



T · E · X · A · S
PLANNING COUNCIL
for
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

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April 1984

Final decision in April

DD Program receives 80 grant proposals

A total of 80 applicants are seeking new grants from the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities as program officials prepare to award 1984 funds.

The 80 proposals, which were submitted by the January 13 deadline, compare to 63 turned in last year. More proposals from programs seeking continuing grants were received last month.

People applying for new grants were required to fill out four-page proposals that briefly outlined goals and objectives of their proposed grant programs.

The proposals for new grants were reviewed in February by independent, knowledgeable volunteers who made recommendations on grant awards to the Council executive director. Those proposals receiving recommendations were invited to submit work plans which were due March 15.

The final decision on grant awards is scheduled to be made by Vernon M. Arrell, commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, during the first part of April. A conference for all grantees will be held in May to give them an orientation on policies and proce-

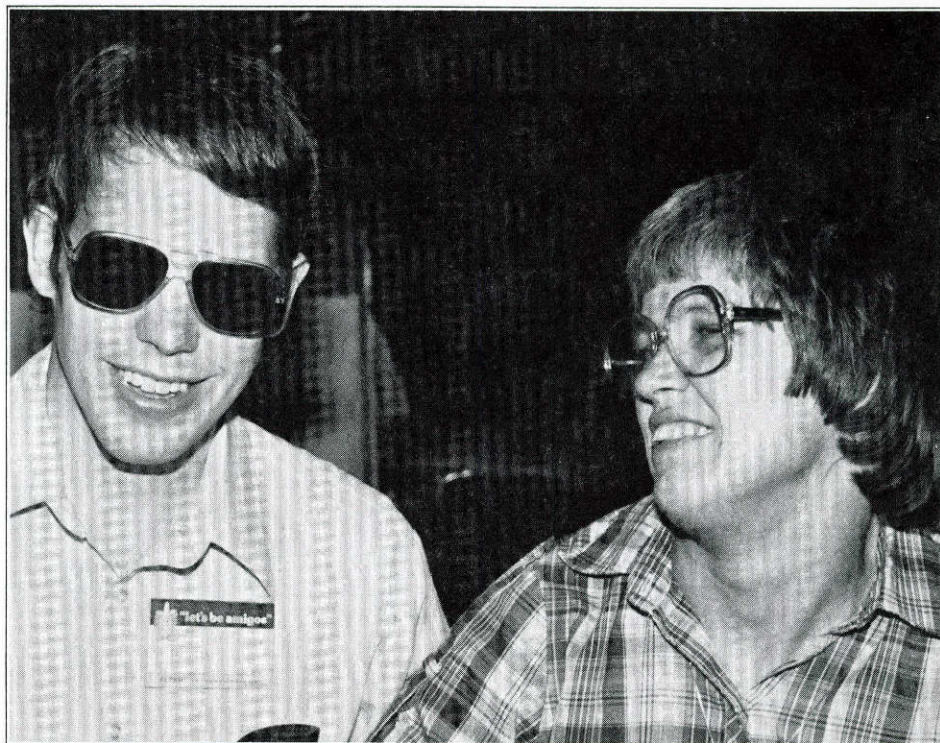
dures they must follow in using Developmental Disabilities funds.

The Developmental Disabilities Program will award funds this year in two priority areas which include alternative community living arrangement services and nonvocational social development services.

Of the 80 pre-applications submitted, 40 were in the area of nonvocational social development, 38 in the area of alternative community living and two in both categories.

This is the first year the program is awarding funds in the area of

nonvocational social development, which are services that assist persons with developmental disabilities in performing daily living and work activities. During a June 1983 Council meeting, Council members decided to change funding priorities from child development to nonvocational social development. They agreed to maintain their second priority area of funding, alternative community living services, which are services that assist persons with developmental disabilities in maintaining suitable residential arrangements in the community.



Judy Wingard-Westbrook, member of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, shares a joke with her husband at a recent meeting of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Wingard-Westbrook has been named the recipient of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities' Texas Volunteer Recognition Award.

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Meet the Council

Lee Veenker accepts vice-chairman post

Lee Veenker of Irving is the new vice-chairman of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

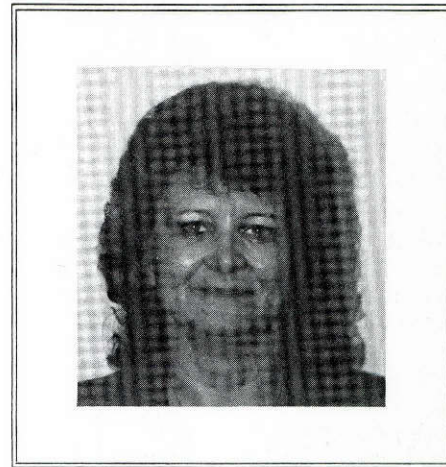
A Council member since June 1982, Veenker was elected to the post during a December Council meeting. The new vice-chairman succeeds Mary Brock.

Veenker's interest in developmental disabilities comes from her background as a registered nurse. She is a graduate of Sioux Valley Hospital School of Nursing in Sioux Falls, S.D.

She was employed for 10 years as the assistant to the director of nursing at the Irving Community

Hospital and currently is a member of the hospital's board of directors. She is a member of the Dallas County Adult Mental Health Advisory Committee and was recently appointed as the Dallas county judge's representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Fort Worth State School. Veenker is also a former member of the board of directors of the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

Before being named Council vice-chairman, Veenker served as the chairman of the Planning Committee.



Lee Veenker

New Council member, Tammen, represents Commission for the Deaf

For the first time in Council history a representative of the Texas Commission for the Deaf has been appointed to the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

The appointment was made as a result of a requirement of H. B. 1985, the legislation approved last year making the Texas Planning Council a state program.

The new Council member is Fred R. Tammen, executive director of the Texas Commission for the Deaf.

Tammen, who has been with the Commission since December 1979, said that serving on the Council will be a good way to "develop a closer working relationship with other programs that serve deaf persons."

The new Council member said that it is particularly appropriate that a representative of the Texas Commission for the Deaf be a member of the DD Council because deafness is the largest single disability in the United States. In addition, Texas has the third largest deaf population in the country, coming behind only California and New York. Estimates show Texas to have about 130,000 totally deaf citizens and another 960,000 with significant bilateral hearing losses.

The Texas Commission for the Deaf comes in contact with many of these deaf persons through its programs. Every month the Commission provides interpreter services about 500 times; provides information and referral services about 800 to 1,000 times; provides message relay services about 2,700 times; and assists between 1,800 to 2,000 elderly deaf with a range of services.

In addition the Commission for the Deaf offers job seeking skills training for deaf persons; offers two camp programs for deaf and the deaf/blind and provides family counseling to parents of deaf/blind children.

The new Council member has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois in education, a master's degree from the University of Missouri in administration and is working towards his Ph.D. degree in administration from the University of Oklahoma. Before joining the Commission for the Deaf in 1979, he was an administrator of government relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Greater New York; was an instructor of administrative theory in the Department of Human Resources at East Central State University in Oklahoma; was director of government relations for the National Rehabilitation Association in Washington D.C.; and worked for the Missouri Rehabilitation Agency.

From the Executive Director

by Joellen Simmons
Executive Director

The 1984 grant cycle began with the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities sponsoring public forums across the state to receive input for planning and the development of priority service grants. In January of 1984 announcements of the availability of funds for grants appeared in **Highlights** and **Texas Register** as approved by Vernon M. Arrell, commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Eighty applications for new grants were received by the Developmental Disabilities Program by the January 13 deadline. Most persons applying for grants had positive comments about the revised application process, which involved the use of a short four-page application. For the first time applicants for new funds did not have to fill out lengthy applications for initial review. Independent volunteers with expertise in the grant priorities reviewed and rated the pre-applications for program

funds. The final grant awards will be made this month.

As we continue to receive input from consumers with developmental disabilities through our statewide forums in local communities, we will be developing a new set of priorities for the 1985 grant cycle. We thank all of you for your testimony at our hearings. Special appreciation goes to the panelists who participated in the public hearings in their communities, receiving testimony in behalf of the Texas Planning Council.

Five new staff members join DD Council, Program

Five new members have joined the staff of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities.

They are Rosalinda Guardiola, Michelle Hudson, Renee G. Johnston, Jopie Smith, and Roger Webb.

Guardiola is the new Council secretary. Before joining the DD Council she worked in the word processing department of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) Disability Determination Division (DDD). She is a graduate of Durham Business College in San Antonio.

Hudson serves as the new secretary in the area of planning. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1982 with a major in data processing. She also was employed as a secretary in the psychology department at Stephen F. Austin.

Johnston is the new administrative secretary and works directly with Joellen Simmons, executive

director. She has worked with TRC for five years as a secretary in the Inquiries and Services Unit of DDD and the Employment Resources Section. Johnston is a former student at Southwest Texas State University and is currently attending St. Edwards University.

Hired as the new grants specialist is Smith who works with the grants manager to monitor and evaluate Developmental Disabilities Program grants. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology from the University of Texas and a Masters of Education in special education and counseling from Texas Tech. Between 1974 and 1978 Smith worked at the Texas Tech Research and Training Center where she coordinated a Developmental Disabilities Program grant. Between 1978 and 1983 she was a disability examiner in DDD.

The new Council specialist is Roger Webb who is responsible for

facilitating Council and committee meetings, providing updates on issues and legislation affecting persons with developmental disabilities and informing the Council and staff of important issues.

He recently completed his master's degree in rehabilitation administration at North Texas State University. Between July and December he served an internship with the Rehabilitation Services Administration Region VI in Dallas. Prior to attending North Texas State, he was a facility administrator for Pine Rest Christian Rehabilitation Services at Southeast, a work activity and adult activity program in Grand Rapids, Michigan, serving persons with developmental disabilities. He also has been employed as a house parent at a home for emotionally disturbed persons. Webb has his Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology from the University of Illinois.



Rosalinda Guardiola



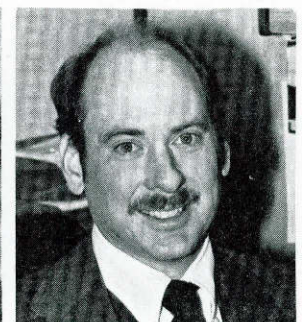
Michelle Hudson



Renee G. Johnston



Jopie Smith



Roger Webb

Chafee amendment creates controversy, new ideas concerning use of Medicaid dollars

Legislation that could result in fewer developmentally disabled persons living in large institutions across the country was introduced into the U.S. Senate last November by Senator John Chafee (R-RI).

Called the Community and Family Living Amendments of 1983 the proposed legislation would gradually shift the federal share of Medicaid funds from institutions to community-based, integrated settings.

Structurally, the legislation would add a new section to the Social Security Act which would entitle qualified disabled persons to residential daytime and supportive services paid for through the federal-state medical assistance program. Other amendments would also be added to implement the changes.

If the bill becomes law, federal Medicaid dollars would no longer be available to most institutions that serve persons with developmental disabilities. The funds would be moved over a 10 year period to small community facilities, resulting in non-availability of Medicaid funds for large institutions that currently depend on Medicaid for operational funds. States could continue to operate large institutional facilities with state funds if they desire.

Facilities with 16 to 75 residents that opened after January 1, 1979, would have 15 years rather than 10 before their Medicaid funding would end under the Chafee proposal. All Medicaid funded facilities for 15 or fewer residents that were in operation as of January 1, 1983, would be "grandfathered" in the bill and exempted from the requirement change. Also exempted would be residential schools that return their population back to the community and Veteran's Administration sponsored disability living arrangements.

Following the phaseout, the federal Medicaid program could only continue to fund institutions that provide temporary care for up

to two years per person when such institutionalization is considered necessary due to unavailability of appropriate services in the community.

The federal Medicaid match for each disabled person who is moved from an institution to a community setting would be increased by five percent. The increment would continue during the first five years following the person's return to the community.

At the same time, the range of community living arrangements and services funded through Medicaid would be expanded. For the first time, funding on a permanent basis

ARC, Texas, and PART express different opinions

would be available for personal aides or attendants, family support services, respite care, staff training, case management, and rehabilitation programs.

Texas supporters of the legislation consider the proposed amendments to be the breakthrough in funding needed to develop an array of community based services for disabled persons.

"We see this as a key to the funding block . . . (Adequate community based) facilities don't exist because there is not enough funding," said Mike Bright, assistant executive director of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), Texas, an organization which supports the amendments.

Bright said that many parents are concerned about the proposed amendments because adequate community services have not yet been developed to take care of all the persons now residing in large institutions. The legislation, however, will encourage smaller facilities to open and will provide a long term funding base for community facilities.

Another reason ARC supports the Community and Family Living Amendments of 1983 is that "we believe that community services, when appropriately implemented, are more effective and meaningful than institutions," Bright said.

"The major issue is quality. Because of the nature and structure of the institutional model, it is incapable of meeting the needs of mentally retarded persons effectively," Bright said.

Coming out in opposition to the legislation is the Parent Association for Retarded of Texas (PART), a 3,000 member organization that represents parents, relatives, and guardians of mentally retarded persons in state schools.

"It's not that we are against community services, but that we believe there should be a continuum of services for those mentally retarded children," said Rix Rutland of San Antonio, PART president.

Such a continuum should include state schools for severely and profoundly retarded persons and for those who have multiple handicaps and behavior problems. Most require 24 hour and special care.

It would not be prudent to move these people to insecure, hazardous group homes," Rutland added. "State schools are well managed and properly accountable."

PART takes the position that community care for severely mentally disabled persons would be cost prohibitive. As a result, services for these people would never be as good as they are in state schools.

Another PART concern of the legislation is that it is too "authoritarian," Rutland said. It dictates to states how they should take care of their mentally retarded population and tells parents how they should care for their children, allowing no flexibility, he said.

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities will be providing input to its national organization (the National Association for Developmentally Disabled Councils) and developing written data for study by Senator Chafee. ARC-US indicates that substantial revisions are anticipated to the current draft and welcome input which would result in a system that would be manageable in all states.

At forums across the nation Texans speak out for the disabled

DD Council conducts hearings

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has been conducting a series of forums throughout the state to obtain input from the public on needs of the developmentally disabled community.

The first forum was held in Austin in November, followed by hearings in Corpus Christi, Edinburg, Dallas, Tyler, Houston, Midland, and San Antonio.

Forums are also planned for El Paso on April 6 at the Marriott Hotel, 1600 Airway Blvd., and Lubbock on April 13 at the Lubbock Convention Center, 1501 6th Street.



Kay Phillips, mother of a 10-year-old mentally ill child, tells of the need for better services for persons with mental illness. She was one of 27 persons who spoke to a hearing panel of 11 members during the Austin Public Forum held by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities in November.

All forums begin at 9 a.m. Disabled persons and their families, consumer group representatives, agencies which provide services to people with developmental disabilities, and interested citizens are invited to testify on the needs of developmentally disabled persons in their area during the forums.

Information compiled at the meetings will be used for planning purposes by the Texas Planning Council and shared with the Legislature, Governor, and other state officials.

The forums are being organized by Advocacy, Inc., through a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Program.

Representatives of the DD Council and staff attend each forum to give participants background information on the Developmental Disabilities Program.

Task Force asks about indigent health care

The Task Force on Indigent Health Care is holding a series of public forums throughout Texas on health care needs of poor people.

The 1984 forums began in January with meetings in Laredo and San Antonio and continued through February and March with hearings in Corpus Christi, Austin, and Houston.

Another hearing is scheduled in Abilene on April 3.

Data compiled at the hearings will be used by the task force to develop a study on health care needs of indigent Texans for the 69th Session of the Texas Legislature.

More information about the task force hearings can be obtained by calling (512) 475-1051.

ADD holds 3rd set of regional discussions

The third annual series of regional forums was conducted in February and March by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD).

The forum for states in Regions V-X, which includes Texas, was held February 28-29, March 1-2 in Denver.

Representatives of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities attending the Colorado forum included Joellen Simmons, executive director; Becky Brandon, Council chairman; Lee Veenker, Council vice-chairman; W. D. Nielson, Council grants manager; Roger Webb, Council specialist; and Jopie Smith, grants specialist. Representing the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was TRC Commissioner Vernon M. Arrell.

According to Jean K. Elder, Ph.D., commissioner of the Administration of Developmental Disabilities, the purpose of the forums is to "provide the opportunity for state administering agencies, state councils, protection and advocacy agencies, university affiliated facilities, consumers and consumer advocates to present, exchange and discuss ideas and issues that are impacting upon the federal/state Developmental Disabilities Program."

Among topics discussed were special needs adoption, strengthening families/community services, and adult services.

A report on the status of ADD action on recommendations developed at last year's forums and a report by the Office of the Inspector General on the unobligated federal funds in the state developmental disabilities programs was presented.

Respite care program helps families stay together

by Theresa Frances
ARC-Dallas

A heart attack sends a mother to the hospital leaving no one to care for her mentally retarded child.

The parents of three children, including one severely retarded and physically disabled child, have never had time to themselves in 15 years of marriage.

The Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Dallas respite care program was designed to help in situations like these. Whether there is an emergency or parents just need a break, respite care provides badly needed time away from the constant care of a disabled child.

The respite care program, which is in its third year of funding from the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, was founded on the ARC premise that parents of disabled children who have the opportunity to get away are less

likely to resort to institutionalization to relieve their stress. The parents feel comfortable because specially trained caretakers come to their homes to care for their disabled children.

ARC-Dallas offers several respite care options, including short-term child care which allows parents of disabled children to go out for an evening of relaxation. The program is limited to 20 hours a month per family.

The ARC-Dallas respite care program also provides longer periods of care for severely disabled persons. Under one option a care provider comes into the client's home for up to two weeks at a time and cares for the disabled child and his brothers and sisters. In another option a disabled child is placed in a foster home licensed by the Texas Department of Human Resources. The maximum amount of long term care available to a family is 21 days per year.

In addition ARC-Dallas offers a Saturday drop in service twice a month at a local church. The Saturday drop in program provides recreational activities for developmentally disabled children and their siblings.

All care providers who participate in the ARC-Dallas respite care program are trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, along with how to care for a handicapped child.

The program, which currently employs about 25 day providers and five foster families, served about 165 families last year for a total of 17,000 hours.

The demand for respite care has increased over the past several years. As a result, ARC-Dallas is searching for more people who can serve as care providers.

Besides receiving a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Program, the respite care program is funded by Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation and United Way.

Grants for epilepsy research

The Epilepsy Foundation of America has announced the availability of grants and fellowships for epilepsy research.

Among grants being offered are:

- One year research grants to support basic and clinical research in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences which will advance the understanding, treatment, and prevention of epilepsy. Applications for 1985 funding are due August 31.
- Merritt-Putnam, John Hughlings Jackson and Wilder Penfield Fellowships to develop expertise in clinical epilepsy research through a one year-training experience and involvement in a clinical epilepsy research project. Applications are due by August 31.

More information about these grants can be obtained by writing Epilepsy Foundation of America, 4351 Garden City Drive, Suite 406, Landover, Maryland 20785 or calling (301) 459-3700.



FUN RUN

Barbara Alvarez and Mike Sledge, both former staff members of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, participate in a fund raising run for the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities held last November in Austin. Sledge ran a total of 28 quarter-mile laps and Alvarez ran 16 laps.

Brandon appoints 18 people to Autism Task Force

Eighteen people from throughout Texas were appointed recently to the Autism Task Force, a group which serves as a forum for improving the coordination of services and policies for autistic citizens.

The appointments were made by Becky Brandon, chairman of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, the agency named as task force coordinator by the state Legislature.

Emily Untermeyer, a research specialist for the Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources, was named task force chairman. Selected as vice-chairman was Mary Brock.

Professional members of the task force include Dr. Charles Cleland of the Texas Psychological Association; Patrick Cox, Avondale House; Dr. Roger Cox, U.T. Health Science Center in Dallas; Dr. Bonnie Fairall,

El Paso Independent School District; Paige Fuller, Austin-Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center; and Peter Graves, Lynne Development Center.

Parent and consumer members are Brock of Dallas; Dr. Charles Chiu of Austin; and Dr. Ben Moore of San Antonio.

Representing state agencies are Michael Carter, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Bobby McQuiston, Governor's office; Rep. Ashley Smith, Texas House of Representatives; Dr. Joan Shirley, Texas Education Agency; Loretta Smith, Texas Department of Health; Charlyne Tucker, Texas Planning Council; Mary Helen Valadez, Department of Human Resources; and Doyle Wheeler, Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Calendar

April 6, the Center for the Retarded, Inc., second annual symposium, 3550 West Dallas St., Houston.

April 23-27, Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, D. C.

April 27 (Room 202-203) and May 18 (Room 206-207), Autism Task Force meeting, 9:00 a.m., Texas Law Center, 1414 Colorado, Austin.

June 1-5, NADDC quarterly meeting, Washington, D. C., to be attended by Texas Planning Council members and program staff.

June 8, Texas Planning Council for DD full Council meeting, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Texas Law Center (Room 101-102), 1414 Colorado, Austin.

Reagan signs delayed Rehabilitation Act into law

The Rehabilitation Act Amendment of 1984 was signed into law by President Reagan last February. The legislation was stalled for five months because of differences between H.R. 3520, the House of Representatives' measure to extend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1978, and S. 1340, a similar measure approved by the Senate. The Rehabilitation Act expired last September.

Because the Rehabilitation Act makes funds available for state vocational rehabilitation programs, Congress passed an interim funding measure so that state programs could continue to operate. In November Congress extended for three years the authorization of the Basic State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, providing \$1,037.8 million in authorizations for fiscal year 1984 with increases based on cost of living plus "such sums" as necessary for 1985 and 1986. Authorizations for the various discretionary programs provided under the Rehabilitation Act were also extended in 1984.

With the new legislation, the state grant program will continue with an authorization of \$1,117.5 million in fiscal year 1985, and \$1,203.2 million in fiscal year 1986. This eliminates the "cost of living" and "such sums" language of the present law and represents increases in authorizations of about 7.4 percent per year over the current fiscal year 1984 authorization of \$1,037.8 million.

In addition, the Rehabilitation Act states that if fiscal year 1987 authorizations are not enacted into law by the end of fiscal year 1986, these authorizations will be automatically set at the fiscal year 1986 level.

Texas will be eligible to receive a maximum authorization of \$63,837,000 in fiscal year 1984 for the operation of its vocational rehabilitation programs (blind and general).

The legislation also guarantees funding to independent living centers, establishes the National Coun-

cil on the Handicapped as an independent federal agency and makes the Helen Keller National Center in New York a separate institution with its own funding.

Orientation show ready for audiences

A slide/tape show designed to orient new Council and staff members as well as the public about the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities is now available for viewing.

The 20-minute show was developed for the Council by Mike Lacey Productions of Austin and gives the history, purpose and goals of the Developmental Disabilities Program.

Video-tape cassettes of the slide show can be borrowed by contacting the Council office at (512) 445-8867 or writing 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704.

Gains 4.3 percent increase -**Texas receives funding increase in '84**

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities received a 4.3 percent increase in its annual allocation from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, making it one of 20 programs in the country to gain funds in 1984.

The Council was allocated \$2,360,755 for the 1984 fiscal year compared to \$2,253,738 in 1983. The allocations are the primary source of funding for the Texas Developmental Disabilities Program.

The appropriations became official on October 31 when President Ronald Reagan signed into law P.L. 98-139, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 1984. This is the first time in several years that programs within

these departments will be funded through a regular appropriations bill rather than a continuing resolution.

State developmental disabilities programs around the country were awarded a total of \$43.75 million, up from \$43.18 million in 1983. It is from this budget that Texas and other developmental disabilities councils draw their annual allocations.

While the Texas Developmental Disabilities Program, along with 19 other states, received an increase in allocations, 20 states received reductions. Most of the states receiving fewer funds were in the eastern part of the country where populations are declining. Most of the states with funding increases were

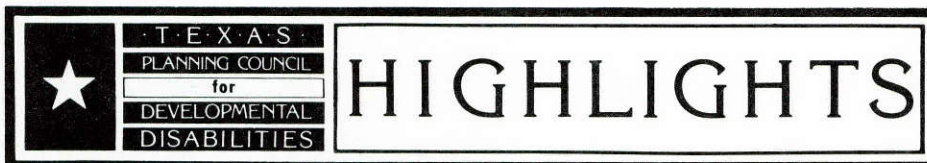
in the Sunbelt where populations are increasing. Minimum allotment states saw no changes.

Allocations were based on population, the extent of need for services and facilities for persons with developmental disabilities and the financial need of the respective states.

Protection and Advocacy Systems, which are also funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, received a 14.8 percent increase in allocations. Funding for these programs nationwide went from \$7.32 million in 1983 to \$8.4 million in 1984. Advocacy, Inc., the protection and advocacy program in Texas, was among the programs to receive an increase in funding. The Texas program will receive \$450,558 in 1984, compared to \$373,072 in 1983.

Also to receive an increase in allocations were Special Projects funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Allocations for Special Projects increased from \$2.35 million in 1983 to \$2.447 million in 1984.

The only program falling under the Developmental Disabilities Administration jurisdiction receiving reduced funds was University Affiliated Facilities which decreased from \$7.5 million in 1983 to \$7.413 million in 1984.

1983 — Decade of the Disabled — 1992

Highlights is printed by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for distribution to Council members, grantees and other interested persons throughout the state. Organizations that serve persons who have developmental disabilities are encouraged to submit news items for publication. Inquiries may be addressed to Judy DeDonato, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8867.

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