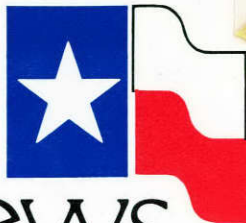


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News & Views



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★ Texas Rehabilitation Commission ★ A Human Energy Agency ★

Vol. 6, No. 1

January, 1984

Authorization for V.R. Program Becomes Law

On Dec. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Education for the Handicapped Act which included the reauthorization of the basic vocational rehabilitation program for fiscal years 1984-1986.

Under this new law, the nation's vocational rehabilitation program is authorized to receive \$1,037.8 mil-

lion in fiscal year 1984, almost \$34 million more than the \$1,003.9 million appropriated so far.

The new authorization represents a 9.95 percent increase over the authorization for fiscal year 1983.

When Congress returns for its second session the week of January 23, it is anticipated vocational rehabilitation advocates will try to

have the appropriation increased from \$1,003.9 million to \$1,037.8 million as contained in the new statute. □

TABOT Head Named

Cary Westhause was named executive director of the Texas Advisory Board of Occupational Therapy (TABOT) on December 7, 1983.

The new board is part of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and will regulate the practice of occupational therapy in Texas.

Westhause, a Canyon Lake resident, has about 30 years of experience in occupational therapy, including teaching, management and clinical practice. □

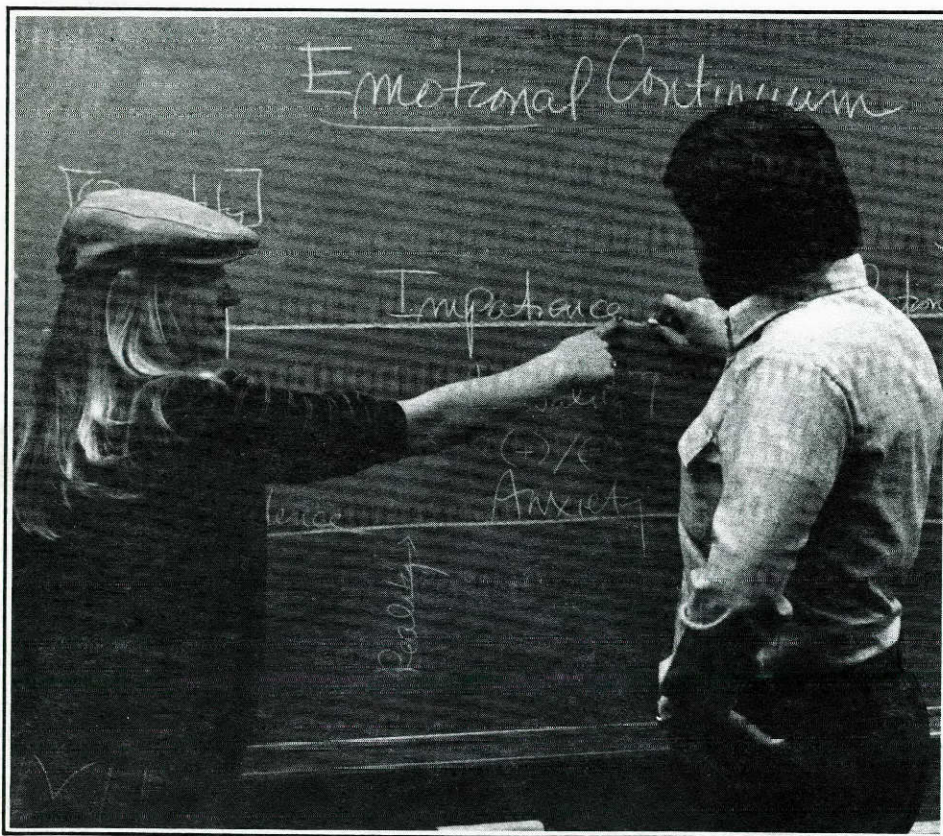
Valentini Promoted

On January 1, Mary Valentini began her new job as program officer for Region I in the Lubbock Regional Office.

For the past three years, she has been the supervisor of the Houston West Field Office.

Valentini has worked for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for nine years, starting as an instructor/evaluator in Port Arthur and a counselor in Port Arthur, Beaumont and Houston.

"Her philosophy is consistent with the Region's and the Commission's," said Les Lovell, Region I director. "She has the kind of track record as a manager that we need in Region I. We're looking forward to working with her." □



Kendra Pope (left) tells another Project Re-Entry participant she's so ready to begin working that she's at the last "e" in "Impatience." For a story on Project Re-Entry, a Houston program to help people with head injuries, turn to page four.

inside: Helping head injured people adjust.....page 4
TRC employee photo contest.....page 7

From the Field

Letters from Clients

David Bussell, TRC client in San Angelo, wrote a letter to Sara Schwiening, supervisor in the Odessa Field Office Central, after a newspaper story written about him failed to mention the help he'd gotten from TRC and in particular, from his counselor Mario Martinez of the San Angelo Field Office.

"I am a client of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. Mario Martinez is my counselor. He selected me to be interviewed by the "San Angelo Standard Times" as an example of a rehabilitated client . . . I talked with the staff writer after the article came out in the paper concerning his failure to include any mention of either TRC or Mario Martinez. His explanation was that the article had to be cut. I realize that newspapers have their own way of doing things, but if there was any cutting to be done it should have been in my story rather than deleting names of the people responsible for my rehabilitation.

I am grateful for all the help that I have received from TRC. I am especially grateful to Mario Martinez.

I first met Mario Martinez in 1976. Over the years I have made a couple of halfhearted attempts at rehabilitation but solely on the basis of muscular dystrophy. When I finally got honest with myself and decided to deal with aspects of my life and got involved in social work, Mario agreed to help me.

The help that Mario gave was more than getting me some office equipment. He has always commended me when I have done well, by the same token he has come down on me hard when I am wrong. It takes a real friend to do the latter. He has made me do my homework and taught me how to do proper social histories. He has run interference for me when I was in trouble and has been both counselor and friend. I am a good

social worker today as a result of his guidance." □



Jerry Hickman, supervisor in the Wichita Falls Field Office, received the following letter from client Kay Townsend.

"At a time when I was desperate and in dire need, TRC extended a helping hand. Now, thanks to the wonderful assistance of TRC, I am being trained for a job at Vernon Regional Junior College and now feel that I have hope for a future.

Anne Williams, my counselor, is truly a remarkable woman. She is not only very professional, but, at the same time, she really cares about what happens to me. She has compassion, plus complete understanding of my situation.

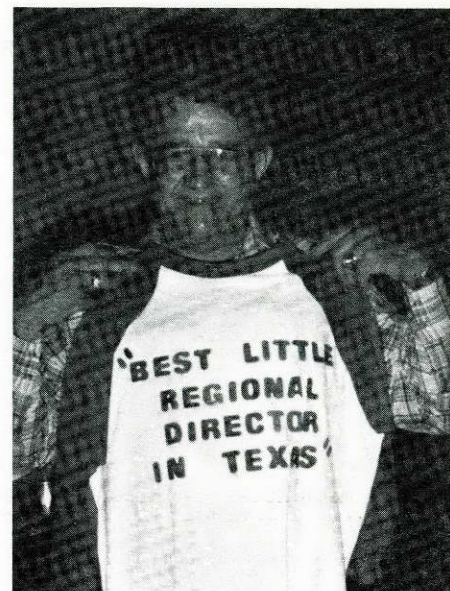
I want to thank Pugg Litteken (rehabilitation technician) who was so helpful and referred me to TRC. She also is a warm, caring friend who has stood by in the past and now — not only is helping me — but my daughter, Cindy Rector, as well.

Also, I wish to thank Mr. Charles Wolston, who is Cindy's counselor, and who has been so kind, understanding, and a tremendous friend to her.

Mr. Hickman, it means so much to know that there are such outstanding, caring people who are ready and eager to give assistance in time of need. I am certain that I speak, not only for myself, but for everyone who has been helped by TRC." □



Craig Turner, TRC client in Austin, wrote this letter to TRC program specialist Ilene Gray about the Commission's pain management pilot study at St. David's Hospital in Austin.



Region III employees, gathering recently at MO Ranch in Hunt, gave Regional Director Jackson King a t-shirt that clearly shows how they feel about him. The presentation was made by Jim Wilson, regional administrative officer, at a reception held for King.

"I want to personally thank Bill Krieg (TRC counselor, Austin Field Office South), Darlene Clemons (TRC counselor, Austin Field Office North) and Texas Rehab for giving me the encouragement and opportunity to participate in this program . . .

I have not worked since May, 1981, and as of June, 1983 could not walk one block without difficulty.

I had given up on life because no real relief seemed in sight.

I was dependent on narcotics pain medication for three years and was rapidly losing use of my muscles because of my illness.

My future now looks better because of people like Bill and Darlene and because of organizations like TRC.

I can't begin to express my gratitude . . . now I will be able to live life." □

Retirement

Hazel Smith, administrative secretary, Central Office, Research and Development Department, employed May 1, 1975, retirement effective December 31, 1983.

New Group to Study Counselors' Computer Needs

A committee has been formed to find out how computers can help vocational rehabilitation counselors make decisions concerning clients.

The Committee on Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Services (CCARS) is composed of Texas Rehabilitation Commission employees and staff of the University of Texas - Dallas School of Allied Health Sciences. Three of the committee members are TRC Counselors.

"We're trying to figure out how hi-tech computers can make a counselor's job easier," said committee chairman Wayne Sanders, TRC program specialist.

The committee, which began meeting in October, 1983, is first trying to determine what counselors need and want from a computer system. "We're looking at each step in the rehab process. After that, we'll work on ways to fill those needs," Sanders said.

One possibility is an information program which would include data on all major disability groups. "For instance," Sanders said, "a counselor who specializes in mental health clients may get an applicant who also is a below-the-knee amputee - a disability they're not as familiar with. The computer could feed them questions to ask this applicant. If the person is accepted as a client, the computer could continue by prompting the counselor with more questions. Other information on the unfamiliar disability would also be available."

Sanders stressed that in no way could the computer replace the counselor. "The computer can only help counselors better serve their clients."

Subcommittees made up of counselors are being formed to study data needed for various disability groups.

For more information on the work of CCARS, or to make suggestions, call Wayne Sanders (512) 445-8315; or committee members Kay Sitton, Dallas West Field Office (214) 638-6070; John Wayland, Longview Field Office (214) 758-9143; or Bryan Forrester, Plano Field Office (214) 424-6502.

The next CCARS meeting will be Feb. 7 in Dallas. □

Acronym Solutions Given

And now for the answers you've been waiting for. In the December issue of "News and Views," readers were challenged to study some acronyms (words formed from the first letters of a phrase) used by Commission employees and come up with the full names.

The solutions are printed below.

MBO - Management by Objective
 NCH - National Council on the Handicapped
 DRI - Dallas Rehabilitation Institute
 TIRR - Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research
 DBMAT - Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas
 DDD - Disability Determination Division
 ARS - Automated (or Advanced) Records System
 WPU - Word Processing Unit
 GCDP - Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons
 ADP - Automated Data Processing
 SAMC - State Agency Medical Consultant
 CDM - Computer Data Management
 VRC - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
 NP/SO - New Personnel/Specialized Orientation
 DE - Disability Examiner

ILC - Independent Living Center
 VC - Vocational Consultant
 SSDI - Social Security Disability Insurance
 RTO - Regional Training Officer
 CE - Consultative Examination
 CTD - Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
 MAPS - Maximum Affordable Payment Schedule
 AOPM - Administrative Operating Procedure Manual
 SSI - Supplemental Security Income
 SOS - Supply Ordering System
 LMC - Local Medical Consultant
 RSM - Rehabilitation Service Manual
 DD - Developmental Disability
 CSAVR - Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
 ERS - Extended Rehabilitation Services
 DHR - Department of Human Resources
 PES - Program Evaluation Service
 MATCH - Matching Available Technology to Careers of Handicapped
 NADE - National Association of Disability Examiners
 BFOQ - Bona Fide Occupational Qualification
 MHMR - Mental Health/Mental Retardation
 DS - Disabled Spouse

Deaths

Agnes Farley, 84, TRC employee for 28 years, died November 3rd in Baytown. Mrs. Farley worked for TRC as a counselor in Houston.

Bernice Ruth Johnson, 67, TRC employee for ten years until her retirement in 1980, died Dec. 12 in Austin. Ms. Johnson was an examiner for the Disability Determination Division.

Connie Barrientes, 49, TRC employee for seven years, died Dec. 6th. She worked as a stenographer in the San Antonio Field Office South.

Project Re-Entry: Training for People with Head Injuries

by Connie Villec-Nemmers

Each year in the United States, about 50,000 people survive severe head injuries which are usually caused by motor vehicle or industrial accidents.

Most of the survivors are men 16 to 25 years old. Many will find it difficult, if not impossible, to ever work again. According to the National Head Injury Foundation, as few as seven percent will find and keep jobs.

Project Re-Entry, begun in August, 1983, by the Medical Center Del Oro Hospital in Houston, is designed to channel people with head injuries into more satisfactory lifestyles than the often isolated and inactive lives they may lead after their injury.

The Houston project is modeled after a program at the New York University Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine.

The New York University Institute program reported that its job placement rate for graduates was between 60 and 80 percent, which included both competitive and sheltered workshop jobs.

Ultimately, it is hoped the participants of the Houston project — some of whom are Texas Rehabilitation Commission clients — will be competitively employed after they are graduated from the project.

"It is incredibly difficult for head-injured people to keep jobs," said Dr. Mary Ellen Hayden, neuropsychologist at Del Oro who directs

"The brain needs to be stimulated, exercised. Without help, these people get worse instead of better."

Dr. Mary Ellen Hayden

Project Re-Entry. "These people are not mentally retarded and in fact, may have high IQ's. But they're inconsistent and their behavior is sometimes inappropriate for a situation. Many have short-term memory problems and find it hard to concentrate. This makes it difficult for them on the job."

Dr. Hayden gave the example of a patient who got a job as a ticket taker in a theater. "He was perfectly capable of doing his job," she said. "But one moment he'd be working, and the next moment he'd be talking to the popcorn seller."

If people with head injuries do not receive cognitive training as they do in Project Re-Entry, they and their families may face years of isolation, she said. "The brain needs to be stimulated, exercised. Without help, they get worse instead of better."

Two TRC clients are taking part in the project and the Commission has approved placing as many as six clients in the program.

Six other clients are participating in a separate head injury project in Dallas.

"Most people with head injuries can get jobs but they have difficulty keeping them," said TRC counselor Christine Michaels, Houston Field Office Central, who works with Dr. Hayden and her staff. "They look fine and prospective employers are often fooled during a job interview because the disability is often not visible."

Michaels said the year-long, outpatient project includes three- to six-month work trials which were mutually developed by Del Oro psychologist Dennis Helffenstein and Michaels. During the trials, clients are given jobs, usually in the hospital, and are treated like any other employee except they are not paid.

One of the project's participants will be working during her trial as a receptionist at TRC's Houston Field Office Central.

"The work trial is very important," Michaels said. "A lot of these people haven't worked for two or three years. Most of them

TRC counselor Christine Michaels (left) talks with Project staff members Brenda Adams (center) and Rusty Adams about the progress participants have made.





Project participant Earnest Yount talks to other members of the group about the emotional stages people go through when starting a new job.

can't return to the jobs they had before their injury — at least for now."

After the work trials are completed, the goal will be finding the participants jobs in the community.

Beside offering practical work experience, the project involves the families of its participants and takes "a positive approach," Dr. Hayden said. "We research their pasts. If the person had been a good football player, for instance, we'll tell him that we know that playing football as well as he did took guts and bravery and that same bravery can be applied in trying to achieve other things."

It is too early to find out how well the project will succeed, Dr. Hayden said, because the first participants will not be graduated until the summer of 1984. "So far we're



TRC Region IV Director Ken Vogel (right) awards Dr. Mary Ellen Hayden, neuropsychologist at Medical Center Del Oro Hospital, a certificate of appreciation for her work with disabled Texans.

having some really incredible successes and some have come easy. But others are fought in blood, with a lot of pain to get them. Some, no matter what you do, are not going to go back to work."

In a recent classroom session, some Project Re-Entry clients reported that after 18 weeks, they were feeling much improved and were beginning to regain the pride, self-esteem and sense of wholeness they had before their accidents or illnesses.

At the December meeting of the Texas Head Injury Foundation held in Houston, Dr. Hayden was pre-

"The work trial is very important, A lot of these people haven't worked for two or three years. Most of them can't return to the jobs they had before their injury -----at least for now."

Christine Michaels

sented with a certificate of appreciation from TRC for her outstanding contributions to disabled people in Texas, and in particular, for her work with Project Re-Entry, said Ken Vogel, TRC Region IV director.

Vogel said her efforts have gone far beyond the ordinary in helping people with head injuries.

Dr. Hayden is equally impressed with TRC.

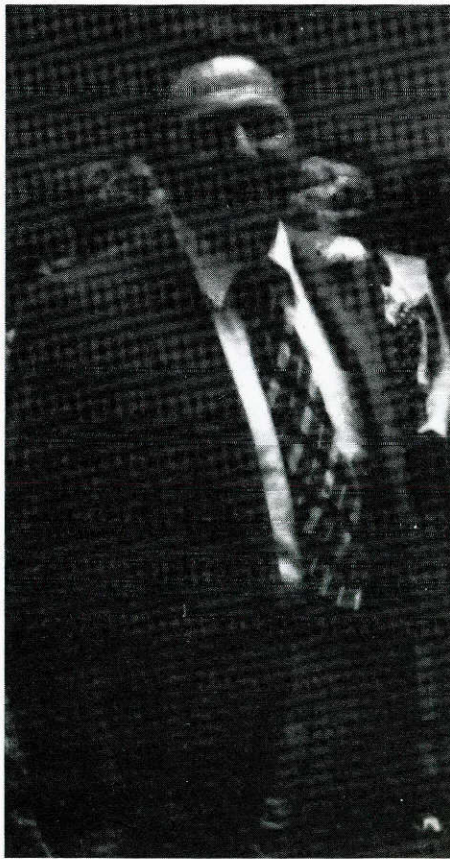
"My experience with TRC has been incredibly helpful," she said. "I wouldn't even try a program like this without backup from TRC. We need the vocational and placement support from the agency." □

Gov. White Shares Holiday Message

In a video-taped Christmas card to Texas Rehabilitation Commission employees, Gov. Mark White added his comments to a holiday greeting from Commissioner Max Arrell and Deputy Commissioners Doyle Wheeler, Dale Place and James Jackson.

The governor said he was proud of TRC's efforts to help the handicapped citizens of Texas.

In reference to the State star used as the top decoration of the TRC tree in the Central Office foyer, White said, "It has special significance at this time of the year because it represents our hope and trust that you'll continue accomplishing your mission and that the year to come will be rewarding for you and the disabled people you serve." □



Of the 150 or so people attending, Dr. Albert Vickers, DDD chief medical consultant, seemed more surprised than anyone at the reception given in his honor on Nov. 7 to commemorate his 25th year with TRC. Commission employees decorated the Central Office foyer and brought in tableloads of refreshments to celebrate.

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

STEVE BARTLETT
3RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

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December 8, 1983

Mr. Vernon M. Arrell
Commissioner
TX Rehabilitation Commission
118 East Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Mr. Arrell:

Because of your continuing interest in rehabilitation programs, you will be glad to know that we have won a victory in Congress on behalf of millions of handicapped persons in our country.

As you will recall, reauthorization of programs under the Rehabilitation Act had been stopped by the addition of ten unrelated programs under Title IV.

During the November 17 floor consideration of H.R. 3435, the Education of the Handicapped Act, I was successful in adding two rehabilitation amendments to that legislation with the full support of the Subcommittee Chairman Austin Murphy. These amendments authorize funding for rehabilitation state grant programs for fiscal years 1984 through 1986, as well as for discretionary programs for the current fiscal year. A conference committee on non-funding aspects of the Rehabilitation Act is still required.

You will be glad to know that the House approved my amendments on voice vote and approved the bill by a vote of 415 to 1. Because the Senate passed the House version of H.P. 3435 with the rehabilitation amendments, there was no need for a conference, and the bill went directly to the President for his signature.

Our victory broke the impasse which had developed on the Rehabilitation Act, and I am looking forward to a long overdue House-Senate conference on the act when Congress reconvenes in January.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

STEVE BARTLETT
Member of Congress

SB/bc

Beaumont Store Has Shopping Day for Disabled

On one of the busiest shopping days of the holiday season, The Fair in Beaumont's Colonnade shopping mall closed its doors to everyone — except its disabled customers.

"We offered the special shopping day on Dec. 3 because we feel that so many handicapped people can't get the attention they need when the store is full of shoppers," said Ed Silva, representative for The Fair. "Many of our customers are disabled."

The Colonnade store is fully accessible. During the shopping day for disabled people, trained assistants, entertainment and re-

freshments made the shopping even more enjoyable.

"We hope to make the shopping day an annual event," he said.

Silva, a member of the Golden Triangle Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped, has worked with Texas Rehabilitation Commission counselor Polly Walton of the Beaumont Calder Field Office on several projects for disabled people.

Walton said Silva is "very loyal about interviewing disabled people for job openings."

Right now, four disabled people work in The Fair's central office, Silva said. □

New Office Opens in Duncanville

Community support and a growing population have led to the opening of a Texas Rehabilitation Commission office in Duncanville.

The office, which will serve Duncanville, Cedar Hill, De Soto and Lancaster, is housed in the Dallas County Government Building, 100 E. Wheatland Road, Duncanville.

"In my tenure as regional director, I've never had as many requests for a new office as I've received from this community," said Bob Marx, Region VI director.

Marx said an increase in population in the area was one reason that the Commission considered opening an office in Duncanville. However, it was support from community leaders, the county government and the Red Bird Area Rehabilitation Center which serves Duncanville that convinced Marx an office should be opened.

"Frankly, without the cooperation and support of Dallas County Commissioner Chris Semos and other county officials this office would probably not be here today," Marx said.

The office has a staff of two: Counselor Judy Cohagen and secretary Connie Byous.

Marx and Commissioner Semos will be on hand to dedicate the new office at a ceremony to be held

on January 10, 1984, beginning at 10 a.m. □

Photo Contest Announced

Nobody can tell you what success is because it's different for everyone. Only you know what the word means to you. The staff of "TRC News and Views" would like to find out what your definition of success is so we're giving you the chance to tell us, using the medium of photography to do so.

The competition is open to all TRC employees. Photographs will be judged by three professional photographers on artistic merit and the way they illustrate the theme of success.

Black and white or color photos will be accepted, but keep in mind that if your entry is in color and wins it will be printed in black and white. Entries will not be returned so don't send us your only copy. Photographs should be no smaller than a polaroid and no larger than 8 inches by 10 inches. Each employee may submit only one photograph.

Please do not submit any text with your entry. The picture must be able to express the theme without any written explanation.

The judges will choose first, second and third place and honorable mention entries, and the winning photographs will be published in the May issue of "News and Views." We'd like to be able to offer you a trip to Bermuda — or at least airfare to Tulsa (and back) — but unfortunately cannot do so.

The deadline for entries is March 15, 1984, at 5 p.m.

Please fill out the following form, clip it, and send it to the public information office in Austin along with your entry. Also, tape your name to the back of the photograph.

We're looking forward to receiving your entries. □

photo contest



Photo Contest

Public Information Office
Connie Villec-Nemmers
(512) 445-8249

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Name of TRC office you work in _____

Job Title _____

* Don't forget to tape your name to the back of your photo.

Hospital Bed or Office?

Corrections

For one Texas Rehabilitation counselor, her office is wherever she is.

While recently hospitalized, Bay City counselor Hattie Hill wrote applications for two potential clients. One applicant was the daughter of a nurse. The other was a fellow patient in the next room.

"In a small community, it's easy

that way. You get to know people," Hill said. "People would stop and visit and ask what I do. I'd tell them about my job and our services."

Hill is back in her office now and feeling fine. But she recalls her hospital stay fondly.

"I had a good time in the hospital," she said. □

The December issue of "News and Views" incorrectly stated that Expanco, Inc., an Extended Rehabilitation Services program in Fort Worth, is run in conjunction with the Easter Seal Society. Expanco is no longer connected with Easter Seal.

Also, Larry Gladden, counselor in the LaMarque Field Office, has been a senior counselor for several years and was not recently promoted to senior counselor as the newsletter stated. □

Calendar of Events

Date	Activity	Location
Jan. 8 - 13	Managers of Managers Training	Lago Vista
Jan. 9 - 10	VR Process Field Test	San Antonio
Jan. 11 - 13	Performance Appraisal Training Make-up . . .	To be announced
Jan. 11 - 13	New Counselor Follow-On Training	San Antonio
Jan. 15 - 20	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista
Jan. 16 - 17	Regional Training Officer Meeting	Austin
Jan. 22 - 27	Managers of Managers Training	Lago Vista
Jan. 24 - 25	Job Description Training	Austin
Jan. 26	Supply System Seminar	Austin
Jan. 27	Central Office Orientation	Austin
Jan. 29 - Feb. 3	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista
Jan. 31	Management Seminar featuring George Morrisey	Austin



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