

TYC NOTES

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Summer/Fall 1991

Compton Elected Board Chairman Cottrell Re-elected Vice Chairman

Gary D. Compton, TYC board member from Amarillo, was elected Chairman during the May 2 meeting in Austin. The governing board of the agency is responsible for approval of all major policy decisions impacting the Youth Commission

Compton was appointed in 1989 to a six-year term. He is a partner in the Hinkle, Cox, Eaton, Coffield & Hensley Law Firm in Amarillo. The firm also has offices in Midland, Texas; Roswell, Albuquerque; and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Compton stated, "I look forward to serving in this new capacity on the TYC board and addressing the many issues facing the troubled youth of this state."



Board Chairman Gary D. Compton

Compton is a 1971 graduate of the Baylor University School of Law and is a past president of the Baylor Law Alumni Association. He is also currently Chairman of the Foundation for a Drug Free Environment serving Canyon and Amarillo.

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1992 Kerrville Workshop Scheduled

The 1992 administrator's workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, Thursday, July 23, and Friday, July 24 at the Best Western Inn of the Hills in Kerrville.

The highlight of next year's workshop will be the awards presentations, which will be made during a banquet scheduled for Thursday evening, July 23.

1991 Violent Offender Commitments Increase; Total Commitments Decline Slightly

The number of youth committed to the Texas Youth Commission for violent offenses, including youth committed with a sentence, increased 38% from 313 in Fiscal Year 1990 to 431 in FY 1991 according to end of year statistics. Youth committed with a sentence nearly doubled from 37 in FY 1990 to 73 in FY 1991. While the number of violent offenders increased, the total number of youth committed to TYC in FY 1991 (September 1, 1990 - August 31, 1991) declined slightly from 2171 in 1990 to 2150 in 1991. "The Youth Commission is receiving a more violent and repeat offenders," reported Ron Jackson, Executive Director.

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West Texas State School Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The West Texas State School (formerly West Texas Children's Home) celebrated its 25th anniversary and reunion June 7-8 in Pyote.

Activities scheduled to celebrate this momentous occasion included a reception in the administration building, dedication of the vocational building, tours of the facility, and a reunion of former students from 1966-1979 at Pyote Park.

For the past 13 years, the Texas Youth Commission facility in Pyote has served hundreds of Texas' juvenile offenders and previously served the state's dependent and neglected youth for 12 years.

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Legislature Names Dr. George Beto Member Emeritus; Dr. Beto Retires from Sam Houston State University

The 72nd Texas Legislature named Dr. George Beto of Huntsville Member Emeritus of the Texas Youth Commission. The Senate adopted this resolution on April 12 and was signed by Governor Richards on April 22.

Dr. Beto, who was appointed to the TYC board in May 1975, served two full terms and was elected Chairman on June 1983 and served in this capacity until his term expired in August 1987.

The Criminal Justice Center of the Sam Houston State University in Huntsville was renamed the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center on September 2 as a tribute to Dr. Beto's retirement after 19 years on their teaching staff.

Dr. Beto served as director of the Texas Department of Corrections from 1962 to 1972; has been a member of the Texas Board of Corrections, the Illinois Parole Board, and the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. He was a member of the National Advisory Council on Correctional Manpower and Training and the American Bar Commission on Correctional Facilities and Services.

A distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas, Dr. Beto received a master of arts in medieval history and a Ph.D. in education from UT. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Valparaiso University.

The Texas Youth Commission Board endorsed and supported the designation of Dr. George Beto by the 72nd Legislature as Member Emeritus of the Texas Youth Commission by unanimously adopting a resolution during its March 14, 1991 meeting.

Tamayo Receives Confirmation

Edna Tamayo, TYC Board Member from Harlingen, won confirmation on March 13 from the Senate Nominations Committee to the Texas Youth Commission.

Tamayo, who is Parental Involvement Coordinator for the Harlingen School District, was appointed to the commission in October by then-Governor Bill Clements.

Tamayo is filling an unexpired term ending August 31, 1993.

Chaplain Earley Passes Away

Retired Texas Youth Commission chaplain Herbert P. Earley passed away on March 25.

Chaplain Earley joined the Youth Commission in 1961, serving as parole officer in Austin and then as Chaplain at the Gainesville State School until his retirement in 1985.

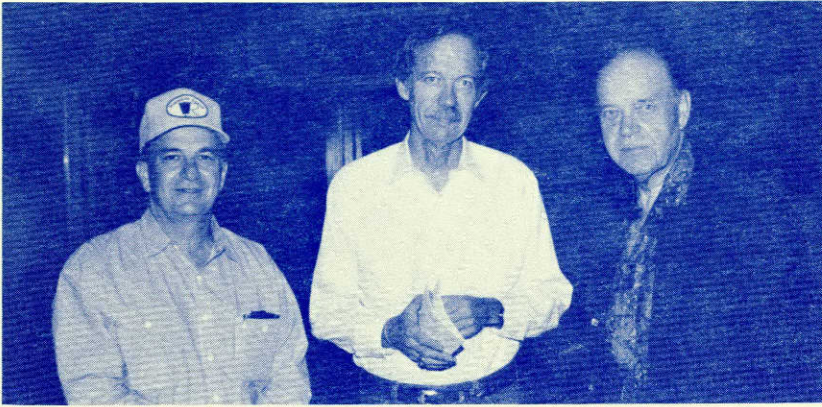
Three Agencies in Dallas Combine Efforts

The Texas Youth Commission, Big Brothers and Sisters of Metropolitan Dallas, and the YMCA in Dallas have focused on their missions to serve youth in need by uniting in a cooperative effort to expand and revitalize present services to youth and families in Oak Cliff and South Dallas County. These two areas were targeted because more than half of the youth served by these three agencies live in Oak Cliff and South Dallas County.

The three non-profit agencies will work together to provide a variety of resources and provide needed services to a particular area by working together to meet head on the astonishing need in these two communities. All three of the agencies exist through volunteer support and require a strong commitment to their program as well as to the youth they serve. All of these agencies are recognized as leaders in their extensive screening processes which are used to determine the suitability of potential volunteers.

"We are hoping to create a strong volunteer base in Oak Cliff and South Dallas County by generating awareness and visibility of our cooperative efforts," said Kaycee Cannon, regional director of volunteer services for the Youth Commission. "Each agency will benefit from added volunteers who are positive role models and who are willing to be challenged by befriending youth in these targeted areas."

Board Member Larry F. York Honored



TYC BOARD MEMBER Larry F. York of Austin was honored at an appreciation dinner October 10, 1991, at Two Creek Ranch in Fayetteville, Texas. Pictured (l to r) are Executive Director Ron Jackson, York, and former Board Member and Chairman Dr. George Beto. York's six year term on the board expired August 31, 1991. He also served as Chairman of the TYC Board.

TYC Volunteers honored by TCA

Several Youth Commission volunteers were recognized as "Stars" during the Texas Corrections Associations annual conference held in Galveston in June.

Those honored were: Arthur McBride, Houston; Gin Henry, Gainesville; Kathy and Lou Hollis, Crockett; Betty Smith, Willoughby House; Janice Scarbrough, Austin; and Mack Crawford, Corsicana. Betty Smith is not only a volunteer, but also an employee at Willoughby House, the Youth Commission's halfway house in Fort Worth.

TYC Domestic Violence Cases Reviewed by Governor

As a result of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 26 passed by the 72nd Regular Legislative Session, 1991, Governor Richards has asked the Texas Youth Commission to identify youth adjudicated for murder or manslaughter when the offense was directly related to victimization of themselves or any family member by domestic violence.

The Youth Commission is to report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House regarding those youth identified in our investigation and provide our recommendations regarding review of their adjudication for possible discharge. One hundred ninety-two youth were initially identified in the TYC system who were adjudicated for murder or manslaughter offenses. Of those, 105 murder

and manslaughter cases were reviewed by Giddings staff under the direction of psychologist Dr. Linda Reyes. Ten of those 105 cases meet the domestic violence criteria. Of the remaining 87 cases, only three appear to meet the domestic violence criteria. Dr. Elise Orman, Chief of Mental Health Services, is reviewing field recommendations. It has been determined that further review of these cases is required. Each case will be assessed by the current needs and risks of each youth, and individual recommendations will be made. TYC staff met again in October with representatives from the Texas Council on Family Violence. At that time, a list of those who met the criteria was developed and a review will be made of the preliminary findings with the council representatives before final submission to the Governor.

Since TYC youth are not criminally convicted, there is no legal basis to pardon them. If the Governor concludes, based on our report, that these youth shall be exonerated, TYC could discharge or the youth could be returned to the court to have their commitment rescinded.

Tax Withholding

John Franks, TYC Director of Finance, announced that the Internal Revenue Service has ruled that meal reimbursements (partial per diem or actual expenses) for non-overnight trips are subject to withholding taxes. The Youth Commission began withholding both income tax and social security tax from these reimbursements effective July 1.

TYC Reduces Minimum Length of Stay for Certain Violent Offenders

The Board of the Texas Youth Commission approved a policy to reduce the administrative minimum length of stay for certain institutional violent offenders from one year to nine months during its March 14 Board Meeting. As an example, youth impacted by this policy would be those committed for aggravated assault and aggravated sexual assault.

Prior to the March Board decision, the administrative minimum length of stay for chronic offenders (youth adjudicated for a felony level offense on three separate occasions) was reduced from nine months to six months. Both of these measures were taken as a last resort to provide some balance between keeping violent youth in a residential program and enabling the agency to provide limited services to other non-classified youth.

At the September 5 board meeting, Jay Lindgren, Deputy Executive Director, discussed the efforts made to reduce crowded conditions in TYC training schools. The reduced length of stay for Violent B and Chronic Serious Offenders has resulted in training schools returning to their budgeted population. The board agreed with staff recommendations to continue the reduced length of stay.

The board also asked that staff bring back recommendations on how to restore earlier minimums following the opening of two new dorms authorized by the legislature for this fiscal year at the Crockett and Gainesville State Schools. If sentenced and violent offender commitments continue to increase, the reduced lengths of stay may continue in effect throughout this fiscal year.

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Board members include:

Gary D. Compton, Amarillo, Board Chairman; **Comer J. Cottrell**, Dallas, Vice-Chairman; **Edna Tamayo**, Harlingen; **Rev. Floyd N. Williams, Sr.**, Houston; **Marilla B. King** and **Pete Harrell** of Austin.

Ron Jackson is Executive Director.

Turman and Schaeffer House Achieve ACA Accreditation

Turman House in Austin and Schaeffer House in El Paso successfully completed the American Correctional Association's accreditation process in March.

Turman and Schaeffer House join Dallas, Beto, Willoughby and Ayres House in completing accreditation.

Former Superintendent Nancy Emmert of Turman House and Johnny Threatt of Schaeffer House were awarded accreditation certificates by the hearing panel during the ACA Congress in Minneapolis August 4 and were also honored during an awards luncheon.

The Youth Commission officially entered the accreditation process in December 1989 to accredit six halfway houses in an 18 month period.

Project L.I.N.K

Representatives from five child care service providers from throughout the state were among the 45 persons who met in Crockett June 25 for a Project L.I.N.K. workshop.

The workshop was hosted by the Texas Youth Commission's Crockett State School facility. Other child care service provider organizations represented at the workshop included Gulf Coast Trades Center, Texas Key, East Region Parole and Houston Job Training Partnership Council.

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Crockett Selected for Program Site

The Texas Youth Commission's Crockett State School has been selected as a national demonstration site to test the feasibility of establishing private sector juvenile corrections industries within juvenile facilities. Only eight demonstration sites will be established throughout the nation.

The program is being sponsored through a cooperative agreement between the National Office for Social Responsibility (NOSR) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

The goal of the program is to assist a select number of state juvenile correction agencies to establish industries in cooperation with private sector businesses in order to provide new vocational training opportunities for incarcerated youth.

Simply defined, a juvenile corrections industry is a business partnership between a juvenile correctional institution and private industry in which incarcerated youth are hired to produce goods and/or provide services that are sold on the open market.

The primary objectives of the program are to establish a work ethic for incarcerated youthful offenders; expand opportunities for youthful offenders by providing real work experience in job settings comparable to those in their communities, and to increase youthful offenders' accountability for their

offenses by utilizing a portion of their earned wages to pay direct victim restitution or to contribute to a victim's fund. Other objectives are to reduce the costs of incarceration by utilizing a portion of the youthful offenders' wages to contribute to their costs of care; enhance the diagnostic, screening, classification and treatment plans for incarcerated youthful offenders, and establish successful release plans closely linked to vocation training and work experience provided through the private sector juvenile corrections industries.

NOSR, with funding provided by OJJDP, will provide Crockett State School, along with other selected sites, with intensive training and technical assistance to plan and implement a private sector juvenile corrections industry with CSS.

Two Crockett State School representatives, Superintendent David Cocoros and Apprenticeship Program Director Elaine Murdock, began the intensive training in California in July.

NOSR will also provide direct assistance in identifying, recruiting and linking private business with Crockett State School.

Finally, NOSR will disseminate the knowledge and experience gained through the program with other state juvenile corrections agencies.

Project L.I.N.K

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Project L.I.N.K. (Let's Integrate & Network for Kids), is a joint venture between public and private sector child care service providers to develop a continuum of care and services for identified youth from the time of his arrival at Crockett State School through his successful reintegration into his home community. The goal of Project L.I.N.K. is to provide continuous care, treatment, services, education, training, job placement and independent living skills training for delinquent youth based on the individual youth's needs.

David Cocoros, Superintendent of Crockett State School, presided at the workshop and presented an overview of Project L.I.N.K.

Other speakers at the workshop included representatives from the other child care service providers. Each explained the roles of his organization within the project. These speakers included Mike Busby, Gulf Coast Trades Center; Dale Fedke, Texas Key; Helen George, East Region Parole, and Terry Hudson, Houston Job Training Council.

1991 Violent Offender Commitments

(Continued from Page 1)

Violent juvenile crime increased significantly in Texas during the last several years. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes rose 29% from Calendar Year 1989 to 1990. From 1988 to 1990, there was a 61% increase in juvenile arrests for violent crime. "We were fortunate to see total commitments remain at last year's level considering the increases in referrals to local juvenile probation departments for violent offenses," Jackson added.

Youth committed for certain violent offenses under a sentence are required to remain in a TYC residential program until age 18, at which time the juvenile court determines if the youth should be transferred to the adult prison system to complete the sentence or continue under TYC's supervision. Other violent youth committed for an indeterminate length of time are subject to TYC administrative minimum length of stay policies. Youth committed for capital murder, attempted capital murder and voluntary manslaughter are required to remain in a TYC facility for at least 24 months. In FY 1990, TYC received 49 youth for these three offenses. Last fiscal year TYC experienced an 86% increase in these specific violent offenses with 91 youth being committed to TYC.

All other violent offenders are subject to an administrative minimum length of stay of 9 to 12 months. "The dramatic increase in youth committed for violent offenses has placed significant strains on the juvenile corrections system," Jackson stated. "The number of placement options, both community-based programs and institutional beds, for these youth has not increased over the last several years. As the Commission receives an increased percentage of violent offenders, these youth occupy beds in our programs for longer periods of time. This displaces other delinquent youth who we must return to their communities sooner than we would like," commented Jackson.

Several counties significantly increased in the number of commitments to the state. Travis County's commitments rose by 138% from 34 youth in FY 1990 to 81 in FY 1991. Jefferson County sent 42 youth to TYC in FY 1991, a 133% increase over the 18 youth committed in FY 1990. The 516 youth committed from Harris County, which represents 24% of the commitments to TYC, was a significant decline from the 623 youth sent to TYC last year. "Fortunately, Harris County's commitments nearly returned to their 1989 level," stated Jackson.

"Juvenile probation departments are doing a good job of working with most delinquent youth in their communities. In fact, the legislature significantly increased the funding to juvenile probation so that more resources would be available for youth at the local level. Local programs can often respond effectively to youth problems. Moreover, increased state funds to local programs should reduce the number of non-violent offenders TYC receives and enable us to increase the length of stay for youth committed to our custody," added Jackson.

Compton Elected Chairman

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Comer J. Cottrell, board member from Dallas, was reelected to serve as Vice Chairman. Cottrell, who was appointed to a six-year term on the TYC board in 1987, is president of the Pro-Line Corporation, manufacturers of ethnic hair and cosmetic products, the largest Black owned business in the Southwest. Cottrell attended the University of Detroit and holds an honorary doctorate from Bishop College.

TEA to Complete School Accreditation of TYC Schools

Seven Texas Youth Commission schools received formal school accreditation visits by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Division of Accreditation and School Improvement during May and June. Following a presentation to the TYC Board on May 2, the accreditation team began the accreditation process with the Central Office review with Byron Griffin, TYC Superintendent of Education, and other Central Office staff. Campus visits to the Brownwood, Corsicana, Crockett, Gainesville, Giddings, West Texas, and Evins Center schools occurred during the weeks of May 20, June 10, and June 17.

TYC schools have been recognized as accredited schools within the Texas public school system, although the cyclical formal accreditation reviews and visits which are required of public schools have not been completed for TYC schools.

Upon being notified that accreditation visits were scheduled for this year, the TYC education department met with TEA accreditation division staff to determine how the current public school standards would be applied to TYC schools, which obviously have a unique student population, a different parental or "local community" reference, atypical (to public schools) auxiliary and support services, a transitory student

population, and state agency instead of school district personnel funding, budgeting and accounting procedures.

Throughout the winter and spring, Mr. Griffin and Dr. Jane Irons, TYC Director of Curriculum and Instruction, have prepared, with the cooperation of TEA staff, necessary TYC-schools specific positions applicable to the items the Texas public school accreditation process is required to address. Because TYC schools are expected to present a new accrediting environment for the TEA accrediting officials, the accreditation division envisions a two-stage visitation procedure with initial visits this year and follow-up visits next year.

The TYC schools will be regarded as individual school campuses in a statewide agency school district. Each campus accreditation visit will include entry and exit conferences with the campus superintendent and principal, detailed observations, interviews and documents review with campus education staff, and interviews with campus auxiliary and support professional staff and department heads. This year's TYC school accreditation visits concluded with a formal agency exit conference at Central Office on July 16.

Spirit Program Helps TYC Youth

Houston Works, an organization that provides federally funded employment and training programs, invited TYC's East Regional Director, Helen George, Houston's Mayor Kathryn Whitmire, The Honorable Eric Andell, juvenile court judge of the 315th district and others as guest speakers to the opening of its newly created SPIRIT Program in Harris County. The program helps economically disadvantaged youth ages 16-21 who are at-risk due to drug/alcohol dependency, dropping out of school, and/or adjudication.

Upon referral by organizations such as the Texas Youth Commission, the judicial system and various substance abuse programs, SPIRIT's staff members assess the youth using standardized testing and counsel them to develop an employability plan based upon aptitude, interests, academic level and need for substance rehabilitation. The youth are also given access to a state-of-the-art, computer-assisted learning center that provides necessary basic skills, and GED preparation instruction so that youth may pursue a GED or high school diploma. In addition, the program provides vocational skills training and job placement.

To ensure that the youth do not drop through the cracks of the social service system upon completion of the program, youth may continue to use SPIRIT's counseling services indefinitely.

Independent Living Preparedness Program

Tom Tye, Chief of Independent Living since January 1991, presented an overview of the TYC Independent Living Preparedness Program to the TYC Board during its March meeting in Austin. Tye discussed the basic principles of the program (to prepare a youth for independent living and to provide realistic opportunities for the future) and presented the program model, "Steps toward Independence."

The Independent Living Preparedness Program is designed to provide meaningful opportunities and hope for youth and achievable alternatives in terms of education, training, employment, and community placement. Characteristics of youth selected for this program are maturity and good decision-making skills. These qualities are measured by evaluating a youth's incident record, the extent to which s/he has completed the individual case plan, and his/her responses during an interview with program staff.

Once a youth is accepted into the program, s/he is provided with specific offense-related conditions of placement, as well as a performance-based individual case plan. Included in the conditions of placement are exact statements which describe the requirements necessary for a student to complete the program and the sanctions that will be imposed for failure to meet expectations. To graduate

from the program, a youth must: spend a specified amount of time performing community service; obtain employment; save a specified amount of his/her earnings; and demonstrate proficiency in adult skills. A therapist is also required to approve the release of youth who were required to obtain special needs counseling, for example: capital offenders, sex offenders, and chemically dependent offenders. Once a youth graduates, s/he is eligible for reintegration into the community.

Following graduation, a youth moves into an independent living situation and is eligible for the subsidy portion of the program which provides financial assistance during the transition from residential care to self-supported, independent living. The youth is required to enter into a subsidy agreement that clearly outlines the expected behavior of the youth, as well as special conditions for the youth to continue to receive this assistance.

Results from a recent evaluation of the independent living preparedness program indicate that it has had a significant, positive impact when compared to youth on parole. According to the statistical summary, 33% of youth in the Independent Living Preparedness Program were re-arrested within a year as compared to 52% of youth on parole. Other indicators were positive as well, though not statistically significant.

During the next year, the program will be focusing on expansion of independent living preparedness programs into institutional and community residential programs, developing support services for youth who require additional supervision and training to be successful in the transition to independent living, and comparing private and public sector program operations.

Jackson Receives UT Award

The University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work has awarded Ron Jackson, Executive Director of the Texas Youth Commission, the second annual Charles I. Wright Alumnus Award.

Each year, the School of Social Work honors one distinguished alumnus who serves as a model of excellence for their students. Mr. Jackson was recognized for his outstanding career in public service and exemplary leadership of the Texas Youth Commission.

Regional Education Liaisons Provide a New Resource to Regional Services

Prior to the beginning of the current fiscal and school year, the Texas Youth Commission initiated an agency-wide effort to improve the manner in which TYC provides regional support for public schools and other educational programs which serve community TYC youth. The agency identified the need to have professionals located in each region who would be responsible for improving relations with schools which serve parole youth and TYC community residential facilities. Identified as responsibilities of the new position are assisting with any special re-entry or other problems TYC youth encounter in the schools, identifying alternative education resources, and encouraging community staff to place greater emphasis on youth remaining in public school or an alternative education program.

The five regional educational liaisons are J.B. Moore: South Region, Clyde McClatchy: North Region, Vernon Broussard: East Region, Joe Curry: West Region, and Ginger Rogers: Central Region. Rodger Wiley, Central Office Education Administration Specialist, who initiated the educational liaison concept on a part-time trial basis in the Austin-San Antonio corridor area, provides guidance and technical assistance to the educational liaisons, who are supervised directly by TYC regional directors.

Besides interviewing and advocating for TYC youth with school officials, securing school records as needed, assisting and advising parole and facility staff regarding educational needs, identifying alternative education programs, and working with student mentors/advisors, the educational liaisons verify with school officials on five specified dates during the school year the enrollment and progress status of each TYC parolee who is supposed to be in their respective educational programs. Previously, TYC had been unable to maintain an accurate accounting of the educational status of paroled youth.

As of the third verification date, February 18, 1991, 34% of all parole youth, including those above the compulsory school attendance age, were verified as currently attending an educational program. This was six percent higher than the percentage verified on the first verification date, October 22, 1990. Since school enrollment would be expected to decrease as the school year progresses, the increase that occurred is particularly encouraging evidence that the community services focus on keeping parole youth in school and the educational liaisons' initial efforts with the serving schools are already making a positive difference. Byron Griffin, TYC Superintendent of Education, expresses confidence that

additional positive results will be forthcoming but offers the reminder that with only 34% paroled youth in school, a tremendous challenge to maintain our youth in school remains.

New Residential Facilities for TYC Youth Open

Several new facilities to provide residential services for TYC youth recently opened. On November 14, 1990 the first youth was placed in the **Texas Mentor** program which opened in the East Region. "National Mentor" is a nationally respected organization that is a recognized innovator in the provision of residential services for children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral difficulties. The goals of Mentor are (1) to provide a normalized but intensive treatment environment, (2) to successfully reintegrate youth into the community, and (3) to provide a structured program and a professionally supervised family environment. Texas Mentor is located in the East Region and is expected to serve up to fifty male and female youth by the end of the fiscal year. They serve youth at levels two, three and four of the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council Rate Structure. East Region youth are a priority for placement into this program.

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New Residential Facilities

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Secure Corrections, Inc. opened its doors to TYC youth in February 1991 in the North Region. They provide services for twenty-two youth. The specific focus of this independent living preparation program is to provide services to youth who are identified as needing specialized training in order to live independent of parental/guardian support or supervision. The program will target male youth 16.10 years of age or older.

Texas Key Programs, Inc. opened a new facility, Texas Key-Hard to Place-North Region, on April 22, 1991 exclusively for TYC youth. This residential treatment center for hard to place youth will be able to serve sixteen youth when it reaches full capacity. The program will target male youth identified as having special needs. These youth may meet at least one or more of the following criteria: (1) history of assaultive/or self-destructive behavior, (2) previous unsuccessful residential contract placements, (3) I.Q. below 80, (4) poor functioning in public schools, (5) history of substance abuse, and (6) documented difficulty living at home with parents/guardians. Placement of North Region youth will be a priority for this program.

NOTICE

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***NOTE: TYC employees, contract programs, and juvenile probation departments are exempt from this requirement.**



Speakers at a Project L.I.N.K. workshop at the Crockett State School included, (L to R) Terry Hudson, Executive Director of Houston Job Training Partnership Council; Mike Busby, Director of Gulf Coast Trades Center; Helen George, Director of TYC East Region Parole; David Cocoros, Superintendent, Crockett State School; and Dale Fedke, Regional Director of Texas Key.

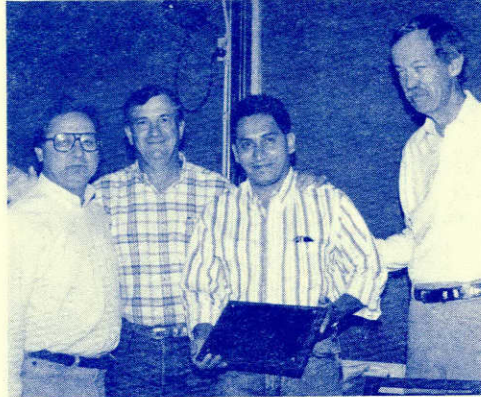
West Texas State School Employee Named Outstanding Staff Member in Institutions for 1991

Heriberto Hernandez, Director of Security, has been named Outstanding Staff Member in Institutions for 1991. The announcement was made by John Arredondo, former Director of Institutions, during an awards ceremony at the agency's annual administrators meeting in Kerrville August 28.

"Heriberto, known at the state school as Eddie, has been with the Youth Commission since 1983 when he was hired as a YAS I, previously completing a six month internship at Schaeffer House in El Paso," said Arredondo in making the presentation.

"Eddie has proven to be a very conscientious and dedicated employee impressing his supervisors with his leadership abilities. These abilities are reflected by the fact that he was promoted during his tenure to YAS Supervisor, Dormitory Director, Caseworker II, Youth Rights Specialists and to his current position as Director of Security in September 1990," continued Arredondo.

"In the midst of all these career accomplishments, Eddie has been pursuing a master's degree in psychology at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Eddie has always been willing to extend himself on behalf of his facility by regularly volunteering in community Advisory Projects. Some of the projects have



Pictured (l to r) John Arredondo, Ron Jackson, Heriberto Hernandez, and Larry F. York.

included the annual garage sale, 4-H stock show and sale, the 10- kilometer air base fun run, and the facility's first annual golf tournament and vocational building/25th anniversary celebration.

Arredondo concluded his presentation by commending Eddie's high degree of professionalism and fundamental fairness in his on-going interaction with both students and staff. He was presented with a plaque of appreciation by board member Larry F. York of Austin and executive director Ron Jackson.

Also nominated for the Outstanding Staff Member in Institutions are Carlos Diaz, Statewide Reception Center; Michael A. Qunell, Brownwood State School; Gordon Griffin, Corsicana State Home; Shirley Stanley, Crockett State School; Lynda Langston, Gainesville State School; and Leslie Sherfy, Giddings State School.

Marie Murdoch Receives Director's Award

Marie Murdoch, Chief of Casework in Central Office, was named as the first recipient of the Executive Director's Award, during the 1991 annual administrator's workshop in Kerrville August 28.

This special recognition was initiated by the executive director as a token of appreciation to a TYC employee who has made a significant contribution to the work of the agency. Specifically, Marie was recognized for her meritorious service and dedication in implementing and improving the Youth Commission's case management system.

Marie was also honored with the annual Shiver Award, which is a humorous award given to an employee who has been under extreme pressure the preceding year. The plaque was originally presented to executive director Ron Jackson by Clayton B. Shiver, an architect who contracted to build the TYC facilities in Brownwood.



Marie Murdoch receives Shiver Award from past recipient Linda Ross.

Lisa Cooke Named 1991 Outstanding Staff Member in Community Services

Lisa Cooke, who currently serves as parole officer in the Denton Parole Office of the North Region, has been named winner of the agency's award for the Outstanding Staff Member in Community Services for 1991.

Announcement of this award was made by Cherie Townsend, Director of Community Services, at the awards ceremony during the agency's annual administrator's meeting in Kerrville August 28.

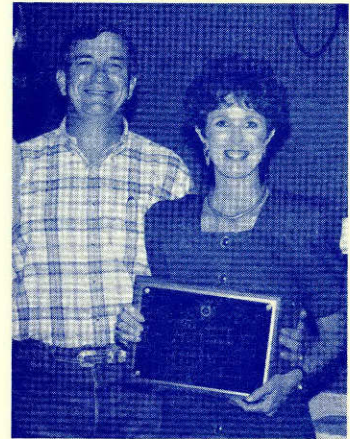
Lisa's tenure with the Youth Commission includes three years at the Gainesville State School after which she transferred to the Fort Worth Parole Office where she has worked as a parole officer for six years.

"Before there was 'aftercare planning' Lisa was busy developing aftercare services for youth assigned to her caseload by going that extra mile to secure admission into private placements for youth who needed treatment and services. It has not been beyond Lisa to 'beg' for services and 'free bed space' from private facilities to ensure that her 'kids' got what they needed," said Townsend.

"Lisa posses a genuine talent for assessing a youth and his family's needs and doing whatever she can to help them with those needs. She truly displays care and concern for her youth and exhausts all avenues of services and then some when 'advocating' for her youth.

In recognition of her significant contributions, Lisa was presented with a plaque of appreciation by board member Larry F. York of Austin and executive director Ron Jackson.

Also nominated for the Outstanding Staff Member in Community Services are Jesus Magana, South Region; Sylvia O. Gonzales, East Region; Esperanza "Connie" Sepulveda, West Region; and Elda Hebert, Central Region.



Lisa Cooke is pictured with Executive Director Ron Jackson

SCAN in South Region Named Outstanding Contract Program

The SCAN program in the South Texas region was named Outstanding Contract Program for 1991 at the awards ceremony during the agency's annual administrator's meeting in Kerrville August 28.

"The SCAN emergency shelter opened in May 1990 and has served approximately 41 TYC youth in the past year. They have taken very difficult youth and managed to provide a warm and caring environment. They have provided excellent education and supervision services to TYC youth," said Cherie Townsend, Director of Community Services, during her presentation.



Ramiro Luna accepts award from Cherie Townsend.

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Alana Webb Named Outstanding Central Office Staff Member

Alana Webb, who serves as Chief of Nutrition, was named Outstanding Central Office Staff Member for 1991 during the agency's administrators workshop in Kerrville on August 28.

The announcement of her award was made by Jay Lindgren, TYC Deputy Executive Director.

Alana has been employed with the Texas Youth Commission for the past six years and has been dedicated to the youth of TYC by insuring that they are provided with nutritious, appetizing meals that reflect current nutritional standards. Through Alana's efforts, she has developed and implemented a youth food survey questionnaire in both English and Spanish versions and has ensured that TYC youth are provided physician ordered special therapeutic diets by designating the TDA Diet Manual be used in each TYC facility.

Alana's involvement with TYC includes serving on the Governor's Interagency Council on Nutrition and Fitness in State Supported Institutions, and she has been TYC's representative at many Central Office brown bag seminars on nutrition, and TYC's representative for the Wellness Committee. Alana has served as a facilitator of cholesterol screening by Seton Good Health School for all TYC Central Office employees and has received American Correction Association Auditor



Alana Webb

Certification and is a member of the American Correctional Food Service Association and ACA.

Other employees nominated for the award include Jay Svinicki, Research and Planning; James Nastars, Internal Audit; and Sylvia Perez, Fiscal Department.

Board Member Larry F. York of Austin provided the keynote address during the awards ceremony and presented all award recipients with plaques of appreciation.

TYC Success Story

Turman House celebrated with its first Reagan High School graduate May 31. Jason Simmons completed his requirements for his high school diploma while in the Turman House program during the fall. He returned to Austin in May and graduated with his adopted class. This is truly a TYC success story!

SCAN Named Outstanding Contract Program

(Continued from Page 12)

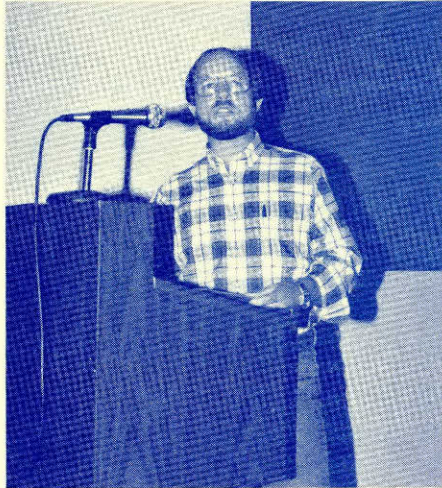
"SCAN has developed various special services for the youth they serve including a court appointed special advocate program, a first time parents educational program, and an incentive program to provide cash awards for youth who meet their levels," continued Townsend. Staff from the program continually volunteer by taking youth to the movies, providing birthday parties, as well as raising money to ensure that each youth receives at least two presents during Christmas.

Ramiro Luna, executive director of the SCAN program, was presented a plaque of appreciation for the continued commitment and dedication to TYC youth from board member Larry F. York of Austin and executive director Ron Jackson.

Other programs nominated for Outstanding Contract Program include the Texas Key Non-Residential, East Region; Brookhaven Boys Ranch, Central Region; Williams/Phillips Associates, North Region; and the Odessa Group Home, West Region.

Cocoros Named Administrator of the Year for 1991

David Cocoros, Superintendent of the Crockett State School, has been selected by his fellow peers as the Texas Youth Commission's Administrator of the Year for 1991. Announcement of his selection was made during the agency's annual workshop in Kerrville, Texas in August, where he was presented a plaque by executive director Ron Jackson.



David Cocoros accepts Administrator of the Year Award for 1991.

Cocoros has been with the Youth Commission since 1980 when he was hired as a YPS in the San Antonio halfway house. He previously served as parole supervisor in Houston and as assistant superintendent at the Crockett facility before being promoted to superintendent in 1986.

In accepting his award, Cocoros lauded his fellow peers and the staff of the Crockett State School, and thanked his wife, Tricia, who was unable to be at Kerrville, for all her assistance and support.

Qualifications for this award include effective communication with employees and administrative peers, creativity in seeking solutions to problems in an efficient and effective manner and completing stated objectives.

Tenure Plaques Distributed

The following Texas Youth Commission staff received tenure plaques during the month of August, according to Dennis Payne, Training Manager in Central Office who is in charge of ordering plaques for eligible employees. Staff members who were approved to attend the administrator's workshop in Kerrville or who were eligible to receive 20 year plaques and above received their plaques during the conference on August 28.

CENTRAL OFFICE - Joyce Bird, Christine Mallette, Jesus Ozuna, Ace Myrick, Rita Torres, Cherie Townsend, and Tom Tye, 15 years; Pat Tucker and Tilford Pike, 20 years;

NUECES HOUSE - Willie Mae Roland, 15 years;

VALLEY HOUSE - Butch Held, 15 years;

PAROLE - Jesus Bonilla; 30 years; Trudie Asbury, 20 years; Alex Escarcega, Robert Johnson, Bobbie Shelton, Allan Spearman, Allen E. Wallace, Gretchen Stephens, Joe Tharaniyil, Karen Tillotson, and Henry Frayre, Jr., 15 years;

BROWNWOOD - Dale Courtright, 25 years; Dr. Thomas Stewardson, Beulah Couch, Betty George and Dalton Cox, 20 years; Kelly Tyson, Michael Thomas, and Fidel Barrera, Jr., 15 years;

STATEWIDE RECEPTION CENTER - Linda Slusher, 20 years; Carl D. Clark and Nasheed Dalleh, 15 years;

CORSICANA - Dr. R.B. Gober, 25 years; Gladys Bassham, Harvey Elmore, and Alma Reese, 20 years;

CROCKETT - Crezette Runnels, Jerrie Warner, David Williamson, 15 years; Dr. C.O. Murray, 40 years;

GAINESVILLE - Don Estes and Martha Hardin, 15 years; Mona Interwicz, Andrew Williams, and Joyce Williams, 20 years;

GIDDINGS - Ronald B. Ross, Charles E. Francis, and Ronald Brown, 15 years; Alexander Stephens, Sr., 20 years; James E. Miller, 30 years;

WEST TEXAS - Gregorio Y. Garcia and T.V. Longbotham, Jr., 25 years; Kenneth Cook and Teclo Bustamantes, 20 years; Claudette Moore and Donna L. House, 15 years.

Comptroller Certifies Pay Raise

State Comptroller John Sharp certified the funds to grant a two percent across-the-board pay raise to all state employees effective September 1.

The 72nd Texas Legislature had originally included a rider in the Appropriations Bill stipulating that state employees may receive a three percent pay raise if the Comptroller could certify sufficient funds in the budget. However, no specific appropriation was made by the Legislature in order to grant the pay raise and initially the Comptroller could not certify that the funds were available. The Comptroller then released an opinion which stated that each state agency head had the flexibility to give classified employees at step seven and below a pay raise if individual agencies were able to find sufficient funding in their own respective budgets.

Comptroller Sharp stated that the remaining one percent pay raise for the 1992 fiscal year might be forthcoming if the economy improves and generates higher tax revenue. Employees will be kept apprised if the Comptroller is able to grant the remaining one percent salary increase to employees in the upcoming months. The Appropriations Bill also permits up to a three percent salary increase in Fiscal Year 1993.

Strategic Plan Reviewed

Chuck Jeffords, Director of Research and Planning, updated the TYC board during its September 5, 1991 board meeting on the status of the strategic plan. Jeffords stated that the existing strategic plan was finalized in the summer of 1990, and one of the elements of the plan is to provide an annual status report to the Board. Some of the elements in the environment that will affect the strategic plan was a bill (H.B. 2009) passed in the regular session that mandates each state agency to submit a strategic plan by March 1, 1992.

One of the items in this bill is that the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning will assign each agency certain goals by January 1, 1992. TYC is in the public safety and corrections area. H.B. 7, which formed the Health and Human Services Commission, mandates agencies to devise a coordinated strategic plan. Most of the agencies in that Commission will receive human service and health related goals. The strategic plan under H.B. 7 is due October 15, 1991. During the regular session, the House Appropriations Commission charged health and human service agencies with developing an interagency planning document. TYC received a letter from Representative Ric Williamson asking that this effort be continued.

In the interagency planning document, goals, missions, and strategies were set and agencies are expected to continue in that direction. The deadline for submission to the Governor's Office is March 1, 1992. A draft will be submitted to their office at that time and Board approval will be sought at the March 1992 meeting. Dr. Jeffords also distributed agency goals for this year during the board meeting; they may be revised by the Governor's Office and the LBB at a later time.

Governor Richards Tours Brownwood Facilities

Governor Ann Richards was guest speaker at the Central Texas Law Enforcement Appreciation Fish Fry on August 27. The event, which was hosted by the Brownwood Mafia, Brownwood State School, and the Statewide Reception Center, was held at Groner Pitt's boxcar at Lake Brownwood.

The Brownwood Mafia is an organization of businesses and professional citizens dedicated to the interest of Brownwood and Brown County.

During her speech, Governor Richards praised local law enforcement and the Texas Youth Commission facilities in Brownwood. The Governor toured the Youth Commission facilities prior to the fish fry, which is an annual event held for the past 13 years.

1991 Volunteer Awards Presented

The Eighth Annual Texas Youth Commission Volunteer Conference was held September 26-28 in Fort Worth. Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Judith J. Carrier, Dean of Instruction and Student Development Services for Tarrant County Junior College.

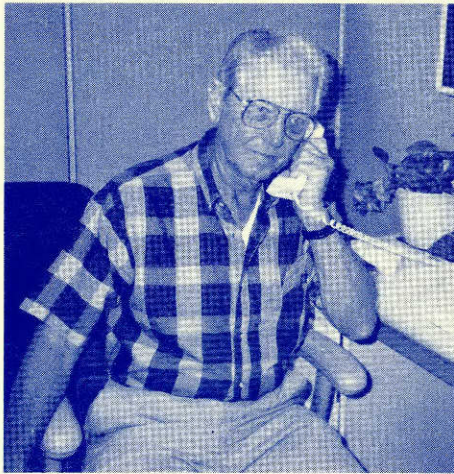
The conference concluded with an awards brunch in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on September 28.

Named Outstanding Individual Volunteer for 1991 was Harold Nelson of Fort Worth, who works with the Willoughby House program in Fort Worth. Nelson was one of 27 nominees in this category.

Named the Outstanding Religious Volunteer was Rev. Jesse Turner of Brownwood, who, with a Hispanic minister, leads services for blacks and hispanic youth on Sunday afternoons at Brownwood State School.

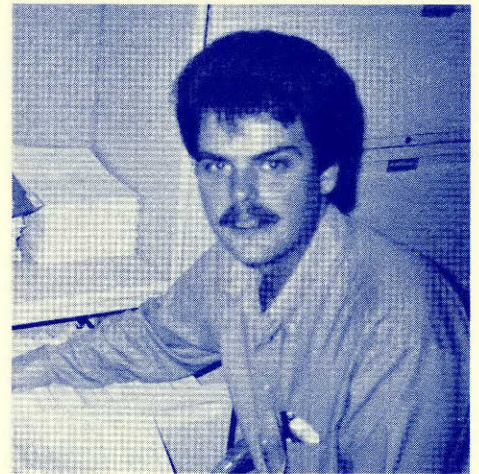
The Outstanding Volunteer Group award went to Navarro College, Corsicana, whose many different groups contribute to volunteer activities at Corsicana State Home.

Rosa Davis, Youth Rights Specialist at Crockett State School, was named Outstanding Employee Volunteer from a field of 11 other nominees.



Beto House students were named this years Outstanding Student volunteers for their community service work in McAllen.

YESHUA Ministries, a family group from Dallas, received the Outstanding Religious Volunteer Group award for their many years of religious work on several TYC institutional campuses.



CENTRAL OFFICE has received the assistance of several volunteers and interns during the past few months. They include Sonny Soderberg, former general manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority, who did secretarial and telephone duty in the Education Department; and Dan Carr, who assisted with filing in the Personnel Department.

TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION

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