



# TRC news & views

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## LBB Makes Budget Recommendations

A \$233 million budget for the 1984-85 biennium that provides funding for all Texas Rehabilitation Commission programs and consists of federal and state funds was recommended last month by the Legislative Budget Board.

The recommendations will be the basis for developing a general appropriations bill for consideration by the 68th Texas Legislature.

Bob Young, TRC controller, said that in general TRC officials were "fairly pleased with the recommendations" of \$112,874,262 budget for fiscal year 1984 and \$120,212,692 for fiscal year 1985.

"Our pleasure was attributed primarily to the fact that the budget board recommended increases in state funds to compensate for the loss of federal funds," Young said.

He added that the board recognized that vocational rehabilitation is an outstanding program and deserves additional state funds to make up for recent federal cut-backs.

Work on the 1984 and 1985 budgets began in January when a commissioner-appointed TRC budget committee started outlining budget needs. The committee, which consisted of deputy

commissioners, the controller and others, developed a proposed budget based on recommendations from the commissioner. For the first time in the commission's history, advocacy groups were consulted in the budget process.

The commissioner considered committee recommendations and made final decisions on levels to be included in the request. Maximum funding levels and budget provisions were presented to the TRC board in May for approval followed by completion of the legislative appropriations request by TRC program managers and the TRC budget office.

The completed request was then submitted to both the legislative and executive

budget offices in July with an updated request presented Oct. 1. Final recommendations on the budget, based on the TRC request and recommendations by the Legislative Budget Office, were made in November by the Legislative Budget Board, a committee of legislators from both houses chaired by the lieutenant governor.

Included in the final recommendation was a sufficient amount of funds to maintain a counselor to population ratio of one vocational rehabilitation counselor for every 45,000 people, which was set as a priority by the TRC budget committee early in the process.

(cont. on p. 4)

## Caudell, Levy New Program Specialists

Two TRC employees have been selected to fill vacant positions in the Department of Program and Facility Services.

Roger Levy is the new program specialist for the Innovative Matching of Problems to Available Rehabilitation Technology (IMPART) Program. The new hearing impaired program specialist is Kelly Caudell. Both will assume their new

duties Jan. 1.

Levy, who has been employed by the TRC since June, 1977, currently works as a disability examiner with the Disability Determination Division in Austin. Before that he was a counselor in the Vocational Rehabilitation Division in Beaumont.

Caudell has spent the past eight years employed as a counselor for the hearing impaired in El Paso.

# DD Council Joins TRC

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission will take over administration of the state's Developmental Disabilities Program Jan. 1, ending the program's close association with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

The change in administering agencies was announced by Gov. William Clements Nov. 19.

The Texas Developmental Disabilities Program, which is coordinated by the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, was first funded by the federal government in 1971 as part of the Developmental Disabilities Facilities and Construction Act. Because the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was newly separated from the Texas Education Agency and going through organizational changes, administration of the Developmental Disabilities Program was given to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

The Developmental Disabilities Program serves people with severe, chronic disabilities which are attributable to mental or physical impairments and are manifested before the age of 22. The 22 member Governor's Planning Council and staff members work with a \$2.5 million annual budget which is used to fund demonstration programs.

TRC News & Views is printed 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 Drive, Austin, TX. 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8745, (Tex-An) 887-8745.



Region V Counselor Panel (left to right): Jim Tom Nichols, Beeville Field Office; Mario Flores, McAllen Field Office; Robert Garcia, San Antonio Field Office East; Susan Starnes, San Antonio Field Office North; Ramiro Ramirez, Laredo Field Office; Dan McDevitt, San Antonio Field Office Central and Gilbert Bermea, Uvalde Field Office.



Region V Clerical Panel (left to right): Rachel Pulido, Corpus Christi Field Office South, Billie Merzbacher, Corpus Christi Field Office West and Olaya Solis, Harlingen Field Office. Not pictured but participating on the panel were Josie Contreras, San Antonio Field Office Central; Rosa Soriano, San Antonio Field Office West; Pamela Vasquez, San Antonio Field Office East and Loretta Carpenter, San Antonio Field Office North.

The entire staff of Region V convened in San Antonio in late November for the first regional meeting held by any TRC region in several years. The conference was an opportunity for region administrators to talk with all region employees--from the clerical staff to supervisors--at once. At the same time, region staff had an opportunity to talk to the administrators through two panels--one representing the clerical staff and another representing the counseling staff. Panel members representing the various supervisory units within the region voiced concerns, problems and suggestions to Regional Director John Halloran, Program Officer Jerry Crain and TRC Commissioner Max Arrell. In addition, a panel of consumer advocates from the San Antonio area addressed the issues of concern and importance to various advocacy groups throughout the region.

A highlight of the two-day conference came after hours when several staff members provided entertainment following a buffet dinner. From banjo pickin' to dancing the charlston, the Region V staff proved they're as talented off-duty as they are behind their desks.

## Sci-Fi, Apples Keep Vicki Heydron Busy

By day Vicki Heydron, administrative technician in the office of deputy commissioner for administrative services, efficiently performs her secretarial duties and files information in her Apple computer.

By night she is an imaginative science fiction writer detailing the fantasy tales of an earth man locked in the body of a nonhuman.

"I've thought of going into something related to my writing talent as a full-time job, but I decided I liked the contrast better," said the Texas Rehabilitation Commission employee who works at the Austin headquarters.

Heydron began writing science fiction in 1979 with her husband Randall Garrett, a published author and winner of the prestigious Pat Terry award, after they signed a contract from Bantam Books to write a series of three novels.

The couple worked together as a team and discovered they each had strengths that complemented each other. He had the knowledge of science and the ability to keep the stories moving at a fast pace. She had a knack for character development.

But two-thirds through their first novel, "The Steel of Raithskar," tragedy struck. Heydron's husband contracted encephalitis and permanently lost his memory.

Thinking that her husband was going to get better, Heydron finished the first book and started the second. Eventually a realization that Garrett was never going to

improve set in, and she knew that if the books were going to get done, she was going to have to be the one to write them.



Vicki Heydron

"Self-confidence was forced on me. I never doubted I had writing skills, though I sometimes doubted I had marketable skills," she said.

She forced herself to continue writing and she carried on the theme that she and her husband started in the first novel. The series, which when completed will total nine books, depicts the tale of an earth man of the 1960's who learns he is going to die. He believes he is dying, and his consciousness awakes in the body of a young nonhuman. He doesn't know where he is, and he

walks into the middle of a mystery.

The whole series of books is called the Gandalara Cycle.

The second book, "The Glass of Dyskornis," became such a success that within the first month it climbed to second on the science fiction's best seller's list. The third book in the series is scheduled to come out in March, and she is currently working on her fourth.

Hard economic times caused by her husband's illness led Heydron to work at the TRC as a stenographer in the staff development office in August, 1981. That was two years after Garrett became ill and one month after she learned he was never going to be himself again.

About the time she started working on her third book, she bought a home Apple computer to ease her writing process. She became so familiar with the Apple that in November she was promoted at the TRC to the position of administrative technician in the office of the deputy commissioner for administrative services. She has recently been selected to assist in the Apple computer orientation in the field for TRC.

Heydron hopes to continue the writing tradition started in the books by her husband. Because her spouse formulated the idea for the book series, she plans to keep his name in the double byline for the novels.

"The world of Gandalara was created by Randall. He will always be part of it," she said.

# LBB Makes Budget Recommendations

Also part of the recommendation was an additional \$250,000 for each year of the biennium to fund a pilot project for closed head injuries.

Legislative Budget Board recommendations for the biennium are about \$52 million less than what TRC originally requested.

Young said that the \$52 million variance was due to substantial decreases in estimates of federal funds for the disability determination program and a smaller inflationary factor used by the Legislative Budget Office. The budget office also figured a smaller percentage for pay raise increases. TRC requested a 10.2 percent pay increase for each year of the

biennium which was reduced to six percent in the Legislative Budget Board's recommendation.

Some additional TRC requests for state funds were denied, including \$841,000 for fiscal year 1984 and \$831,000 for fiscal year 1985, to make up for some federal funds that may no longer be available to independent living centers in Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio and El Paso.

The Legislative Budget Board also did not recommend \$500,000 for each year of the biennium for medical services to severely disabled individuals which was requested by TRC.

Enough funds were allotted

in the Legislative Budget Board recommendations to add one project in the Extended Rehabilitation Program and to expand existing projects. TRC had originally requested that five additional projects be funded.

Funds cut from original TRC requests may be reinserted by Senate and House appropriation committees before the final budget is approved by the Legislature.

Young said that no TRC layoffs are anticipated in the next two years if funding goes as anticipated.

"If federal funding holds level and if the Legislative Budget Board recommendations pass (in the legislature), I cannot foresee any reduction in force," he said.

The following chart depicts funding levels for Texas Rehabilitation Commission programs that were requested by the TRC in comparison to amounts approved by the Legislative Budget Board. The final budget will be approved by the Senate and House of Representatives next year.

Program	Budgeted	TRC Request		LBB Recommended		LBB Recommended % increases	
		83	84	85	84	85	84 over 83
Administration	\$ 9,747,927	10,923,698	11,926,637	10,347,121	10,840,189	6.1 %	4.8 %
Disability Determination	39,757,352	52,201,008	57,234,307	42,022,408	43,253,521	5.7 %	3.0 %
Vocational Rehabilitation	51,783,584	66,395,724	76,578,276	58,066,737	63,559,833	12.1 %	9.5 %
Extended Rehabilitation	1,677,334	3,138,477	3,508,002	2,028,996	2,140,149	21.0 %	5.5 %
Independent Living	150,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	159,000	169,000	6.0 %	6.3 %
Pilot Program Case Services (Closed Head Injuries)	0			250,000	250,000	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>\$ 103,116,197</b>	<b>134,158,907</b>	<b>150,747,222</b>	<b>112,874,262</b>	<b>120,212,692</b>	<b>9.5 %</b>	<b>6.5 %</b>

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# From the Field

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## Job Hunt

A total of 226 people, all with some type of disability, tried their luck at hunting a job during a job fair in Beaumont in October.

Sponsored by the Golden Triangle Mayors' Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the event was designed to promote a better understanding on the part of employers on what disabled persons have to offer in the way of job performance.

It also gave disabled job seekers a chance to meet with businesses and corporations from Jefferson and Orange Counties.

Most of the jobs available were in the area of clerical, dispatching and maintenance. Two people attending the fair were hired on the spot.

Jerald Stewart, supervisor of the Beaumont Calder Field Office, said that all but 30 of the 226 participants in the job fair were clients of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Helping with the job fair were Carolyn Guillory, counselor from Port Arthur; Polly Walton, counselor from Beaumont; Dixie McLeod, counselor from Beaumont; Wynena Payne, teacher-evaluator from Beaumont; and Nathalie Hallmark, administrative technician from Beaumont. Manning a TRC booth were Alice Travis, Pat Lincecum and Diane Fuller.

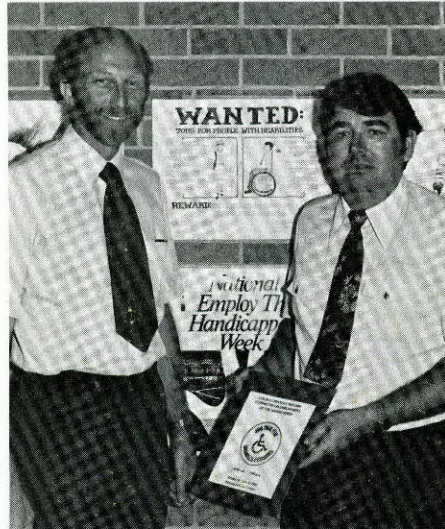
Following the fair, organizers decided to hold a second job fair next year. They proposed that the fair be conducted in a seminar-type manner.

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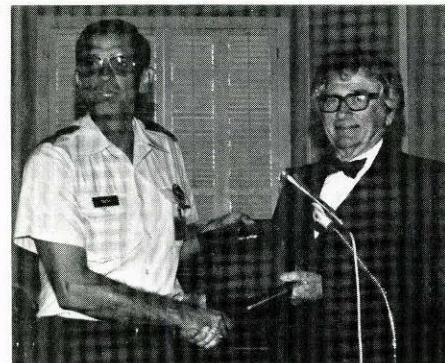
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TRC employees from the Golden Triangle area, from the left, Alice Travis, Pat Lincecum and Diane Fuller, man a booth at the October job fair held in Beaumont.



Jerald Stewart (right), supervisor of the Beaumont Calder Field Office, and Les Doleshal, program officer, display a plaque recognizing National Employ the Handicapped Week, Oct. 3-9. The week was officially proclaimed by the mayors of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.



John Halloran, Region V director, (right) presents a plaque honoring Corpus Christi Army Depot disabled employees, to Col. Duane N. Smith, acting depot commander, during an Oct. 7 luncheon held at the officers club at the Naval Air Station. The luncheon was part of National Employ the Handicapped Week celebrations. Special guests at the luncheon were TRC Commissioner Vernon M. Arrell and Corpus Christi Mayor Luther Jones.

## Rained Out

TRC employees at the Dallas East Field Office had a sudden change of headquarters Dec. 6 when heavy rains penetrated a leaky roof and saturated the office. The rains caught the building in the middle of a roof repair job.

The east field office was temporarily closed and the seven employees were relocated to the Dallas North Field Office. The furniture, which luckily was undamaged, was stored in a mini-warehouse. No word has been given when the east field office workers can move back to their old location.

## Training Takes Heart

Ten TRC employees at the Beaumont and Port Arthur Field Offices participated in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training sessions last week and learned how to aid a person experiencing cardiac arrest.

The sessions, held Nov. 17-18, were taught by Tammie Dvorman, clerical supervisor, and Nelda Smith, Region III personnel officer, at the Beaumont Calder Field Office. Participating the training on the first day were seven staff members. Three participated the second day.

All those who attended the sessions were certified.

## "Heck" of a Job

John Heck, supervisor of the Southeast Field Office in Fort Worth, was recently named to the board of directors of the National Rehabilitation Association. He was elected to the post by association members.

Heck has served as supervisor of the field office since 1972 and has been employed by TRC since September, 1966.

# Rally Day Slated for February

Disabled citizens and advocacy groups from across the state will gather in Austin Feb. 1-2 to show their unity and strength during Disability Rally Day.

Organized by a steering committee made up of representatives from 12 advocacy and consumer organizations, the event will include a rally at the state capitol and a reception for legislators.

All activities are designed to show Texas legislators and the general public that the community of people with disabilities is unified, strong and active in the legislative process.

"It's not a march or protest. It's an effort to show strength and unity on the part of the disabled," said Bobby Simpson, steering committee member.

Planned for Feb. 1 are a legislative briefing, in which an outline of bills to be introduced in the House and Senate will be distributed, and a reception for legislators and key state officials at the Hyatt Regency.

The rally will be held at noon on the capitol grounds Feb. 2 and will feature music

by the University of Texas Longhorn Band, a presentation of resolutions of support, a welcome by legislative leaders and remarks from the disabled community.

Organizations represented on the steering committee planning Disability Rally Day include Advocacy, Inc., Association for Retarded Citizens/Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities,

Coalition on Mental and Developmental Disabilities, Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health Association in Texas, Texas Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Texas Committee of Organizations for the Handicapped, Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers, Texas Society for Autistic Citizens and United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, Inc.



Mollie Williams (left) and Pat Schieffer generally get along with each other real well. The two employees of DDD's Consultative Examination Implementation and Control unit become real rivals, however, when the annual University of Texas vs. Arkansas football game rolls around. This year, each lady came to work attired in the appropriate school colors. Mollie's accessories included a Razorback headband complete with two bright red "hog" heads.

## Retirements

E.D. "Dick" Dickerson, Program Officer I, Disability Determination Division, employed December 1, 1965, retirement effective January 31, 1983.

James Pratt, Program Officer I, Disability Determination Division, employed September 6, 1966, retirement effective January 31, 1983.

Helen Porter, Clerical Supervisor II, Fort Worth Field Office North, employed August 1, 1971, retirement effective December 31, 1982.

## Calendar of Events

January 1983

4 - 3/10	Business English Course	Central Office
4 - 7	Microcomputer Orientation	Central Office
6 - 8	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Orientation	Austin
9 - 14	Management Training for Supervisors	Lakeway
9 - 14	Training for Managers of Managers	Lakeway
12 - 14	New Counselor Follow-On Training	Houston
18 - 21	Managing Rehabilitation Organizations	U. of Oklahoma
24 - 25	Training Officers Meeting	Central Office
30 - 2/4	Management Training for Supervisors	Lakeway