specifically cited the generosity and involvement of many parent groups, especially in the delivery of services to adult clients, as being instrumental in assisting the Foundation in meeting their needs for community living and employment programs.

"There are many success stories here," said Ellis. "They are all genuine successes, because the Foundation has proven to be a good steward of the resources that have come its way and because the Foundation has continually sought out matching private sources to support and develop these programs."



U. S. Representative J. J. "Jake" Pickle delights Mary Lee Foundation Work Center employees with a "souvenir pickle" during a recent tour. Pickle has expressed an interest in Developmental Disabilities Program grant projects and reauthorization legislation.

Meet the Council

Bringing memories of years gone by, 12 former Council members came to Austin last month to receive Certificates of Appreciation at an awards ceremony during the fall Council meeting.

Initiated by Chairman Becky Brandon, past members were honored for their "contribution of time, energy and knowledge to the Council and the more than 270,000 individuals it serves statewide."

Former members in attendance were Mary Birnbaum, Austin; Mary Brock, Dallas; Joe Bradley, San Antonio; Eleanor Eisenberg, Austin; Albert Hughes, Westlaco; Don Kretsinger, Austin; Cliff Martin, Austin; Don Partridge, Austin; Mary Pol-



September was a busy month for the Texas Planning Council. (Left photograph) Eleanor Eisenberg (right), Texas Department of Health, along with 11 other former Council members, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Chairman Becky Brandon at the fall Council meeting. (Bottom photograph) Neal Johnson, Texas Council on Crime and Delinquency, presented his grant project, "A study of the DD Adult Offender in Texas," at the 1984 Developmental Disabilities Program Grants Conference.

zin, Cuero; Lee Prodoehl, Edinburg; Jerry Schlothauer, Austin; and Lucille Williams, Houston.

Brock was also honored with a plaque for her dedication and volunteer efforts as vice-chairman of last year's Council.

Those awarded with certificates also included Joellen Simmons, the Council's executive director, who served as an agency member representing the Texas Education Agency, and Vernon M. Arrell, commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC), who served

as an agency member before TRC was named as the Council's administering agency.

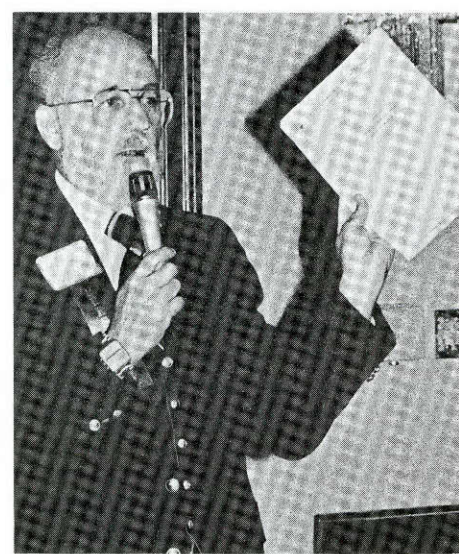
Lauro Guerro, from the U. S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities regional office in Dallas, presented a special award to Dayle Bebee, executive director of Advocacy, Inc., for her commitment and dedication to the protection and advocacy system in Texas.

Certificates will be mailed to former members who were not able to attend the ceremony.

Highlighting Innovative Services Grantees gather to exchange

Public awareness, governmental red tape and the need for better insurance coverage were all issues discussed by Developmental Disabilities Program grantees presenting at Highlighting Innovative Services: 1984 Developmental Disabilities Program Grants Conference.

Nineteen different projects in their final year of federal funding gathered at the 1½-day conference to present their programs and discuss accomplishments and problems encountered through their work. Nearly 100 consumers, advocates, service providers, educators, state agency representatives, Council members, and other Developmental Disabilities Program grantees attended the program held early last month in Austin.



Planning/Research

Each of three conference sessions focused on a different area of funding, with Planning/Research grantee panelists presenting first. Projects presented and their sponsoring organization were:

- Demographic Survey, University of Texas at Arlington;
- Priority Services for Persons with DD, Advocacy, Inc.;
- Study of the DD Adult Offender, Texas Council on Crime and Delinquency;
- A "State of the Art" Survey on the Use of Computers in Texas DD Programs, University of Texas at Arlington;
- Community Care Waiver, Association for Retarded Citizens/Texas;
- Identification of Nonvocational Social Developmental Services for Persons with DD, Texas A&M University; and
- Consumer Information and Training and Development, United Cerebral Palsy/Texas.

Child Development

Child Development Services, a priority service area no longer receiving first-year grant funds from the Texas Planning Council, had the largest panel of presenters. Grant projects presenting were:

- Early Intervention for a Rural Region, Travis State School;
- Advancing Babies' Chances, Abilene Regional MHMR Center;
- Parent Education and Early Interven-

From the Executive Director

As this issue of **Highlights** goes to press, we are still waiting to hear the outcome of the reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act now before Congress.

There has been quite a lot of controversy among human service organizations representing the developmentally disabled concerning the differences between the House and Senate versions of the proposed bill. (See **Highlights**, August 1984 edition.) We understand that if an agreement cannot be reached between the sponsors of the House and Senate bills, it is likely the program will be reauthorized according to the provisions listed under

current legislation, allowing Congress time to study specific issues that need careful review before revision. However, we remain hopeful that by the time this issue reaches you, legislation will be signed and the Developmental Disabilities Program will be set to continue for another three or four years.

I think it is important to state that regardless of the outcome of the pending legislation, the Texas Planning Council will continue to plan and advocate for issues identified in our public forums as most critical for persons with developmental disabilities in Texas. We will also work with the new legislation in order to

adjust to meet the needs of the people we serve. The Council will attempt to keep you informed of the outcome of the bill and how it will affect the Texas Developmental Disabilities Program as soon as it is signed into law.

Your support and interest in the Texas Planning Council are, as always, very much appreciated. We look forward to the future as we strive to meet the needs of the citizens we so proudly serve.

ge information, ideas

tion Program, Kenwood Community Council;

- Get Ready for Three, South Texas Children's Habilitation Center;
- Project Any Baby Can, Santa Rosa Medical Center;
- Family Approaches to Counseling and Training and Understanding People, Education Service Center, Region 13;
- Parent Involvement/Training Instructional Materials Project, University of Texas at San Antonio; and
- Early Diagnosis and Referral of Handicapped Children, University of Texas Medical Branch.

The Council decided to redirect its efforts to nonvocational social development services instead of child development services in March 1983 with the onset and implementation of the state-funded Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program. The success of Developmental Disabilities Programs grantees and Council advocacy efforts in this area have often been credited with generating legislative support for today's ECI Program.

Some common areas of concern mentioned by Child Development Services panelists were the lack of awareness by health care professionals and parents in the recognition and treatment of children with developmental disabilities and the need to educate them about resources in the community. Information and referral services, such as those provided by Project Any Baby Can in San Antonio, that

address this problem are not funded under the ECI Program.

Alternative Community Living

Rounding out the conference agenda, Alternative Community Living Arrangement Services grantees used audio/visual aides of clients to personalize their presentations. Grantees presenting were:

- Respite Care, Association for Retarded Citizens/Dallas;
- Private Non-Profit Residential Alternatives, SEQUOIA;
- Semi-Independent Community Living, Heart of Texas Regional MHMR Center; and
- Semi-Independent Living Program, MHMR Center of East Texas.

Alternative Community Living Arrangement Services have been identified in statewide forums as the most critical need for persons with developmental disabilities in Texas today. Topics of concern discussed with conference participants included remedies for the high turnover of care givers in respite programs and the overall need for more respite programs throughout the state. Community living grantees cited the need for transportation facilities for clients and the inevitable tangle of red tape involving social security benefits for clients transitioning into the job market.

Conference programs for Highlighting Innovative Services, which describe projects presented and list the name and address of each project director, are available upon request.

Calendar

October 3 - 5, annual conference, Texas Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, McAllen. Call Dorothy Strance at (512) 458-8234 for more information.

October 8 - 14, National Employment of the Handicapped Week.

October 10 - 11, International Symposium on Mental Retardation, sponsored by ARC/US, Washington D. C. Call Fred Krause at (202) 653-5006 for more information.

October 12 - 14, Seventh Annual Delegate Assembly, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Wyndham Hotel, Austin.

October 10 - 14, fall conference, National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils, Oakland.

October 25 - 27, annual meeting, Mental Health Association in Texas, Austin.

October 26 - 28, annual convention, National Down's Syndrome Congress, San Antonio. Call (312) 226-0416 for more information.

November 1 - 3, annual convention, ARC-US, Nashville.

November 2, monthly meeting, Autism Task Force, Austin. Call Roger Webb at (512) 445-8004 for more information.

Information Update

Biennial Reports

The Council's 1982-1983 Biennial Report to the Governor is ready for distribution. To obtain a copy, contact the Council's Public Information Office at 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, TX 78704, or telephone (512) 445-8852.

Computer Technology Conference

Presentations, demonstrations and exhibits are being solicited for the Independent Living Through Computer Technology for Persons with Developmental Disabilities conference, February 14 - 16, in Austin. Materials should focus on the ways in which technology can be used to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Proposals for participation must be submitted by November 15 to Dick Schoech, University of Texas at Arlington, GSSW, P. O. Box 19129, Arlington, TX 76019-0129, telephone (817) 273-3964.

Federal Funds Available

Preapplications for the Coordinated Discretionary Funds Program must be submitted to the U. S. Office of Human Development Services (HDS) by October 17. Research, demonstration, training, and evaluation projects that meet the priorities of HDS programs for persons with developmental disabilities will be considered. For more information, contact HDS/Division of Research and Demonstration at (800) 372-3344.

Student Loans for Special Education Teachers

During the special summer session of the Legislature, a loan program was established for college students majoring in special education. Loans will be issued through the Coordinating Board-Texas College and University System to students who are Texas residents, have at least a "B" average and are financially needy.

Supreme Court Case Broadens Educational Services

In Tatro vs. the Irving Independent School District, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that clean intermittent catheterization must be provided to a student under the Education of the Handicapped Act if it is required for them to benefit from educational services. According to Advocacy, Inc., attorneys who brought the case before the Supreme Court, even though the ruling specifically refers to catheterization it can also be interpreted to refer to any injections or medications that can be administered by a school nurse or trained staff person. Parents of students with disabilities who feel their child could benefit from such services should contact their local school district for more information.

Tax Incentives for Accessibility

As part of the federal Deficit Reduction Act, taxpayers may now claim up to \$35,000 annually in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1983, and before January 1, 1986, for expenses incurred to make facilities or public transportation vehicles more accessible to and/or usable by persons with disabilities or the elderly.

Child Abuse Law

A new Governor's executive order requires that anyone who witnesses or suspects child abuse or neglect must report the incident within five days to the Department of Human Resources at their toll-free number, 1-800-252-5400.

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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, editor, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8867, TTY 445-8873. Typesetting and printing by Texas Rehabilitation Commission Printing Services.

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

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