



# GCDP REPORT

Austin, Texas

August, 1983

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## Governor Renames and Restructures Committee

Governor Mark White signed Executive Order MW-10 on July 8 establishing the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, previously titled the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The restructured Committee's expanded mission is to carry on a continuing program to promote employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities in the State of Texas.

"While discrimination or malice is not intended by most who have used that word 'handicapped' in the past, we must seek a more enlightened understanding of the needs and concerns of disabled citizens in our society," White said. "It is unacceptable to continue those old ways of thinking."

White appointed sixteen new committee members including eight who are disabled individuals. Bobby C. Simpson, the new chairperson, said "I feel very fortunate that Governor White felt I was appropriately qualified. The continued change of

attitudes and perceptions of the population of the state regarding disabled persons is going to be a primary focus. Very visible communication is the bottom line."

Among the other members

appointed are: Martha Arbuckle, Austin; Olivia Chavez Blundell, El Paso; Sidney Braquet, Houston; Justin W. Dart, Jr., Austin; Patricia Dicorte, China Spring; Larry Johnson, San Antonio; William Martin, Austin; Betty Meyer, Austin; Philip Miller, San Antonio; Tom Morrison, Dallas; and Shirley Price, Hitchcock.

Also, Amy Rosenberg, Vice Chairperson, Austin; Joe Russell, Dallas; Sherry Wagner, San Antonio; Kathy Weldon, Austin. The members will serve two-year terms, extended at the Governor's direction.

Ex-officio agencies designated by Governor White are the Texas Employment Commission, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, State Commission for the Blind and the Office of the Secretary of State.



Amy Rosenberg, Vice-Chairperson of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, watched Governor White hand Bobby Simpson his Certificate of Commission as Chairperson of the GCDP, effective July 8, 1983.

# Governor Slated to Speak at GCDP Luncheon

... SEPTEMBER 30, HYATT REGENCY

More than 400 persons from throughout Texas are expected to gather for the GCDP general meeting and annual awards luncheon in Austin on September 30, 1983. Austin's Hyatt Regency is the site for this year's meeting.

The morning program will feature an address by Dr. Victor Galloway, Executive Director, Texas School for the Deaf. Three simultaneous workshops will be offered including: **"Job Training Partnership Act - Access to Job Training Networks in Texas,"** Bob McPherson, Governor's Special Assistant for Job Training and Employment; **"The Information Age Impacts Disabled Persons,"** James L. Jackson, Deputy Commissioner, Texas Rehabilitation Commission; **"Mayor's Committee Job Banks for Disabled Persons,"** William Starnes, San Antonio and Jerry D. Cooper, Dallas.

Following lunch, Governor Mark White will present seven top awards to persons and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the employment of disabled persons. Five of the awards to be presented are: Disabled Texan of the Year, Large and Small Employer of the Year, Physician of the Year and the Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service. In addition two new awards will be introduced and presented by Governor White: **Governmental Agency of the Year** which will recognize a public agency for successfully hiring and incorporating disabled employees into their organization and **Public Employee of the Year** which will recog-

nize a public agency employee for significantly contributing to employment of disabled persons within their agency.

The afternoon session is titled, "How to Make an Impact with Your Message." This creative session will be conducted by Barbara Miller and Margaret Keys, owners of Miller-Keys Associates of Austin. For the past several years Margaret Keys and Barbara Miller have been in

the business of teaching men and women how to "think on your feet," and how to maintain control and poise under everyday pressures.

Details concerning the procedure for payment and reservations for the luncheon may be obtained by calling GCDP at 512-445-8275 or 512-445-8741.

Mark September 30, 1983 on your calendar and join us for an action packed conference.



Margaret Keys (left)

Barbara Miller (right)

## Issued Quarterly

The GCDP Report is published quarterly by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons to promote employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704, 512/445-8275 (Voice or TDD).

Special Note: GCDP will provide taped copies of the GCDP Report upon request.

## Common Misconception about Deafness

From El Paso Center of the Deaf Inc.

### "Deaf Persons Can Read Lips"

Speechreading or lipreading is a skill that some deaf persons are good at; others have difficulty mastering such a talent. While good speechreading skills can help in communication, only about 26-30% of speech is visible on the lips, and even the best speechreaders can't speechread everything that is said.

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# Local Committee Notes

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## Corpus Christi Awareness Week Features PCEH Chairman

President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (PCEH) Chairman Harold Russell was the featured guest of the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for various awareness events July 27-28, 1983.

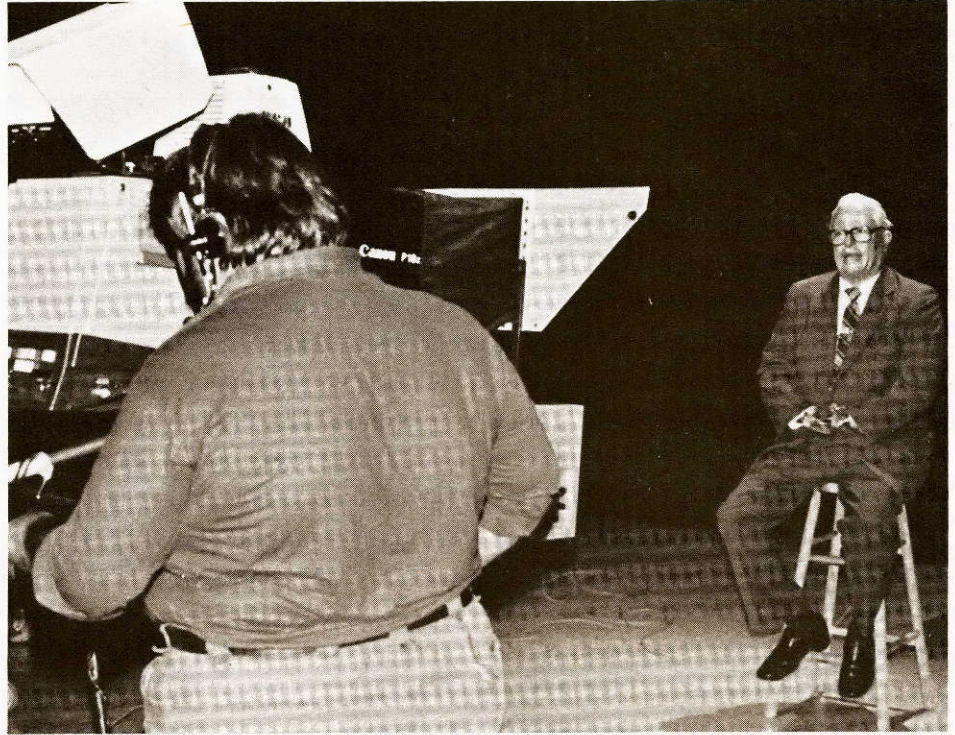
Highlighted by the city-wide luncheon jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's Committee and attended by some 500 persons, Russell's address entitled, "Employment - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" dealt with accomplishments and special needs of disabled persons.

Other events included production of three TV public service announcements by KRIS-TV, two extended television interviews, one TV talk show appearance and six spots on prime time TV newcasts.

Russell and Mayor's Com-

mittee members were officially recognized by the Mayor and City Council and

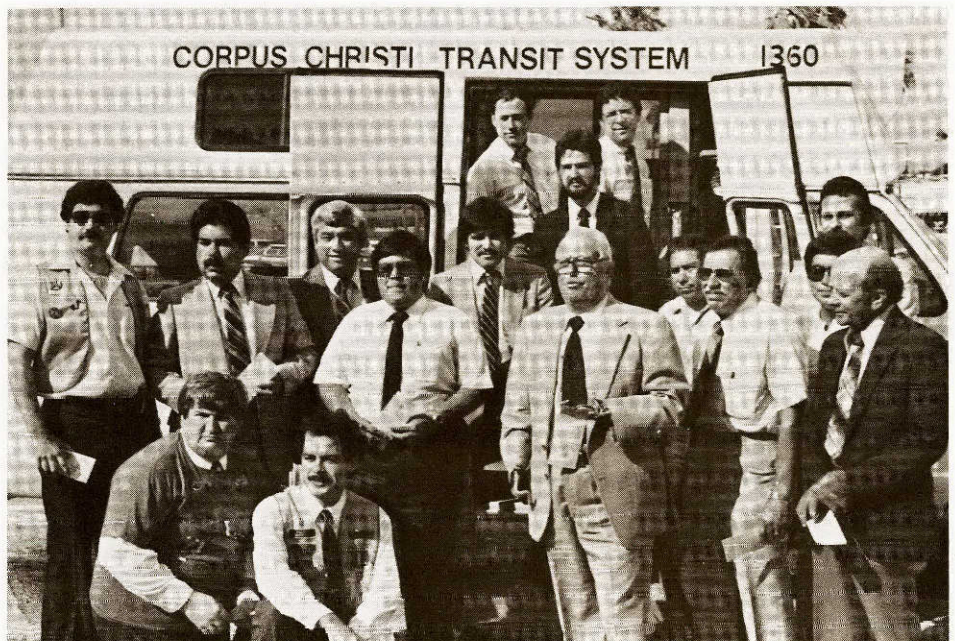
participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony opening a new Goodwill collection center.



PCEH Chairman Harold Russell (above) starred in TV studio and remote (below) 30 second public service announcements produced by KRIS-TV for the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee.



Mayor Luther Jones presents a Key-to-the-City tie clasp to Russell after the PCEH Chairman addressed a joint Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Mayor's Committee luncheon attended by over 500 persons.



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# Local Committee Notes

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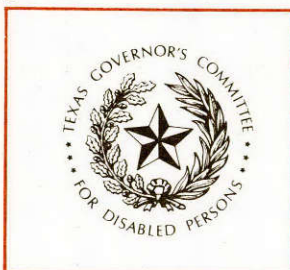
## Ft. Worth Holds Job Fair, Two Employer's Seminars

A repeat of the highly successful Job Fair held in May, 1982 has been scheduled October 13, 1983 in the Tarrant County Convention Center by the Ft. Worth Mayor's Committee.

Approximately 30 employers and more than 300 disabled persons got together at the last event and at least that level of participation is expected again. Further information can be obtained from Bailey McNutt, Chairperson, 817/336-9411.

Employment Development Chairperson, Don West and Employer Information Committee Chairperson, Mary Ellen Rowley report two successful small employer seminars held in May and July 1983.

Serving a total of 78 participants, the two sessions dealt with employment aspects of the Rehabilitation Act of '73, as amended, the Viet Nam Era Veterans Re-adjustment Act, and the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program. Also included were units on Environmental Barriers to Employment, Texas Rehabilitation Commission Placement and Follow-up Services and Vocational Adjustment Counselor Services through school districts.



## Tyler MCEH Sets Goals

Tyler's new MCEH Chairman, Jeff Adams, took office in July and "hit the ground running." A former public relations executive, Adams set four goals for the committee during his term of office.

Increasing public awareness through television and radio public service announcements on disabled persons, passing a handicapped parking ordinance, mailing questionnaires to Tyler area businesses to determine job availability for disabled persons, and establishing a master list of disabled people seeking jobs are goals targeted for this year according to Adams. To date the Tyler MCEH is well ahead of schedule.

The MCEH is well supported by the community. Evidence of this includes the provision of office space donated by American Fidelity Savings Association. The office will be staffed by volunteers and will be open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The new office address for the Tyler MCEH is: American Fidelity Savings Assn., 6910 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas 75703, phone, 214/581-5400.

## Harris County Does It Again

The oldest continuing local employment awareness event in Texas for disabled persons - The Harris County Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (HCCEH) Annual Luncheon - was held August 25, 1983 at Houston's Warwick Hotel.

Sponsored by Houston employers, approximately 150 employers and guests heard Houston Independent School District Superintendent Billy Reagan describe strides made in public education, both in the classroom and through cooperative employer programs outside the classroom, which are meeting special needs of disabled persons.

A panel from the Employment Development Subcommittee of HCCEH and HISD detailed progress of a joint project to prepare secondary students for employment and assist in career planning. Internships, field trips and job-briefings by representatives of some 20 employers are key parts of the highly-acclaimed program.

National Employ the Handicapped (NETH) Week activities of the HCCEH were unveiled and include another supplement to the Sunday Houston Chronicle of October 2, 1983 proclaiming the awareness week.

Chairperson Wells Rader completed his fifth year as Annual Luncheon Master of Ceremonies and presented various awards highlighting outstanding achievements in employment by employers and disabled persons.



## Doors Open at Dallas' New CIL

The Dallas Center for Independent Living (DCIL) opened its doors on March 1, 1983. The Center is designed to help severely disabled individuals increase personal self-determination and minimize unnecessary dependence upon others.

DCIL joined a statewide network of comprehensive, consumer-based programs currently operating in Austin, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. Services offered at DCIL include: intake counseling, peer counseling, independent living skills training, housing, transportation and attendant care coordination, information and referral, community outreach and job development and placement.

The Center, a non-profit agency, is a project of the Association for Individuals with Disabilities and its ser-

vices are directed, developed and delivered by and for persons with disabilities. All DCIL services are delivered without charge. Funding is provided through a grant from the Texas Rehabilitation

Commission.

For additional information concerning DCIL write or call: 8625 King George, Suite 210, Dallas, Texas 75235. The phone number is 214/631-6900 (TTY 521-0407).



Gary Thyfault, DCIL's Fiscal Officer, is utilizing a newly acquired computer for DCIL's accounting needs.

## Parking Laws Expanded

Two laws were clarified and expanded in the 68th Legislature to provide better parking opportunities for mobility-impaired persons.

Identification cards will soon be available for temporarily and permanently disabled persons. ID cards are transferrable between vehicles used by mobility-impaired individuals. These cards were formerly available only to those with temporary disabilities. ID cards are obtained from the county tax assessor-collector. The Disabled Person's License Plate Sticker is still being used and is also available through your county tax assessor collector.

Both the ID card and the Disabled Person's License

Plate Sticker entitles mobility impaired persons to use parking spaces reserved for the disabled.

Enforcement for disabled parking received a boost when political subdivisions (counties, cities) were allowed to require private property owners to set aside parking spaces for disabled persons. The law also permits political subdivisions to enforce parking regulations on private property by peace officers, private security guards or other designated entities.

Editor's note: Parking enforcement laws enacted by the state legislature are "enabling legislation" and are not enforced unless backed by local ordinances.

## NETH Week

Start planning now to be an active part of one of the biggest awareness weeks of the year - National Employ the Handicapped (NETH), October 2-8, 1983.

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped will again publish a NETH Week Resource Guide. The 24 page, slick booklet will develop the theme, "The Talent Is There, Use It!" Copies received by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons (GCDP) about September 1 will be sent to local committees on employment of the handicapped in Texas. See your local committee chairperson for a copy or write to GCDP to have one sent to you.

# Disabled... But **More** Able to Vote

On June 17 Governor Mark White signed SB 306 into law. This law provides equal access to the polls for disabled and elderly Texans. The landmark legislation will require each county to provide a barrier-free polling site in at least 85% of each county's election precincts by 1986 and all precincts by 1988.

Advocates for the legislation celebrated this as a major victory for the estimated 1.7 million Texans with disabilities. "No longer will disabled people be discouraged from voting or have to vote out in the rain," said Peg Nosek, a disabled advocate for the passage of the law.

In many cases little or no expenditure of funds will be required. State and Federal laws in the past decade have required retrofitting of old public buildings and construction of new public buildings to be accessible. Relocating inaccessible polling sites to accessible sites would fulfill the requirements of SB 306. Use of temporary ramps or handrails is permitted if they meet the law's standards of accessibility.

National legislation of a similar nature is now before Congress. If you have any questions on the Equal Access to Voting Rights Act, H. R. 1250 and S. 444, contact your congressman for additional information.

**\* 1.7 MILLION \*  
TEXANS DISABLED  
BUT ABLE TO VOTE**



Photo by: Bob Daemmrich  
Peg Nosek votes in the rain; her precinct in Austin is inaccessible.



Photo by: Bill Malone  
In June Governor White signed SB 306 requiring counties to provide barrier-free polling sites. This legislation will assist disabled Texans in effectively exercising their right to vote.