

★	GOVERNOR'S	HIGHLIGHTS
	PLANNING COUNCIL	
	for	
	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	

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Austin, Texas

April, 1983

Brandon Wins National Award

Becky Brandon, new chairperson of the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, recently received a national award honoring her work to benefit the disabled population during a ceremony in Atlanta, Ga.

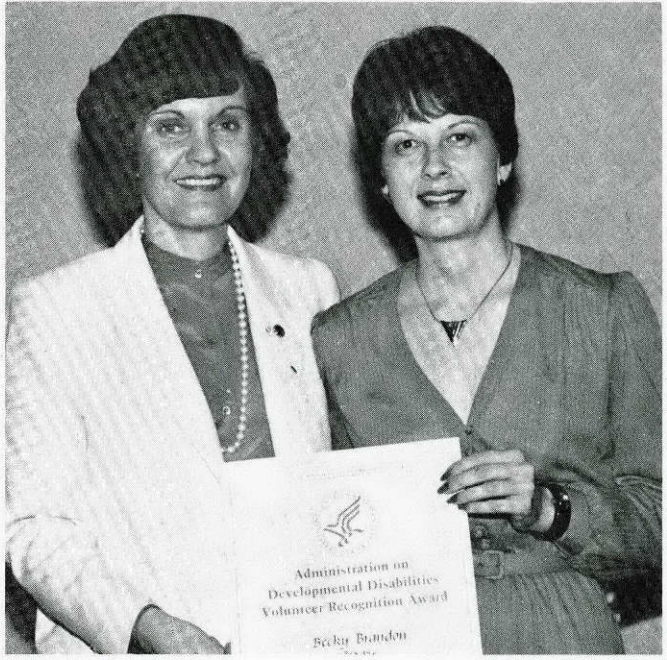
Brandon was presented the Administration on Developmental Disabilities Texas Volunteer Recognition Award for her role in "advocating for and in helping to improve conditions for the developmentally disabled." Making the presentation was Jean K. Elder, Ph.D., commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, at a 13-state bi-regional forum.

The Temple resident was one of 13 persons from the South and Southwest honored for volunteer efforts. Among award recipients was Donna Nigh, wife of Oklahoma Governor George Nigh.

Brandon, who estimates she volunteers 40 hours a week to help the disabled, said she is honored to receive the award.

"I feel very proud to be the Texas recipient of this award. My association with the DD program has given me the opportunity to be involved in the development and continuation of programs which encourage individuals to develop their capabilities in an independent and dignified manner," she said.

Brandon said she became particularly interested in helping the disabled community when she realized her youngest son, eight-year-old Adrian, has a learning disability. She is married to Ron Brandon and has two children.



Jean K. Elder, Ph.D., commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, (left) presents Becky Brandon, chairperson of the Texas Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Texas Volunteer Recognition Award for her volunteer work benefiting the disabled population.

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Council Selects New Officers

A new chairperson and vice-chairperson were selected by the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities during their March meeting.

Becky Brandon of Temple was named the new chairperson and Mary Brock of Dallas became the vice-chairperson.

Brandon, who succeeds Dr. James Cooper as chairperson, served as Council vice-chairperson last year. Brock was chairperson of the Council's planning committee.

Requests for Applications Flood Office

Council to Award Grants

Over 500 requests for applications have been submitted to the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for \$1,464,930 worth of grants to be awarded this spring.

The applications, which were due April 1, will be reviewed by an independent team recommended by the Council and appointed by Vernon M. Arrell, commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. Decisions on which applicants will receive money will be made by late May.

The Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has pro-

vided federal start-up grants to new programs that improve the quality, extent and scope of services needed for persons with developmental disabilities since 1970 when the Council was first created by federal legislation.

This year the Council has announced seven model priority areas. They include:

- * development of parent counseling/training models for parents of developmentally disabled children.

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Meet the Council

Vice-chairperson Shows Interest in Autism

The new vice-chairperson of the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has been a member of the Council for the past five years. For three years she has served as chairperson of the planning committee.

Mary Brock of Dallas was appointed to the Council in 1978 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe. She was selected vice-chairperson during a March meeting.

Brock's interest in the developmentally disabled population is traced to the birth of her autistic daughter who is now 16.

The new council vice-chairperson said that as chairperson of the planning committee, she has been involved in developing a three-year State Plan which must be submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in Washington this August and a one-year plan which was used to develop request for proposals.

Brock has a Bachelor of Science



Mary Brock

degree in interior design from East Texas State University and also studied the area of special education at North Texas State University. She is married to Jerry Brock and has two daughters.

The new Council vice-chairperson is a past president of the Texas Society for Autistic Citizens, an organization which

was funded with a DD Council seed grant. She is also a member of the Advocacy, Inc. board of directors where she serves as the liaison between the Council and Advocacy, Inc. She was appointed by Gov. William Clements to serve on the Joint Committee on Autistic Citizens created by the 67th Texas Legislature. The committee made 40 recommendations concerning the autistic population which are currently being considered by the state Legislature.

Brock has also taught children with learning disabilities and emotional problems at Buckner Children's Home in Dallas.

Brock said she is proud of what the Council did to benefit the autistic population of Texas.

"Almost everything in Texas that has been done for people with autism has been done directly or indirectly as the result of efforts of the Council," she said.

New Agency Representatives Join Texas DD Council

Two new representatives of state agencies have been named to the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities. They are Donna Livingston, Ed.D., of the Texas Education Agency and Janice Caldwell, Dr.P.H., of the Texas Department of Human Resources.

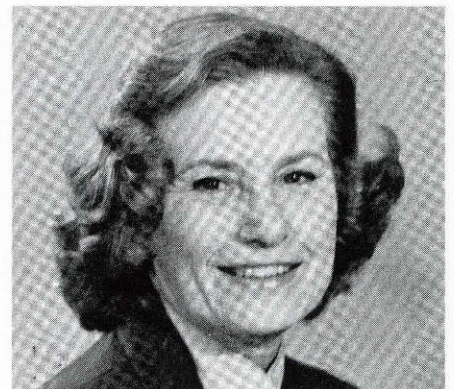
Livingston has a doctorate in special education from the University of Houston, a master's degree in special education from Southern Methodist University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Methodist University.

Before joining the TEA this year Livingston was director of special services for the Galveston Independent School District.

Caldwell replaces Clifton Martin as the Department of Human Resources representative. Martin now serves as the alternate representative.

Caldwell has a doctorate degree in health administration with a specialty in organizational behavior from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina; a master's degree in Health and Safety from California State University; and a B.A. in biology and chemistry from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, Calif.

Caldwell, who serves as the associate commissioner for services to aged and disabled for the Texas Department of Human Resources, was formerly executive director of the Gerontological Society of America.



Donna Livingston



Janice Caldwell

From the Director

By Joellen Simmons
Executive Director

Directing a program that impacts the lives of persons with developmental disabilities in Texas is exciting and certainly challenging.

In order to facilitate this idea, the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has redirected its project funds from seeding new services toward a concept of identifying model projects that address Council

priorities that also have statewide impact. The model projects will address gaps in services and will draw upon various resources through interagency coordination to implement their objectives.

To plan effectively, the Council will be active as a working group rather than one of pure endorsement. Through planning, research, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and public information, the Council will impact Texans with developmental disabilities. The State Plan, currently under develop-

ment with the administering agency, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, allows Council activities to be directed in a cohesive direction for a period of three years.

In order to carry out the plan, we will continue to contact consumers, state agencies and the Governor's Office to coordinate our efforts. It will be interesting and should prove to be meaningful to persons with developmental disabilities as we move forward. I invite you to assist us in this mission and look forward to your guidance.

About the Texas DD Council

The Texas Governor's Planning Council is comprised of 24 persons appointed by the Governor who represent individuals with developmental disabilities and are representatives of state agencies that provide services to the disabled.

Its mission is to plan and coordinate in order to assure that the developmentally disabled population in Texas receive appropriate services.

By law a developmental disability is defined as a serious, chronic disability — mental or physical — which is manifested before the age of 22. The disability results in a substantial limitation in three areas of major life activity and results in the need for services over an extended period.

The Texas Council was founded in 1970 with the passage of the federal Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act. For 13 years the Council has established broad policy, determined priorities and set goals and objectives for the state's program of services for the developmentally disabled.

The Developmental Disabilities Council members develop a three year plan and, in cooperation with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, provide funds for model projects that benefit persons with developmental disabilities.

The 1983 Council budget of \$2 million was allocated to Texas by the national Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services.

Cantu Receives Reappointment

Bernie Cantu, member of the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, has been reappointed to the Texas Rehabilitation Commission Consumer Consultation Committee.

He served on the DD Council for three years and the Consumer Consultation Committee for four years.

Cantu is executive director of the San Antonio Independent Living Services. He is also a member of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, San Antonio Citizens Concerned About Handicapism and the National Council of Independent Living Programs.

ARC to Hold Annual Convention

The Association for Retarded Citizens/Texas 33rd Annual Convention, "The Seeds of Change," will be held in Lufkin, June 3-4. Workshops will focus on innovative programs in the areas of vocational, residential and educational services; educational advocacy; public awareness; prevention awareness; music therapy; early childhood intervention; parent support groups; symbiotic living arrangements; case management; dual diagnosis-MR/ED; funding community services and more.

All workshops and meetings will be held at the Lufkin Civic Center.

Hotel and convention reservation information is available by writing to: ARC/TX, 833 Houston Street, Austin, TX 78756 or by calling Mike Wolf (512) 454-6694.

Brandon — Continued from p. 1

Before being elected chairperson of the Council, Brandon served as vice-chairperson. In her role as vice-chairperson, she supported early childhood intervention legislation and urged for better coordination of services between federal, state and local agencies that work with disabled citizens. She is currently supporting legislation that would continue and improve special education in Texas.

The new chairperson is also a member of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission Consumer Consultation Committee, National Association of

Developmental Disabilities Councils, Temple Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and Texas Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee. She is a former member of the Special Education Advisory Board to the Temple Independent School District.

Brandon is originally from Minnesota and has a nursing degree from Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing and Macalester College.

She was appointed to the DD Council in 1979 by Gov. William Clements.

About Programs

Ten Participate

Program Teaches Independence

By Chris Petrison

Six women and four men, all classified mildly to moderately retarded, are learning skills to live on their own through semi-independent living programs sponsored by the Montgomery County Center for the Retarded.

For the first time in most of their lives, the residents are cooking their own dinners, going grocery shopping and cleaning their living quarters.

"I've seen marked behavioral changes. They've been getting a more realistic view of life," said Charles Kelly, house manager for the male unit.

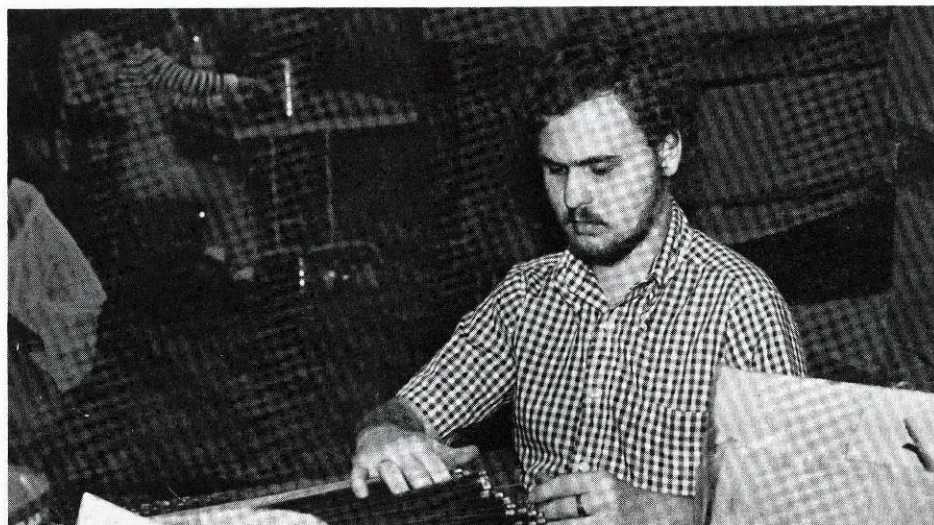
Both the male and female programs, which operate out of an apartment complex in Conroe, receive funds from the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

The program for the men started last June with a Council seed grant.

"We rented three two-bedroom apartments within an apartment complex and connected them by knocking down some walls," said Lonnie Winton, director of the Montgomery County Center for the Retarded.

The men, who before moving to the semi-independent living facility resided in institutions or in their parents' homes, are supervised by two staff members working shifts.

Two men share an apartment and do



Ronald English, resident of the Montgomery County Center for the Retarded semi-independent living program assembles throttle cables for local manufacturers at the center's workshop.

their own cooking, cleaning and grocery shopping. Although connecting walls to the next apartment are knocked out, the men live much as they would if their apartments were self-contained.

In the same apartment complex, but another building, live six women in a group home which opened three years ago.

"The goal for the women is to reach a supervised apartment living or semi-independent stage," Winton said.

The women, who range in age bet-

ween 19 and 45, have house parents living with them.

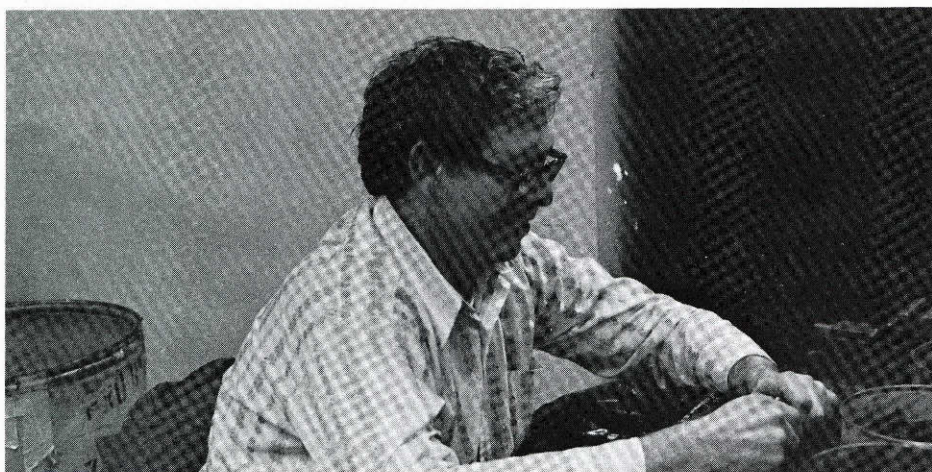
Like the men, they share three two-bedroom apartments with separating walls removed. Unlike them, the women cook and eat together in a group arrangement. They are more closely supervised than the men.

Over the past three years about 18 women have lived in the facility.

Both male and female residents are required to be employed in order to live in the facilities. Currently two women work in retail stores owned by the center. One man is employed in a commercial nursery and another at a grocery store. The rest work at the center's workshop where they assemble throttle cables for local manufacturers.

"Our goal is for all of the residents to eventually work in the community," Winton said. "They need economic independence. Just because they know how to live independently doesn't mean they can afford to. They need the income to be able to afford to live on their own."

Winton hopes that eventually both the group home and semi-independent living facility will be weaned away from the Council money and replaced entirely with funds earned at the center-owned workshop, greenhouse and retail stores.



Jerry Fatheree is a resident of the Montgomery County Center for the Retarded semi-independent living program.

Child Development Conference Set in San Antonio

Project Any Baby Can is sponsoring a forum for professionals concerned with child development May 4-6.

To be held at the San Antonio Marriott Inn — North Hotel, the conference will focus on children who have psychological and environmental risks, examining development and delays from conception through the early years.

The name of the conference is Kaleidoscope '83: The First Three Years of Life.

Project ABC, one of three sponsoring agencies, began last year with a seed grant from the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities. Also sponsoring the event are Children's Hospital at the Santa Rosa Medical Center and the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Health Center in San Antonio.

The featured speaker at the forum will be Bettye Caldwell, Ph.D., professor of education at the University of Arkansas. Break-out sessions on prevention and wellness; research, funding and management of early childhood intervention programs; emotional care of the family; and special concerns of the developmentally disabled population are scheduled.

The conference registration fee is \$75. More information can be obtained by calling (512) 691-6481, ext. 283.

ADD Establishes Resource Bank

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities is establishing a technical assistance resource bank that will soon be available to developmental disabilities programs across the country.

The computerized bank will include information on resources available to developmental disabilities councils, university affiliated facilities and protection and advocacy agencies. The resource bank will include such information as lists of agencies that offer help with office management and criteria for federal developmental disabilities funding.



Ruth Rader gives a demonstration of the Kids on the Block which are part of Project Understanding People.

Puppetry, Pantomime Teaches Kids Meaning of Disabled

Through the use of puppetry and pantomime, Project Understanding People (UP) is working to bring about a greater awareness of the disabled population among Central Texas school children.

The program, which receives funds from the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, is coordinated by the Educational Service Center, Region XIII.

In the past two years that Project UP has been in existence, about 1,000 able-bodied children in 62 school districts in and around Austin have learned what it means to be handicapped. They have been blindfolded, sat in wheelchairs, had one hand tied behind their backs and played with special body puppets — all to allow them to discover how most handicapped people live, work and enjoy life.

"We are trying to create a different attitude toward the handicapped among able-bodied children and bring about a greater awareness of what it means to be handicapped," said Evelyn Tucker, Project UP manager.

Tucker, along with Maxine Laine, Educational Service Center Region XIII special education consultant, and parent volunteers have gone into the

schools and worked directly with elementary and high school students, introducing them to particular needs of the disabled population. They have also conducted workshops for teachers to provide hints on how understanding of the disabled population can become part of regular classroom activities.

One of the most popular parts of Project UP demonstrations is a show by The Kids on the Block, life-like puppets representing children with different kinds of disabilities. The puppets tell what it's like to be handicapped in terms that children can understand.

Another favorite are body puppets which children can wear to simulate handicaps. By playing roles, the children can ask questions about disabilities, Tucker said.

The Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities started funding Project UP two years ago and helped purchase puppets, a teacher handbook and two slide presentations.

This year the Council provided \$36,414, or about 48 percent of Project UP's budget.

Tucker said she hopes next year to expand the program statewide and develop a training program for parents of developmentally disabled children.



Jean K. Elder

About the Commissioner

Jean K. Elder, Ph.D., commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, is an educational psychologist who came to the Department of Health and Human Services from Michigan where she was an associate professor at Michigan State University. She is the author of several publications in the field of developmental disabilities, mental retardation and special education. She has also lectured to state, national and international audiences.

Elder was born in Virginia, Min., and raised in Marquette, Mich. She holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in psychology from the University of Michigan. Her B.A., also from the University of Michigan, is in education.

Commissioner Urges Councils to Be More Businesslike

By Chris Petrison

Because of a possible decrease of federal funds, developmental disabilities programs across the country are going to have to find more "efficient and coordinated ways" to work, advised the commissioner of the national Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

"Some of our funds might be decreased. But, if we become better businessmen, what we get may be enough," said Jean K. Elder, Ph.D.

Elder, who has served as the commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities since Jan. 25, 1982, was the keynote speaker at a recent bi-regional forum of the administration attended by representatives of 13 southern and southwestern states.

Representing the Texas Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities were Joellen Simmons, Council executive director; Vernon M. Arrell, commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission; Dr. James Cooper, former Council chairperson; Becky Brandon, new Council chairperson; Mary Brock, new Council vice-chairperson; and Chris Petrison, information specialist.

The two-day forum was highlighted with the presentation of the Texas Volunteer Recognition Award to Bran-

don by Elder for her volunteer work benefiting the disabled population.

Elder called these "critical times for all of us who work in human services."

What we are about in the 1980's and '90's is a reshaping of services and providing them in an efficient and coordinated way. The years ahead can be years of advancement or retreat," she said.

Elder said that the Administration on Developmental Disabilities is tackling the task of reshaping services through a six-pronged plan that takes a holistic approach. The administration is charged with administering federal disabilities funds to the states, including Texas.

The plan calls for economic growth to reduce the need for public funds for DD programs, national coordination to improve conditions in board and care facilities for developmentally disabled citizens and national leadership to assist states in providing the most appropriate placement of the developmentally disabled population.

It also calls for states to improve management of the DD programs, target services to categories of the developmentally disabled population who have previously been unserved and for the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to improve the efficiency of its internal management.

National DD Regulations Receive Review

New regulations for developmental disabilities programs around the country have been proposed and may go into effect as soon as September.

The proposed regulations are expected to clarify laws set out in 1978 and 1981 amendments to original developmental disabilities legislation.

"They are considerably shorter than the old ones and do not repeat the law as much. They make things a little easier and do not impose undue burdens on

the states," according to Madelyn Schultz, program analyst for the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Schultz, who helped write the proposed regulations, added that the regulations clarify "administrative parts (of regulations) in an attempt to encourage states to be more efficient administratively."

The regulations, which are designed

to provide states guidelines for following developmental disabilities legislation, appeared in the Feb. 23 issue of the "Federal Register." Following a 60 day period in which the public is invited to review the proposals and make written comments, the regulations may be revised. Official regulations will then be published again in the "Federal Register" and probably go into effect in September.

Texas to Apply for Community Care Waiver

The future is looking brighter for people with mental retardation and severe developmental disabilities who want to swap institutional care for home or community care.

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) and the Texas Department of Human Resources are planning to apply for a Title XIX Community Care waiver. If approved, the waiver would allow some Medicaid funds to be used to pay for nurses, speech therapists and other services to come into the home of retarded or severely developmentally disabled people, according to Edward R. Skarnulis, Ph.D., TDMHMR deputy commissioner for mental retardation services.

In some cases the home care would replace institutional care.

Presently Title XIX Medicaid money can only be used in Texas to care for people who have mental retardation and/or severe developmental disabilities if they are in an institution or community Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded program. The waiver would provide funds to cover those wishing home and community care.

Before the waiver can go into effect, the state must match a portion of the Medicaid funds. TDMHMR is proposing to do this as part of its budget in which \$900,000 has been requested as a line item. The agency is also researching other avenues to generate more state funds for the match and is working with the Governor's Planning Council for

Developmental Disabilities in this area.

So far 35 states have applied for the Title XIX waiver. Texas delayed applying until after the state Legislature went into session this year, and necessary matching funds might be appropriated.

Skarnulis said that the Title XIX waiver would "in no way affect state school funding." Funds for the community and home care would come from TDMHMR matched with federal money.

Texas is expected to officially apply for the waiver in the next few months with approval possibly in September or October.

States were given the option to match the Medicaid funds and obtain the Title XIX waiver in October, 1981, as a change in law requested by President Ronald Reagan, according to Skarnulis. The President became involved in the issue after he received a letter from parents of a retarded child who said it would be cheaper to keep the youngster at home and hire a nurse than to retain him in an institution. However, because Title XIX would only pay for institutionalization and the family did not have enough money to hire a nurse, they decided against bringing the child home.

Administration Proposes Cut in '83 Funding for DD

A 43 percent cut in federal funding for developmental disabilities programs nationwide is recommended as part of the Reagan Administration's proposed budget for 1984.

The administration is proposing that \$24.6 million be reserved for state developmental disability grants. That compares to \$43.18 million in 1983.

Recommended for smaller cuts under the developmental disabilities category were university affiliated facilities and special projects from \$10 million to \$9.3 million and funds for the American Printing House for the Blind from \$5 million to \$4,950,000.

Other developmental disabilities related programs fared better. Funding for Gallaudet College is proposed to increase from \$52 million in 1983 to \$55.6 million in 1984. Also receiving a proposed increase is the Committee for the Purchase from the Blind and Other Handicapped from \$662 million in 1983 to \$687 million in 1984.

Overall the administration's proposed budget differs sharply from two prior budget proposals in which major reductions in special education and vocational rehabilitation funding and sweeping changes in the law were suggested. All such recommendations were rejected by Congress.

Grants — Continued from p. 1

* development of innovative approaches demonstrating the integration of youth correction, social service and judicial systems in treating developmentally disabled delinquent youth.

* demonstration of the use of therapeutic family day-care to prevent the need for more restrictive placement of developmentally disabled persons.

* demonstration of a comprehensive program to maximize community adjustment of developmentally disabled individuals in making the transition from public schools to adult life roles.

* establishment of a demonstration and training component in a model community residential facility serving autistic citizens.

* development and demonstration of model residential alternative programs for teenaged and young adult citizens with cerebral palsy.

* establishment of a model demonstration community residential facility serving the severe and profound developmentally disabled.

One stipulation the Council has made in awarding grants is that the federal money be used only as short-term financial support. It is hoped that eventually the grantees will find other sources of funding to replace Council money.

A total of 4,000 agencies and programs around the state were notified of the availability of the grant money in

January when letters announcing a call for proposals were sent out. Prospective grantees had about three months to prepare formal applications for the federal funds.

Council Moves

The Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has moved to its new headquarters in room 163 of the Central Office of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. Council staff are available by calling (512) 445-8867 or writing 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Tex. 78704.

Texans Show Support for Disabled at Rally

Over 2,000 Texans gathered on the grounds of the state Capitol Feb. 2 to show their support for the disabled population during Disability Rally Day.

On hand were people representing a

wide variety of disability groups, as well as state legislators, human service agency commissioners and other state officials.

During the rally, held at noon, par-

ticipants heard from Larry Johnson, president of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, who in a keynote address said that while life has improved over the past decade for the state's disabled population, there is still a lot to do.

"With unemployment of the handicapped at 50 percent and scores of buildings inaccessible . . . we may certainly conclude that progress has been slow," Johnson said.

Also during the rally Frances T. Horning, chairperson of the Disability Rally Day Steering Committee, displayed a stack of petitions signed by about 20,000 people calling for legislative "support of all initiatives which help develop the maximum potential of every disabled citizen."

Prior to the rally a legislative briefing on Feb. 1 was sponsored by a grant from the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. Several hundred participants attended the briefing and were given an outline of bills pertaining to the state's disabled population that were to be introduced in the House and Senate.

Commissioners from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Department of Human Resources, Commission for the Deaf, Commission for the Blind, Department of Health and Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation outlined their agencies' proposed budgets for the 1984-85 biennium.



Larry Johnson gives the keynote address at Disability Rally Day.

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Highlights is printed by the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for distribution to Council members, grantees and other interested persons throughout the state. Inquiries may be addressed to Chris Petrison, Public Information Office, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8249.

**Governor's Planning Council
for Developmental Disabilities**
118 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704