

TRC news & views

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Virginia Roberts, the new Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, pictured here with Allen Clark of the Governor's Office.

TRCA Seeks Counselor of the Year Nominations

If you know of a counselor who deserves some recognition for his or her outstanding achievement, now's your chance to do something about it.

The Texas Rehabilitation Counseling Association is seeking nominations for the Texas Counselor of the Year Award. The award is presented each year to the rehabilitation counselor who has exhibited superior performance, resourcefulness and imagination in working with the handicapped.

The individual who receives the Texas Counselor of the Year Award will be eligible for the S.W. Regional Counselor of the Year Award and subsequently be nominated for the national award.

There are specific methods and criteria for nominating and documenting an individual counselor's performance. Jim Howard, TRCA's Awards and Scholarship Chairman and TRC Counselor in Oak Cliff, can fill you in on that. His office phone number is (214) 948-1451, TexAn 831-5515.

The deadline for nominations is February 15, 1981.

GCEH Executive Director Roberts to Join TRC

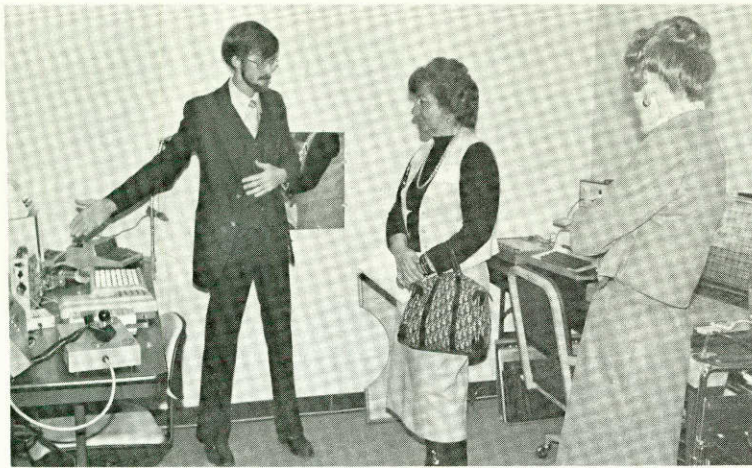
On January 12th, Virginia Roberts will join TRC as the new Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The decision was announced December 8th following a day long meeting of the GCEH.

Before coming to TRC, Roberts, a native Austinite, served as Governor Clements' Administrative Assistant for Handicapped Affairs. Her responsibilities in the Governor's Office included doing liaison work and staffing the Task Force for Handicapped Citizens. The position was funded by a grant from TRC.

Roberts graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967 with a

Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work. She completed one year of post graduate study at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Roberts worked for more than seven years at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and three and a half years at the Texas Department of Human Resources.

On the personal side, Roberts says she enjoys travel to visit friends (she's been to England and Canada several times), church activities, quiet gatherings of friends, reading and concerts. She is a member of several professional and handicapped consumer advocacy organizations.



Margaret Giannini (center), Director of the National Institute on Handicapped Research, watches a demonstration of some of the equipment at the IMPART lab.

NIHR Head Visits IMPART

TRC's IMPART staff in San Antonio was honored last month by a visit from Dr. Margaret Giannini, Director of the National Institute on Handicapped Research. In town to speak to a medical convention, Dr. Giannini took time from her busy schedule for a tour of the IMPART facilities located in the Bexar County Easter Seal Center.

IMPART is funded by a grant from NIHR. Mrs. Giannini was able to see first hand how the grant money is used to help

handicapped people overcome special problems they face as they enter the working world.

"Mrs. Giannini has shown tremendous leadership in the area of technology utilization," says Dr. Carol Whitcraft, Director of IMPART. "We are happy she had the chance to see what we're doing." Whitcraft adds, "We are also happy that TRC counselors are using the IMPART resource to help their clients overcome problems that can be solved by technology."

Scheduled Activities

January 1981

5- 8	Special Focus on VR Process Training	Dallas
6- 7		
13-14	Technical Training for	TSTI, Waco
20-21	Administrative Technicians	
27-28	(Section III)	
Feb. 3-4		
12-16	Decision Making in the VR Environment (Management Training for Supervisors)	RAMP - University of Oklahoma
13-15	Medical Training for Counselors (Phase II)	San Antonio
14-16	Project HEATH Workshop	San Antonio
21-23	Follow-On Training for New Counselors	Austin
26-27	MBO Training for Regional Administrators	Austin

Millsap, Huston Honored

Members of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped took a break from their day of business meetings to honor Sam Millsap and Dora Huston at a luncheon.

Millsap, retiring Chairperson of GCEH, received a plaque presented by Bob Blase. Huston, retired Executive Director of GCEH, was presented with a rose from Shirley Price. The two were commended for the years they have devoted to advancement of the handicapped.

The luncheon was hosted by GCEH Chairperson Justin Dart, Jr. at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center. Entertainment was provided by the Texas School for the Blind Jazz Ensemble.

Starting Over Again

To all counselors and rehabilitation technicians: if your supply of purchase orders (requisitions) for client services is running low, please read this before you reorder.

Chief Accountant Bob Dale asks that you estimate how many of these forms (TRC 200) you will need until the end of this fiscal year and order only that amount. The new order forms will be just like the ones you are using now, except that the number sequence will start at 0001.

Your help on this is appreciated.

Employment Resources Now SEH

TRC People



Abilene Counselor Verlon Strickland recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from Big Spring State Hospital for his eight and one half years of service to the residents of that facility. Pictured from left to right are: Jim Thurman, Counselor, BSSH; Jo Anne Forrest, Counselor, BSSH; Dr. E. Ray Tatum, Chief of Quality and Standards, BSSH; Sue vonRosenberg, Assistant for Quality and Standards, BSSH; and Robert vonRosenberg, Acting Assistant Superintendent.

With the new year came a new name and new responsibilities for TRC's Employment Resources Section. The department is now the State Employment of the Handicapped Program and Special Services Section. According to Deputy Commissioner Doyle Wheeler, Ken Honeycutt and Ron Bass will expand the number of state agencies, colleges and universities participating in the program. They will also focus on training programs about handicapped workers for co-workers, supervisors and personnel. The responsibilities of the Special Services Section will be described in an upcoming AOPM change.

If you have a special request or need in your area, feel free to contact Ken Honeycutt.

For Your Information

A national conference on creative arts for the handicapped is scheduled for April 2-4, 1981, at Texas Women's University in Denton. The idea is to improve arts programming for handicapped persons of all ages. Sessions will be fully accessible and translated into sign language. For more information, contact Dr. Claudine Sherrill, ARTS for Handicapped Conference, P.O. Box 23717, TWU Station, Denton, Texas 76204.



The Texas State Library's Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped opens the world of books to all Texans who can't read ordinary printed materials because of blindness or other physical handicap. Readers can choose from more than 15,000 selections dealing with recreation, current events, self-improvement and more. The service is free. For more information contact Linda Lindell or Patsy Castro at this toll free number: 1-800-252-9605. Austin residents can call 475-4758.

Persons interested in finding out about adult education programs and GED testing information, statewide, can dial this toll free number for assistance: 1-800-772-0867. Jim Morgan of the Adult Education Division of Region IX Education Service Center may have already contacted you offering posters about this service to display in your office. If not, contact him at (817) 322-6928, or call TRC's Public Information Office, if you're interested.



TRC Facts for FY 1980

In compiling information for the 1980 Annual Report to the Governor, we ran across some facts from fiscal 1980 that may interest you.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation program served a total of 100,264 clients.

The total cost of services to clients was \$57,725,074.

It cost an average of \$3,565 for each successfully rehabilitated client.

Of all clients served, 14,876 cases were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

Before vocational rehabilitation, the total client income amounted to \$19,627,764 (this figure includes income from state and federal public assistance funds).

After rehabilitation, total client income was \$110,012,240.

At the end of FY 1980, 29,692 clients remained on the active caseload, meaning their cases were carried over to FY 1981.

Disability Determination Division

On an average day, DDD processed approximately 620 claims.

Over the entire year, the Division processed a total of 147,652 claims by Texans for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

Of the total number of claims, 35,823 were determined eligible to receive SSDI or SSI benefits.

These claims resulted in a total payment of \$63,477,000 in monthly benefits.

Of the total payment, \$49,416,000 was paid to SSDI workers and dependents and \$14,061,000 for SSI workers and dependents each month.

Approximately 25% of the applicants for disability benefits were referred to Vocational Rehabilitation for consideration for rehabilitation services.

The statistics hold some good news for TRC concerning employee turnover. In FY 1980, the turnover rate for Salary Groups 2-21 was 21.2 percent. That's about eight percent below the turnover rate in FY 1979, when it was 29.5 percent.

Keeping it in the Family

Actor Tony Orlando is starring in a movie about a father who runs 300 miles on his mentally retarded daughter's fifth birthday. The movie entitled "300 Miles for Stephanie", will be shown on NBC's Monday Night at the Movies, January 12th.

One of the stars of the production is a relative of TRC's own Marcia Haley, a secretary in the Wichita Falls Field Office. Mrs. Haley's great-niece, "T.J." Olivares of San Antonio, will play the part of Stephanie.

The world premiere of this movie is to be held in San Antonio a few days before the television premiere. Mrs. Haley and her husband are planning to attend.

Retirements

Gene Raiford, Program Specialist, Physical Restoration, employed 1958, retirement effective Dec. 31, 1980.

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