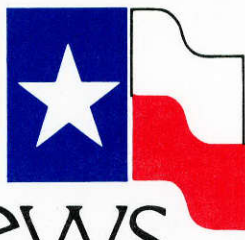


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# News & Views



★ Texas Rehabilitation Commission ★ A Human Energy Agency ★

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April, 1983

## Budget Committees Mark Up State Funding Request

...by Kaye Beneke

Members of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee completed their mark-ups of TRC's state budget request for the 1984-85 biennium on Tuesday, April 5, bringing another phase of the state budget process to an end. With the exception of two issues, the recommendations reported out by the committees were identical.

In both versions, committee members recommended funding for TRC's Independent Living and Extended Rehabilitation Services programs at a considerably higher level than the Legislative Budget Board had recommended. The money needed to accomplish these increases was shifted from funds the LBB had recommended for case services in the regular vocational rehabilitation program. The original recommendation for this shifting of funds came from the Budget and Oversight Committee of the House Human Services Committee several weeks ago. The recommendation received strong support from Commission administrators and disability consumer advocates.

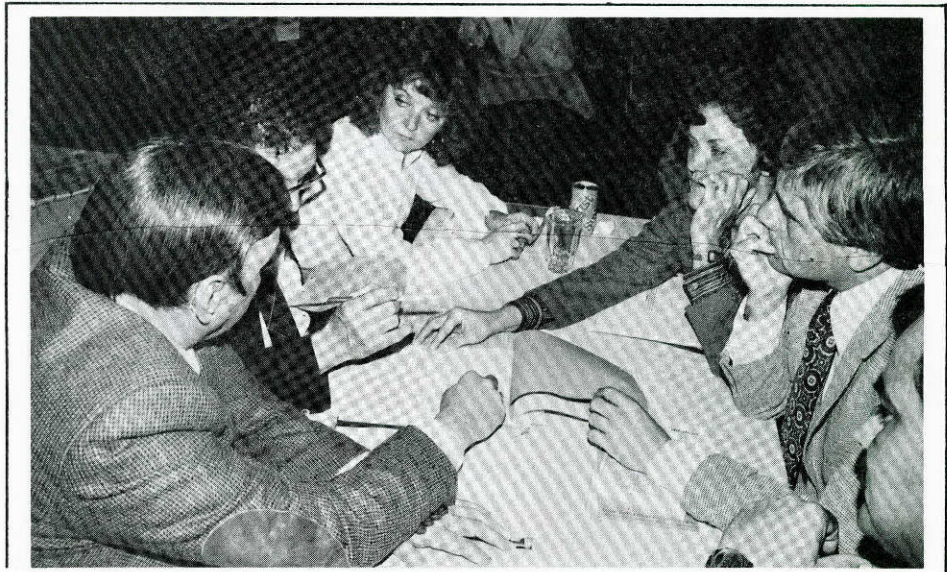
Specifically, the budget committees' recommendations

call for \$809,000 in Independent Living funds for FY 1984 and \$1,169,000 in FY 1985. The Legislative Budget Board had recommended \$159,000 and \$169,000 in FY 1984-85 respectively. TRC's original request for independent living funds was \$1.5 million for each year of the biennium--\$1 million to fund the five existing independent living centers in the state and \$500,000 for medical rehabilitative services to severely disabled clients

participating in independent living programs. The funding recommended by the budget committees would allow TRC to continue to support the five independent living centers.

Regarding Extended Rehabilitation Services, the committees recommended additional increases. For FY 1984-85 respectively, the subcommittee recommended

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Participants in a February cardiac rehabilitation workshop in San Antonio (from the left) Ralph Galvan, supervisor of the South Corpus Christi Field Office; Lucian Oden, senior counselor in San Antonio; Linda Loucks, medical services coordinator in Austin; Carolyn Hooper, medical services coordinator in San Antonio; Armando Garcia, senior counselor in Laredo; and Gilbert Bermea, counselor in Uvalde, review a cardiac case. They were among the 55 people attending the workshop held to outline new developments in the rehabilitation of cardiac cases. The workshop was conducted by the Staff Development and Program Services sections of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

# Congress Begins Reauthorization Process

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the federal legislation under which the nation's vocational rehabilitation programs operate, is undergoing the scrutiny of members of Congress as they decide whether to reauthorize the act. The current authorization period expires Sept. 30, 1983.

While there is little doubt that the act will be reauthorized, there is some concern among the nation's vocational rehabilitation and disability advocate communities over proposed amendments which could drastically alter the way in which the program is carried out. The proposed amendments have been introduced by the Reagan Administration through the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Among the Administration's proposals is a recommendation to amend Title I of the Act to reward state performance in rehabilitating the severely disabled by distributing one-third of the funds appropriated for state grants on the basis of a weighted case closure system. This system would give more weight to closures resulting in employment at or above the federal minimum wage than to rehabilitations resulting in employment below the minimum wage or those which result in unpaid employment.

Other Administration proposals, if passed by Congress, would change the formula under which funds are appropriated to the states, eliminate provisions which prescribe how the sole state rehabilitation agency is to be organized and administered, lengthen the period required for a successful closure from 60 days to 120 days, revise

appeal procedures concerning review of agency determinations to include both determinations concerning eligibility of an individual as well as appropriateness of rehabilitation services provided and open eligibility to a variety of state, public, and private organizations to allow them to operate independent living centers.

In regard to funding, the Reagan Administration has recommended that appropriations for FY 1984 be "frozen" at the 1983 level of \$943.9 million (nationwide).

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Select Education finalized its recommendation for reauthorization of the Act in late March. The subcommittee's proposal calls for a five year extension of the Act and a funding level (\$1,037.8 million for FY 1984) that would restore vocational rehabilitation buying power to

the 1979 level. Otherwise, the subcommittee's recommendations did not call for major changes in the law.

The subcommittee's action followed two days of testimony from vocational rehabilitation and disability advocates who urged no major changes in the Act. Among those who testified were a panel of state vocational rehabilitation directors, including TRC Commissioner Max Arrell.

The House Education and Labor Committee is expected to consider the subcommittee's recommendation April 19.

In the Senate, meanwhile, the Subcommittee on the Handicapped has completed its public hearings on reauthorization of the Act and is expected to mark-up an original bill by the end of April.

## From the Field

### NEW SUPERVISOR

Ione Priest, former counselor in Midland, became the new supervisor in the El Paso Field Office Central April 6.

Priest joined TRC as an intern at Lee College in Baytown where she worked with a special project for hearing impaired persons. She later was a staff psychologist in Odessa, counselor in Lubbock and counselor in Midland.

Between serving as counselor in Lubbock and Midland, Priest worked as rehabilitation director for Goodwill Industries in Lubbock, and director of SER-Jobs for Progress in Lubbock.

### HIGHWAY HERO

Tom G. Hudgens, counselor in Denton, recently showed the good Samaritan spirit when he came to the aid of a victim of an automobile collision.

Hudgens was the only witness who waited for police to arrive to speak on behalf of the victim, Linda Kobler.

Kobler wrote a letter to the editor of the local Denton paper publicly thanking Hudgens for his service.

"Mr. Hudgens...was also a great help with calming my nerves after a very unsettling experience," Kobler said.

Congratulations to Hudgens for caring enough to help.

# Rehabilitation Technology Program Keeps Up with New Equipment

...by Chris Petrison

In this era of rapidly changing technology, one Texas Rehabilitation Commission program is responsible for keeping up with innovative equipment that can help make a disabled person's life easier.

The Rehabilitation Technology Program, which recently became part of Program and Facility Services, stays current with all technical changes that can benefit people who have disabilities.

"We want to stay up-to-date with equipment. Otherwise, as fast as things are changing, we would be dinosaurs," said John Wylie, director of Program and Facility Services.

On display in the Rehabilitation Technology Program's headquarters in the TRC Central Office are a variety of new gadgets and equipment that range from inexpensive reaching and writing aids to \$4,000 wheelchairs.

The equipment includes communication devices that look like small calculators and sip and puff environment control devices which allow disabled people to turn on fans, televisions, and other electrical items. There are also breath operated wheelchairs designed to aid high-level quadriplegic persons, typewriters for persons with one hand, and bite switches which enable cerebral palsied persons to operate communication aids.

The Rehabilitation Technology Program started in 1978 as IMPART (Innovative Matching of Problems to Available Rehabilitation Technology) with a five year grant from the National Institute of Handicapped Research. Ad-

ministered by Carol Whitcraft, Ph.D., assistant deputy commissioner for Research and Development, the program provided up-to-date information on changing technology for disabled persons in a six-state area. By the end of the five years, the program was being used by people from around the world.

According to Roger Levy, rehabilitation technology program specialist, the program has two functions. It is an information and referral service to the public, providing information on new products that benefit the disabled. Also, the program is used to demonstrate and loan new equipment to TRC clients and others.

In their information and referral capacity, Levy and Lydia Arguello answer phone calls and letters from people seeking advice on how to overcome physical problems.



Roger Levy and Lydia Arguello examine a breath operated wheelchair designed to aid high-level quadriplegic persons. The wheelchair is among the many pieces of equipment available as part of the Rehabilitation Technology Program.

Since the program moved to the TRC Central Office in October, it has received about five inquiry calls a day.

"We get many calls from people telling us their problems and wanting to know if there are any solutions," Levy said.

In order to be aware of the new devices on the market, Levy and Arguello pour through hundreds of journals and publications monthly. The office is linked by computer to ABLEDATA, a data bank which contains 8,000 different products on the market for disabled persons.

In its demonstration and loan role, the program allows equipment to be loaned to TRC clients. Often, if the equipment will help clients get a job, TRC will purchase it for them. Other disabled people can also buy the equipment using their own resources.

Levy is frequently on the road visiting disabled people in their work places or at home, helping them determine what kinds of devices can be used to make their lives easier. When Levy is gone, Arguello is available in the office to answer questions and share information on equipment.

Levy said that TRC counselors are encouraged to call the Rehabilitation Technology Program to find out about devices that might help their clients.

The Rehabilitation Technology Program, located on the second floor of the TRC Central Office, is scheduled to move to more spacious quarters on the first floor in April.

# Spring Break '83 Set for May 26-30

Texas Rehabilitation Counseling Association members will have a chance to combine fun in the sun with workshops during the annual Spring Break '83 at South Padre Island.

The four-day event will be held May 26-30 at the Bahia Mar Resort Condominiums and is sponsored by the TRCA.

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\$315,000 and \$326,000 increases above the LBB's recommendation. This would bring the level of funding for ERS to \$2,343,996 in FY 1984 and \$2,466,149 in FY 1985.

The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee recommendations differed in only two areas.

The House Appropriations Committee voted to remove funding recommended by the LBB that would have allowed TRC to participate in a pilot project on closed head injuries. The recommendation provided \$250,000 for each year of the biennium to participate in the project.

The Senate Finance Committee, which vowed earlier in the month it would not approve additional personnel positions for any state agency, did not approve the Commission's request for 13 additional counselor positions during the two year budget period. Under the Senate committee's version, the positions and corresponding costs would be deleted from the Commission's budget request.

Because there are differences in the two committees' recommendations, the budget request will be taken up in conference committee. Committee members, from both the House and Senate, must iron out any differences before the budget recommendations can be passed on to the full House and Senate for a vote.

Activities will include two workshops on May 27. One workshop, "Independent Living Trends and Consumerism," will allow participants to discuss the trend toward independent living alternatives in Texas and consumerism for the disabled.

The second workshop, "Using Vocational Assessment to Motivate Clients in Self-Directed Placement," will be presented by Randy Jennings, training coordinator. It will concentrate on finding innovative ways to assist clients to find employment and to motivate them toward self-directed action.

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor credit will be given for the workshops.

Also planned during Spring

## Texas ARC Hosts Conference

The Association for Retarded Citizens/Texas 33rd Annual Convention, "The Seeds of Change," will be held in Lufkin, Texas, June 3-4, 1983. Workshops will focus on 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.

Break '83 are a welcome party with complimentary cocktails and buffet; round trip bus transportation to Matamoros for a seven-hour shopping spree, dinner, dancing, and sightseeing; and free time on the beach.

Cost for the workshop and four nights in a two or three bedroom condo is \$150.

More information can be obtained by calling Donna Johnson at (512) 883-3525 (work) or (512) 991-8033 (home) or writing her at 5021 Crestwick, Corpus Christi, TX 78413.

The deadline for registration is April 25.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for the many complimentary comments concerning the "TRC News & Views" new look. We are proud of the new masthead which was designed by Lindy Ward of the Instructional Media department.

We are hoping to make additional improvements to the newsletter in the months to come. Your ideas, suggestions and comments are always welcome.

**Kaye Beneke**  
Information Specialist

## U.N. Declares Decade of Disabled

The years 1983-92 have been declared the Decade of Disabled Persons by the United Nations General Assembly.

The resolution, approved Dec. 3 by the assembly, adopted a "world program of action for disabled persons" that calls on governments, national and international organizations, and people all over the world to increase participation of disabled persons in their nations and communities.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE . . .

The folks in the Disability Determination Division's Unit 11 have more working space these days--76 pounds more space to be exact. That's the collective amount of weight lost by 10 employees in that unit in what was perhaps DDD's first "diet-off."

At the first of February, the dieters paired off into five teams. It was agreed whichever team had lost the most weight on March 1 would win the contest. One month and two dozen pounds later, Linda Boone and Shirley LaFleur were declared the winners. Each lost 12 pounds.

If you've ever found yourself wondering just what a DDD unit weighs, this information might be of assistance. At the beginning of the diet contest, the 10 entrants weighed a total of 1,511 pounds. According to Patty Newman, the official recorder for the event, at contest's end, the dieters' collective weight dropped to 1,435 pounds for a total loss of 76 pounds.



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 Petrisson Information Specialist  
Becky Nieto Illustrator  
Lindy Ward Illustrator



Fred Olson, unit supervisor, said the contest also had an effect on employees who did not officially enter. Because no one brought food

and snacks to the office for the entire month, even those who did not participate in the "diet-off" lost weight.



Weighing in at a slim, collective 1,435 pounds, employees of DDD's Unit 11 can't throw their weight around like they used to. Pictured here, some 76 pounds lighter, are: (left to right) Patty Newman (official weight recorder), Linda Boone, Marla Gard, Janet Mack, Joan Roberts, Art Lara, Karen Kimbriel, Shirley LaFleur, Fred Olson (unit supervisor), Mary Martinez and Charlotte Sievers. Boone and LaFleur shed a total of 24 pounds to become the unit's "lightweight" champions.



Six new disability examiners joined the Disability Determination Division recently, bringing the total number of examiners to 200. The new examiners are (from left) Joe Fagan, Mike Finan, Jessie de la Fuente, Mary Westerfield, Dorothy Abeyta and Earlene McDonald. Each of the new examiners served as a disability examiner in at least one other state before coming to Texas. Fagan worked in Colorado and Arkansas, Finan in Florida and de la Fuente in Colorado. Westerfield worked for disability determination divisions in Colorado and Arkansas, Abeyta in Oklahoma and McDonald in Wisconsin and Arkansas.

## Calendar of Events

April 1983

17 - 22	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista
18 - 19	Training Officer Meeting and Safety Training (Spine Education)	Austin
26 - 27	Training in the Planning Process (Regions III & IV)	Austin
26 - 28	Medical Training for VR Counselors Phase II	San Antonio
26 & 28	Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (DDD and Central Office only)	Austin

## Proposed Legislation to Help Deaf, Hearing, Speech Impaired

Legislation that would enable deaf, hearing, and speech impaired persons to communicate by telephone with the aid of a special device has been introduced into the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

The bills, S.B. 450 and H.B. 1002, would create a fund which could be used to purchase special telecommunication devices. The equipment would be provided to eligible deaf, hearing, and speech impaired Texans who cannot use regular telephones. The fund would collect money from a monthly surcharge, estimated at about 5 or 6

cents, added to individual and business phone bills.

The devices that would be provided to deaf, hearing, and speech impaired persons are modern small-scale teletypewriters similar to those used in telegraph offices several years ago. Electronic impulses transmit messages typed into the machine via a phone coupler.

## Retirements

Ellen Williams, Stenographer III, Houston Regional Office, employed March 1, 1973, retirement effective March 31, 1983.

## Dewey Dies at Age 63

Dr. Walter Dewey of Universal City died at the age of 63 on March 2. He served as a medical consultant for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission Disabilities Determination Division for nine years.

A memorial plaque, honoring Dewey as an "Aggie, veteran, pilot, physician, flight surgeon, state agency medical consultant extraordinaire," has been placed in a DDD staff development training room.

Dewey was both a veterinarian and physician. During World War II he was a fighter pilot in the Air Force. Between 1951 and 1974 he was a physician in the Air Force where he retired as a colonel. He worked as a medical consultant for DDD between 1974 and 1983.

Dewey was a graduate of Baylor Medical School and Texas A&M.

Funeral Services for Dewey were held March 7 at the Colonial Funeral Home in Universal City. He was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.

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