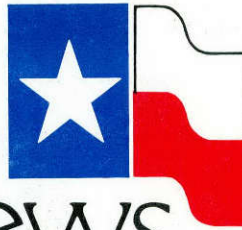


News & Views



★ Texas Rehabilitation Commission ★ A Human Energy Agency ★

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VR Funding Placed Under Continuing Resolution

by Kaye Beneke

During the final hours of FY 1983, a Joint House-Senate Conference Committee reached an agreement on a continuing appropriations resolution for vocational rehabilitation for FY 1984. The President was expected to sign the measure before midnight, Sept. 30.

Among other things, the continuing resolution provides funding for the nation's vocational rehabilitation program at \$943.9 million — the same level as FY 1983 — until Nov. 10 or a regular FY 1984 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education (which includes rehabilitation programs) is signed into law.

"While we were hoping for an increase in federal funds, TRC will not suffer undue hardship by continuing at the FY 1983 level," said Commissioner Max Arrell. "The increased funding from the state will keep us on an even keel for now. That's what we were counting on when we asked the Texas Legislature for more funds."

Specifically, Arrell pointed out counselors will still have more case service money to spend in FY 1984 than they did in FY 1983. In FY 1983, 345 counselors had an average of \$102,000 each to spend on client services. In FY 1984, 349 counselors will have an average of \$108,000 for each client services. The increase should help counselors keep up with rapidly rising medical costs and the increasing disabled population, according to Arrell.

The nation's vocational rehabilitation program will not have a regular appropriation until Congress authorizes extension of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the legislation that regulates the program. Federal authorization for the program expired Sept. 30.

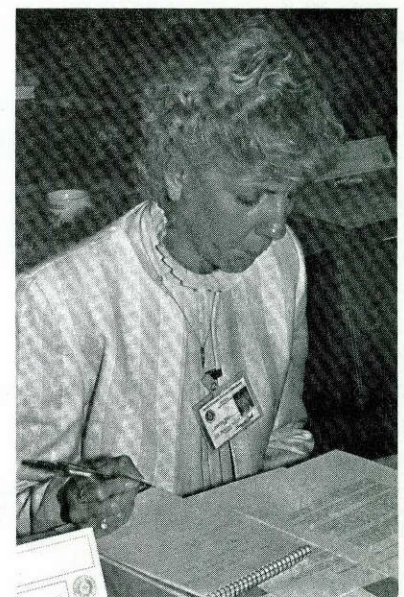
In late September, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3520 — a bill which would extend the Rehabilitation Act for five years. The bill includes a compromise to the controversial Jones Amendment, which would have restricted increases in federal funding for the vocational rehabilitation program to small cost-of-living increases for fiscal years 1985-87. (in the original bill, House members recommended a 9.95 percent increase for each year.)

The compromise, the Jones-Williams Amendment, passed by the House deletes the 9.95 percent increases and substitutes authorizations based on cost-of-living in urban areas and "such additional sums" as Congress might wish to appropriate. While disappointed about the restriction on funding increases in the bill, vocational rehabilitation advocates feel the compromise will at least give Congress room to appropriate more than just the cost-of-living increases as called for in the Jones Amendment.

Meanwhile, the Senate has also passed a measure to extend the Rehabilitation Act. The major differences between S. 1340 and the House bill are the Senate bill calls

for only a three year extension of the Rehabilitation Act and an approximate 5.2 percent increase in authorizations above the current level (\$943.9 million, nationwide, basic support funding).

A Joint House-Senate Conference Committee will meet in the near future to iron out differences between the House and Senate recommendations to extend the authorization. At this date, the Senate has yet to name members to the conference committee. Congressman Steve Bartlett of Texas is among the members appointed by the House.



Jennifer Mears, personnel officer, was one of nearly 30 Central Office supervisors who attended a daylong briefing on TRC's new performance appraisal system. The meeting was held Sept. 9 in Austin.

Bass Has Special Touch with TRC Clients

by Connie Villec-Nemmers

She counsels. She teases. She gives lavish praise when it's deserved yet isn't afraid to discipline when it's called for. She encourages.

All this adds up to Billie Bass having the ability to know what it might take to bring out the best in someone. And she's used that ability over and over again in her work with her students, many of whom have been TRC clients.

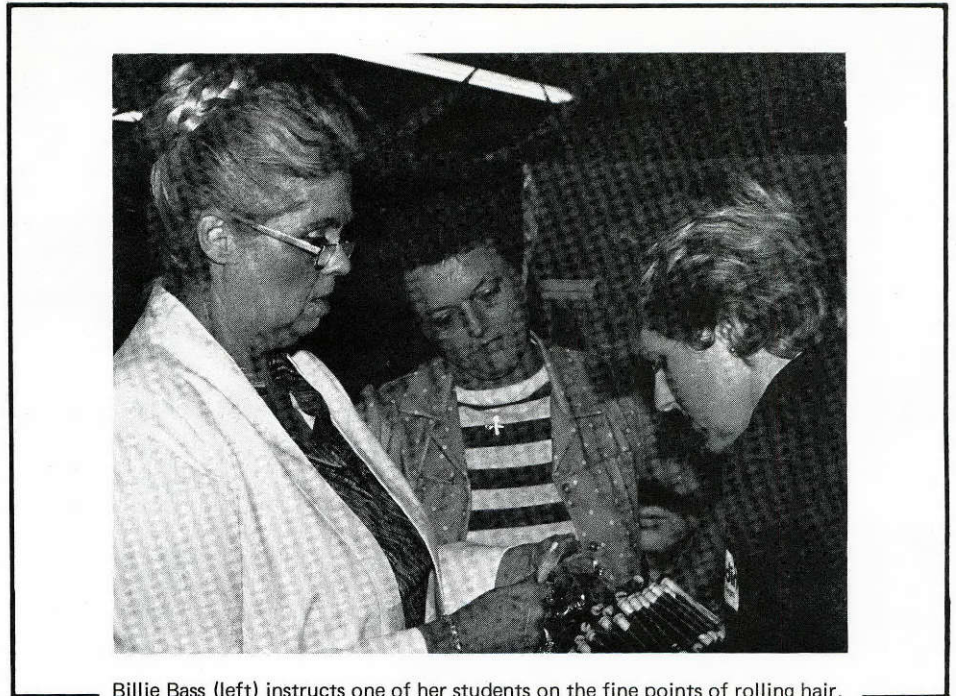
It isn't enough to say that Bass is the manager of Aladdin's Beauty College in Hurst, Texas, where she's enrolled TRC clients as students in the ten-month long beautician's program and given them the chance to start a career.

Her involvement with her students goes far beyond that of a manager's or instructor's. From time to time she has let students live with her until they can make it on their own. Clients who are not enrolled in her school and who are preparing for job interviews have been treated to complete makeovers at the college — a new hairstyle, facials, makeup and manicure — so they'll look their best. And she has referred people she's heard about or met to TRC.

For more than ten years she's worked with counselor John Cosgrove of the Fort Worth Field Office North in placing clients in jobs. Her outstanding work recently earned her a certificate of appreciation from the Commission.

"I treat my rehab students the same way I treat all the students," she said. "Because when they go to work, no one is going to favor them. They'll have to compete."

She professes to be tough on her students — absenteeism and tardiness can mean expulsion. "This is like boot camp," she said. But it is obvious as she walks around the school where students are styling hair that affection and friendship play as big a part in her success as the boot camp image does. Her students are quick to laugh with her



Billie Bass (left) instructs one of her students on the fine points of rolling hair.

and they tease her as much as she teases them.

Bass has enrolled TRC clients with disabilities such as epilepsy, drug or alcohol dependency and orthopedic impairments. They've been some of my best students," she said. "They're good workers."

She said part of her success rests with TRC. "TRC has lots of good counselors. I couldn't make it without them."

Much credit must go to her own counseling abilities and her way of seeing the good each person has to

offer. One of the results is that 98 percent of her students are placed in their field after they graduate. Of her last class of 32, all are working. She has had as many as six TRC clients enrolled in her program at one time.

"We've been really lucky with some," Bass said. "And some of them you lose."

All, however, get the same special treatment. "Everybody gets down," she said, "and everyone needs help somewhere down the line."

Appointments Made to Medical Consultation Committee

Two new appointments and three reappointments have been made to the Medical Consultation Committee.

New members are Dr. Edward Poole, a radiologist from Austin who is replacing Dr. Larry Hill and Dr. B. T. Johnson, a dentist from Victoria who replaces Dr. John Albert Johnson.

The reappointed members are Dr. Norma Shultz, general practitioner from Harlingen, Dr. Robert

Caraway, Jr., a Wharton surgeon and Dr. Richard Moiel, a neurosurgeon from Houston.

The appointments are for three-year terms which began Oct. 1.

The Medical Consultation Committee advises the Commissioner on medical matters and helps keep the Commission abreast of new medical procedures, equipment and economic situations that might affect TRC clients receiving medical treatment.

VC Forum Held in Austin

DDD's vocational consultant office hosted a two-day forum in Austin for vocational consultants from around the country.

According to DDD vocational consultant Ray Gonzales, the meeting was the first of its kind for Texas.

"Many states do not have a central vocational consultant office as DDD does," Gonzales said, and participants were eager to find out more about how the system works.

Vocational consultants process difficult DDD cases involving detailed vocational issues. The cases are referred to the vocational consultant office by DDD office examiners and supervisors.

"Even some participants who had vocational consultant offices said our system was more sophisticated," he said.

TRC vocational consultants John Walton and Martin Luker also participated in the forum, and the office's clerical staff, Phyllis McKee and Vickie Knoblauch, gave demonstrations of the memory typewriter and other equipment.

One of the resources shared with the participants was DDD's Vocational Reference Guide which was developed by the vocational consultant office.

Mallicote, Warren Promoted

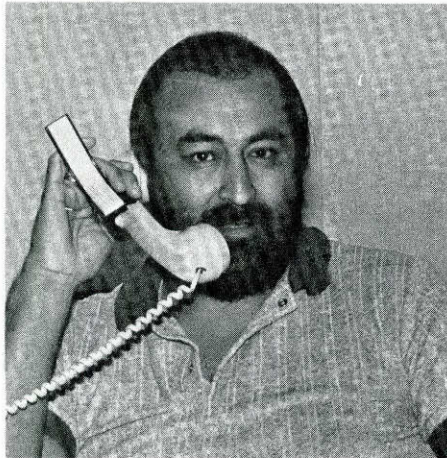
James Mallicote has been promoted to assistant deputy commissioner for DDD's administrative services and Floyd Warren has been promoted to assistant deputy commissioner for DDD's program operations services.

Thirteen years ago Mallicote started with the Commission as a disability examiner, and has worked since as a vocational consultant, program liaison officer and program manager.

Warren, who began working for TRC in 1967, has served as an ini-

tial examiner, a reconsideration examiner, a quality assurance specialist, a case consultant, a supervisor of operation unit, a program services director, program section director, and program manager.

Gonzales Chosen as NADE President



Ray Gonzales, DDD vocational consultant, took office this month as president of the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE). For the past year he has served as president-elect of the group.

Gonzales, who has worked for the Commission since 1975, has been a NADE member for seven years.

As president his duties will include supplying a major article for each issue of the NADE Advocate, a bimonthly newsletter of the organization sent to 2,000 members nationwide.

NADE is a professional association devoted to the advancement of the evaluation of physical and mental disabilities.

Its three primary aims are to develop the art and science of disability evaluation, create an awareness of disability evaluation among the public and gain professional recognition for the practitioners of disability evaluation.

The organization was begun in 1964 by former DDD administrator Charles O. Blalock. Gonzales is the third NADE president from Texas.

Up the Ladder

Three people recently have been promoted to senior counselor. Congratulations to-

REGION II: John Baker

REGION V: Cleto Villarreal

REGION VI: Lanny Rainey

Counts Wins Two Awards

Cindy Counts, administrative assistant for the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, claimed top honors in September at the 9th Annual Media Awards Competition sponsored by the National Association of Mental Health Information Officers (NAMHIO).

Counts tied for first place in the Annual Report category and placed second in Special Projects. Awards were announced at the NAMHIO 21st National Institute in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The award winning entries served as public information and education tools and were chosen on the basis of effectiveness, production, quality, economy and creativity.

Before starting with the Governor's Committee in July, 1981, Counts worked for TRC as personal secretary to Commissioner W. K. Harvey.

★ Stamps ★ by Mail

The U. S. Postal Service is now providing a service that counselors may want to tell their physically disabled clients about. Stamps can be ordered simply by leaving a note in your mailbox asking your carrier for a stamp-by-mail package. Most carriers will have the packages with them and if they don't, they'll deliver one to you.



Babies' Arrival Time Surprises Fathers

The same month, yes. But neither Curtis Behrends nor Jeff Davis, both TRC warehouse employees, expected that their sons would be born not only during the same month, but on the same day--almost within an hour of each other.

Orenthail Lorenzo Davis was born on September 6 at 5:22 a.m. to Jeff and Evelyn Davis and 68 minutes later, James Curtis Behrends was born. He is the son of Curtis and Sherri Behrends.

Both families are doing fine.



After 250 hours of training, nine people graduated this September from DDD's orientation program for disability examiners. Each was presented with a certificate of accomplishment and the new examiners were congratulated by Deputy Commissioner Dale Place. Pictured are (back row, from left) Mike Jones, Harlan Stewart and Gary Powers; (middle row, from left) Pat Farrow, Cathy McKnight and Buzz Brahany; and (seated, from left) Jean Meadows and Kathy Slesnick. Beth Coffey was not available for the picture.

Calendar of Events

Date	Activity	Location
Oct. 2 - 7	Managers of Managers Training.	Lago Vista
Oct. 4 - 6	Employee Performance Appraisal Training.	Houston
Oct. 5 - 7	On the Job Again II.Dallas
Oct. 5 - 7	New Counselor Follow-On Training	Houston
Oct. 9 - 14	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista
Oct. 11 - 13	Employee Performance Appraisal Training.	Austin C. O.
Oct. 25 - 27	Employee Performance Appraisal Training.	Lubbock
Oct. 30 - Nov. 4	Managers of Managers Training.	Lago Vista
Oct. 30 - Nov. 4	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista



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