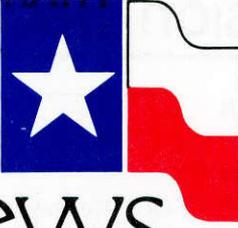


News & Views



★ Texas Rehabilitation Commission ★ A Human Energy Agency ★

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Reauthorization Process Continues House Committee Passes Reauthorization Bill

On Wednesday, April 19, members of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee passed H.R. 2461, the bill to extend authorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The committee's action brings reauthorization of the Act one step closer to reality; however, the process is far from over.

The bill is quite similar to that recommended by the House Subcommittee on Select Education. If enacted into law, the bill would, among other things, extend authorization of the Rehabilitation Act for five years (until 1988). In addition, the bill authorizes a funding level (for 1984, \$1,037.8 million nationwide) that would restore vocational rehabilitation purchasing power to the 1979 level.

The bill must go through the House Rules Committee before it can be taken up by the full House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, at this writing, the Senate had not taken formal action on the reauthorization. Although the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped has completed public hearings on reauthori-

zation of the Act, subcommittee members have not as yet conducted a mark-up on the reauthorization bill. The subcommittee's mark-up will eventually be forwarded to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources for action and then to the full Senate for consideration.

Up the Ladder

The last time we reported the names of people promoted to Supervising Counselor was July, 1982. Since then, 14 more counselors have been promoted to that higher rank. Congratulations to them all!

REGION I: Dorothy Cooke.

REGION II: Sterling Ellison, Walter Chamberlain, Ben King, Verlon Strickland, Tommy Brock, Billie McKinnon.

REGION III: Don C. Buck, Neal Roe, Melvin Haisler.

REGION V: Javier Leal.

REGION VI: Darwyn Rogers, William Forrester, Glen Starnes.

Conference Committee to Determine State Funding Level

A legislative conference committee comprised of members of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate is sitting down to the complicated task of developing a state spending bill for fiscal years 1984-85. To do so, committee members must resolve the differences between appropriation bills passed by the House and Senate. As part of this activity, committee members will consider the state funding level for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Specifically, the conference committee will iron out differences in recommended funding levels for the Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living and Extended Rehabilitation Services pro-

grams. For the most part, there are no major differences between House and Senate recommendations for these programs. The differences that do occur relate primarily to (1) across the board cuts in line items for all state agencies passed by the House and (2) the elimination of requested increases and related cuts in authorized positions passed by the Senate.

Once a compromise has been reached, the conference committee's version of the spending bill will be returned to the House and Senate for a vote. Legislators have until May 31, the end of the session, to pass spending legislation.

Commission Security Plan Underway

A five-pronged safety plan that will provide better security to employees is now being implemented by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

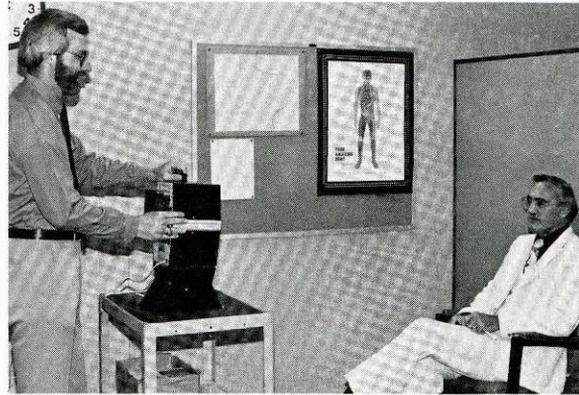
The plan involves the issuance of picture identification cards to all Central Office employees and the installation of television cameras at the entrances of the 158 and 118 East Riverside Drive buildings in Austin.

As the first part of the plan, about 1,000 TRC employees in the two East Riverside Drive offices had picture badges made in April. Employees are required to wear the badges at all times while inside the two buildings, according to James L. Jackson, deputy commissioner for administrative and support services.

The badges will help security guards determine who should be in the buildings.

"There has been an increase in thefts throughout the state. Since the Commission is getting more involved in automation, we are

TRC Commissioner Vernon M. Arrell (right) poses as Bruce Rollman, training officer for DDD staff development, takes his picture for a photo identification card. All Central Office and DDD employees have been issued the cards as part of an increased security effort.



planning more computer equipment in our field and central offices which could tempt thieves," Jackson said.

By increasing security measures, the Commission hopes to prevent thefts and, at the same time, provide better protection to TRC employees, Jackson added.

The Commission invested about \$1,200 in a camera and lamination equipment needed to make the identification cards. Each badge is estimated to cost about 60 cents.

As another part of the safety plan, television cameras will be placed at the

entrances of the 118 and 158 East Riverside Drive buildings.

The cameras will allow guards to monitor activities at all entrances on closed circuit television.

During the day guards will be stationed in the central foyers of the 158 and 118 East Riverside Drive buildings. During the weekends and at night, one guard will monitor activities at entrances of the two buildings on closed circuit television.

Additional guards will be hired in order to provide the 118 East Riverside Drive building with 24-hour coverage.

Jackson said that security will also be upgraded in the TRC field offices. Dead bolt locks are being installed on doors that lead to rooms housing expensive computer equipment. Also, typewriters and computer terminals are being bolted down.

Future plans call for a central computer security system to link all field offices to one central guard station in Austin. Through special sensory devices, security guards will know immediately if there is a fire, burglary, or other type of emergency in the field offices.

Arrell Elected to CSAVR Post

TRC Commissioner Max Arrell is the new president-elect of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. He was elected to the post "by acclamation" at the council's spring meeting in Washington, D.C., in mid-April. He will officially assume the office in the summer.

As president-elect, Arrell will work closely with the CSAVR president and staff to coordinate council activities. It is traditional that the president-elect become president of the council the

following year.

CSAVR is comprised of directors of state vocational rehabilitation agencies from throughout the nation. Through the coordinated efforts of its membership and talented staff, the organization has emerged as a powerful advocate for the vocational rehabilitation program and the disabled persons it serves.

"I have always been proud of my association with CSAVR, and I am especially proud to serve as an officer of this organization," Arrell said of his election.

The Human Side of DDD

. . .by Chris Burroughs

Even though Disability Determination Division examiner Debra A. Jenkinson and medical consultant Dr. Leonard McLin never met Anthony (Tony) Mahan, they became an important part of his life.

It was through their efforts that Mahan, a 20-year-old college student dying of leukemia, obtained Social Security benefits.

Their help was rewarded recently by Mahan's cousin, Kathy Mahan of Huntington, W.V., who wrote Dale Place, deputy commissioner for DDD, expressing her appreciation.

"Social Security proved not nearly enough in his battle, but it was a beginning of great compassion from so many others. When you are so ill, financial security means quality of life or even sometimes whether or not life will continue. Social Security gave Tony a little less to worry about," Kathy Mahan wrote.

She also sent Place a booklet of poems written by Mahan in his final days because it "reminds us that behind cold, hard evidence is a human being asking for help and to remind us why we work." She said the book was a way of thanking the examiner and medical consultant for a "compassionate and expedient decision."

Mahan was born Sept. 3, 1962, in Wichita Falls. He was an athlete who played football every year from second grade through high school. He attended grade school and high school in Oklahoma and Texas. Upon

graduation from high school, he enrolled at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., for his first semester.

During his second semester he transferred to Midwestern University in January, 1982. Not long after, he started feeling tired, and his weight dropped from his normal 180 pounds. About a month later he learned he had acute lymphocytic leukemia. After much pain and months of treatment in a Houston hospital, he died Dec. 20, 1982.

During the last few months of his life, Mahan



Archie Malcom, director of Disability Determination Division staff development, presents Virginia Atkinson a certificate of appreciation for instructing a business English class earlier this year for DDD and Central Office employees. A total of 73 people participated in the class. Atkinson serves as a secretary for Carlos Valdez, director of the Initial Recon Directorate.

started writing poems which were later published in a booklet by Western Christian Foundation in Wichita Falls.

The following is one of Mahan's poems reproduced with permission:

Still a Child at 20

They told me how to be
a man

They were wrong

You don't teach a kid to
be a man

It's a privilege you earn

I thought I was a man
I was wrong

There's no shame in that
Sometimes it's honorable
to be a child

Because a child is still
willing to learn
A man often is set in
his ways

A child can show emotions
A man tries not to

A child needs his family
A man tries to be
self-sufficient

Boys can cry
Men are too proud

Children dream
A man is realistic

Children go to heaven
A man must be child-like
to enter

Tony Mahan
December, 1982

Calendar of Events

May 1983

16 - 20	New Personnel/Specialized Orientation	Austin
17 - 22	Management Training for Supervisors (Regions III & IV)	Lago Vista
17 & 19	Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Training (DDD and Central Office only)	Austin
26 & 27	Phone User Training	Austin

Retirements

John Paine, Program Officer, Disability Determination Division, employed May 7, 1973, retirement effective May 31, 1983.

Hattie Parish, Clerk II, Central Office, employed October 15, 1973, retirement effective May 31, 1983.

Rosalie Ziller, Administrative Secretary, Central Office, employed May 4, 1970, retirement effective May 31, 1983.

Letters

It is great to see that the time has come for an effective organized voice to represent the needs and concerns of state employees to the legislature, to the agency administrators and their boards, as well as to the general public. The Texas State Employee Union is such a voice and has become active at our agency.

Already, in less than a year at this agency, TSEU has made several concerns known to our top agency management, and management has acted favorably. No other organization currently operating here at TRC has represented effectively all personnel of both divisions of the agency. While other organizations have contributed to the well being of the TRC family, and therefore, should not be discouraged, they have shied away from the unpleasant recommendations to top management for fear of offending upper management.

The Texas State Employee Union has taken its place and certainly will complement these other organizations in making the quality of life and work atmosphere here one of which we can all be proud.

I feel all personnel should

get behind and support the Texas State Employees Union. For additional information contact: Roger White, Organizer, TSEU, 454-3771. The six dollars a month dues will be well worth it. We need your support.

Mark Terranella
Disability Examiner



As I will retire from TRC employment effective May 31, 1983, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the many, many Commission employees who have for the past thirteen years been a continuing source of assistance and cooperation in the performance of my responsibilities. Naturally, I shall miss working toward the accomplishment of the wonderful goals of this Commission. However, I will leave with a strong feeling that I have been blessed to have been a part of this effort.

Sincerely,
Rosalie Ziller
Personnel Division

Backward Glance

(Editor's Note: The following story was included in a July 1946 newsletter published by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.)

"In the fiscal year that is just beginning, every care must be taken to see that money for Rehabilitation services is wisely spent and after due and proper consideration of all pertinent factors. We have thirty-three counselors and only \$360,000.00 for case services. In the July meeting at Longview, counselors are asked to consider methods of reducing expenditures for rehabilitation services from the following standpoints: (1) the physical restoration program, (2) the training program, (3) the payment of maintenance, and (4) the purchasing of tools and equipment."



TRC News & Views is published by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for distribution to its employees and retirees throughout the state. Inquiries may be addressed to Kaye Beneke, Public Information Office, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, TX. 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8745, (Tex-An - 887-8745).

Kaye Beneke Editor
Chris Burroughs Information Specialist
Becky Nieto Illustrator
Lindy Ward Illustrator