



TRC news & views

TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

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Austin, Texas

March, 1982

Same Song, Second Verse:

Budget Battle Begins Anew

President Reagan announced his budget proposals for FY 1983 last month, and the message to vocational rehabilitation advocates was clear--the battle for the federal dollar is not over yet. Like many other social service programs, vocational rehabilitation faces a severe cutback of federal funds, if the President has his way.

For FY 1983, the Reagan Administration is asking for a 32.8 percent cut from the \$863.04 million level authorized under the current continuing resolution (which remains in effect until March 31, 1982). This would bring the level of funding for vocational rehabilitation (nationwide) to approximately \$579.5 million for FY 1983.

The President also proposed a cutback in funds for the remainder of FY 1982. At the direction of the White House, the Office of Management and Budget has proposed a rescision of \$91.1 million (from the \$863.04 million level) for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Upon receiving the details of President Reagan's proposals, TRC Commissioner Max Arrell issued a letter to advocacy groups and consumers across the state. In that letter, Arrell reminded the advocates that the

figures cited are merely proposals which must travel "a long, tedious road before becoming laws." "Vocational rehabilitation," he stated, "is still an entitlement program and is authorized to receive up to \$943.9 million in FY 1983." Arrell said he thinks the President's chances of

getting a full 32.8 percent cut are "slim."

Concerning the remainder of FY 1982 and the President's proposed rescision, Arrell emphasized that the rescision can only be passed if Congress approves it within 45 days. Arrell said (Cont. on p. 4)

Kane Appointed to TRC Board



Jerry Kane
New Board Member

The last vacancy on the six member TRC Board was filled in late January with the appointment of Jerry Kane of Corpus Christi. The 34-year-old Kane will serve a six year term which expires Aug. 31, 1987. Kane replaces John D. Simpson, Jr., whose term expired last year.

Kane is Vice President of Sam Kane Beef Processors, a

meat packing firm founded by his father. He is currently the Vice President of the National Meat Association, Chairman of the Combined Jewish Appeal and Chairman of "ABE" (the Association of Business and Education). Kane served as the President of B'nai Israel Synagogue from 1979-81, Director of the Southwestern Meat Packers Association between 1976-79 and a member of the Advisory Committee to the Natural Resources Committee from 1978-81.

A 1969 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Kane holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. As a business student, Kane was a participant in the Honors Program sponsored by the School of Business. He is married and has two children.

Texas Rehabilitation Commission



VERNON M. ARRELL, COMMISSIONER

TO THE STAFF:

On March 25, 1982, I will have completed one year as Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each of you for your efforts in helping the disabled citizens of Texas.

This past year, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission served over 245,000 people. More than 94,430 were served through the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, 150,390 through the Disability Determination Division and 600 through the Extended Rehabilitation Services program. It is my sincere feeling that we have provided more and better services with fewer staff and resources than at any time in the more than 20 years I have been with the Commission.

It has not been an uneventful year. Changes in the Social Security laws and federal guidelines have resulted in tremendous increases in the workload for DDD. The Reagan Administration's economic policies have had considerable effect on the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, including the reduction of some 148 positions due to a 14 percent reduction in funds. The fact that we had such a successful year, despite these major changes in our program, is due--to a very large degree--to the dedication and hard work of each of you.

The months to come will continue to offer us many challenges. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Reagan Administration has proposed additional funding cuts for vocational rehabilitation for the remainder of this and the next fiscal year. Of course, there is no way to be certain, but, I believe the possibility of a major reduction is very unlikely. Keep in mind, after the smoke cleared from the various funding battles during the last session of Congress, the vocational rehabilitation program received a one percent increase in basic support.

By law, vocational rehabilitation is still an entitlement program, and the authorized level of funding for FY 1983 is \$943.2 million. With the help of friends in Congress and the very active participation of consumer groups and advocates for the vocational rehabilitation program, I feel we will be able to keep the funding level near the authorized level.

Many of you have expressed concern about the vocational rehabilitation program being included as one of the "turn back" programs included in President Reagan's "New Federalism" proposal. Under this proposal, vocational rehabilitation and a number of other programs would be turned back to State control. I wholeheartedly welcome total State control of the vocational rehabilitation program. I believe the Governor's Office and the State Legislature better understand the needs of the disabled citizens of our state than people at the national level.

Whether or not the President's "New Federalism" proposal is accepted, I strongly believe the future of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation program lies with the State Legislature. The 68th Legislature, which convenes on the second Tuesday of January, 1983, will be the most important in the history of the vocational rehabilitation program. For us to meet the needs of the severely disabled and continue the present level and quality services to the handicapped people of Texas, it will be necessary for the State to support the program with a much higher level of appropriation than the 20 percent match provided in the past. The disabled citizens of Texas deserve comprehensive and quality vocational rehabilitation services which can only be delivered beyond the 1983 fiscal year with the State Legislature's willingness to assume more financial responsibility for the program.

I have tried to establish a managerial system that will allow us to deliver services in an effective and efficient manner. We have established a managerial system recognized by Governor Clements (see the related article in this newsletter) as one of the best in Texas government. Hopefully, we will be able to gain the same kind of confidence from the State Legislature.

I will continue to work at both the national and state level to make sure the needs of Texas citizens who want vocational rehabilitation services are met. The TRC administration will continue to manage the vocational rehabilitation program in the best interest of the disabled citizens most in need of vocational rehabilitation services. At the same time, it is mandatory that every employee help manage the resources we have to operate our program in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Our efforts in this area are the most important things we can do to ensure that the Commission will receive sufficient funds to carry out its mission. The worst thing we can do is to allow ourselves to become discouraged.

Thanks again for the work you have put forth on behalf of the handicapped citizens of our state. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission has established a great record in the past 53 years. I fully expect we will have the opportunity to be even better for many years to come. Have a good year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max Arrell".

Max Arrell
Commissioner

Spring Break's Here!

If you didn't attend the Texas Rehabilitation Counseling Association's Spring Break last year, you missed the event of the year! It was such a big success that the conference is returning to South Padre Island, Bahia Mar Resort Condominiums. This year, the dates are May 6-9 (four days and three nights). The workshops have been approved for certification maintenance credit. Expenses for the workshop can be deducted from your income taxes.

The Texas Rehabilitation Counseling Association offers a good package deal to participants of Spring Break '82. Our limited space does not permit us to print the details here. However, Donna Johnson can fill you in. Give her a call at (512) 883-3525 (work) or (512) 991-8033 (home); or, write to her at 5021 Crestwick, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78413, for more information.

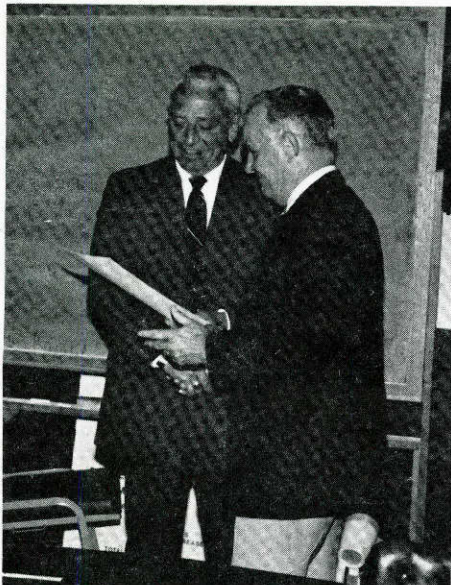
The deadline for registration is March 15. Don't be late!

Retirements

Robert Winton, Counselor II, Lubbock Field Office South, employed Jan. 25, 1960, retirement effective Feb. 16, 1982.

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.

Governor Commends TRC



Governor William P. Clements presents TRC Board Chairman Dr. George McCullough with a commendation citing TRC's "outstanding contribution to improve state government by active and supportive participation in the Texas State Government Effectiveness Program."

FROM



The employees of the Advanced Record System section of DDD's Computer Data Management Unit have taken on a new task; and, by all accounts, they are handling the responsibility quite well. The task has to do with proffering letters--letters which are sent to medical sources, requesting medical evidence to use in evaluating claimants' medical conditions. The term "proffering" refers to the fact that, by law, most of the letters offer to pay the medical sources for the evidence.

Approximately 500 to 1,000 of these letters are mailed every day. For financial record keeping purposes, information from each letter must be put into the TRC computer. This task used to be carried out by the Key punch Unit in the Central Office. Now, it is the responsibility of the ARS staff.

By working with the TRC Information Services Division, ARS refined and automated its message operations with Social Security Administration to such an extent that there is some time each day for employees to carry out other responsibilities. ARS employees, making use of this time, are usually able to process one day's proffering information terminal input before noon of the next day. The ARS staff is able to handle this additional duty without employees. And, the Key punch Unit has more time to devote to its other responsibilities.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

January 29, 1982

COMMENDATION TO THE TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Today I would like to recognize the outstanding management improvement efforts of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. The Commission under the leadership of its Board and Commissioner, has made an outstanding contribution to improving state government by an active and supportive participation in the Texas State Government Effectiveness Program.

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission has participated in a major operational audit of the agency and has encouraged the implementation of a total of 133 recommendations which resulted from that operational audit. As of December 1981, 87 of these recommendations had been implemented and 44 more were in process. The Commission and the audit team worked together in the spirit of a high commitment to improving our state government, and in particular, this agency's operations. Our citizens and the recipients of services from this important agency are better served as a result.

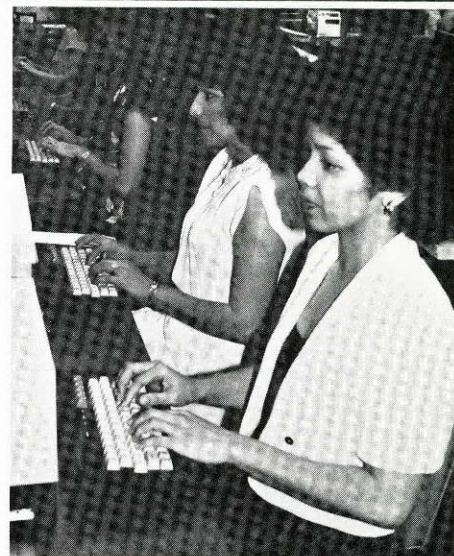
In addition, all supervisory personnel at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission have participated in management by objectives (MBO) training sessions. A total of 1,083 individuals, including managers, counselors, and some clerical members in the field and central offices have received MBO orientation. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission has actively supported and participated in the Texas State Management Development Center's first line supervisory training program. To date, over 91 first line supervisors have graduated from this program. The Commission has also actively supported management by objectives through representation on the MBO Task Force.

While working to improve the overall capabilities of the Commission to deliver needed services, the Commission has reduced the number of full-time equivalent employees from 1,989 as of January 31, 1979, to 1,805 as of December 31, 1981 -- a reduction of 9.3 percent.

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission serves as an example to all of our state government in the positive, well managed and responsive efforts that it has undertaken. I commend the Commission members and the Commissioner and all of the employees of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for their outstanding efforts.

W.P. Clements, Jr.

William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas



DDD's Advanced Record System section staff places the information from 500 to 1,000 proffering letters into the computer system every day.

(Cont. from p. 1) he thinks the proposal will fail.

As far as the remainder of FY 1982 is concerned, the best thing that could happen to vocational rehabilitation is to remain under the continuing resolution. Under the present continuing resolution, the program is receiving full authorized funding of \$863.04 million (\$899 million less the four percent across the

board cut). The most vocational rehabilitation can receive through an appropriation is \$854.2 million (the maximum approved by the House and Senate). If the recision proposal fails and vocational rehabilitation remains under the continuing resolution, the program will have more money for the remainder of the year than if the appropriation is approved.

Arrell urged those interested in the future of vocational rehabilitation not to be discouraged by the latest information. "We have been through this before," he said. "It is a long, tedious process. But, if we want to continue to provide quality vocational rehabilitation services to the disabled people of this state, we must not let our efforts lag."

TRA Conference Plans Announced

The annual Southwest Regional Conference of the National Rehabilitation Association is slated for July 25-27, 1982, in Austin at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The theme for this year's conference is "Rehabilitation: An Investment in Productivity." A primary goal of the conference is to increase attendants' awareness and understanding of the legislative process.

TRC Commissioner Max Arrell has stressed the importance of the conference, saying, "The future of rehabilitation is in the hands of our state legislators. The conference will provide an excellent opportunity to seek the active involvement of these legislators and further educate them in the rehabilitation process."

Jim Grey of Longview, President of the Southwest Region, and Sara Schwiening of San Angelo, President of the Texas Rehabilitation Association, will preside at the conference. Helen Goodman, General Chairperson for the conference, says committees are in the process of finalizing plans for the meeting.

The co-chairpersons of the Program Committee have issued a call for dynamic

papers and presentations for possible presentation at the conference. Submissions should support the theme of the conference and be submitted for review by April 15. Submissions should include the presenter's name and address, the title of the

presentation, and a one paragraph description of each presenter's role. Interested persons should contact Dr. Carol Whitcraft at the TRC Central Office, 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas, 78704 (telephone: 512-445-8116).

Calendar of Events

MARCH 1982

STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

<u>MARCH</u>		<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Location</u>
7 - 12	Management Training for Supervisors	TSMDC	Lakeway, Austin
9 - 10	Technical Training for Administrative Technicians	TRC	TSTI, Waco
9 - 11	Fiscal Officers Conference (Federal Region VI)	ARCEP	Dallas
9 - 11	Administrators and Chiefs of Field Services Conference (Federal Region VI)	ARCEP	Dallas
16	Interviewing Skills Field Test	TRC	C.O., Austin
16 - 17	Technical Training for Administrative Technicians	TRC	TSTI, Waco
18 - 19	Conference on New Funding Cycle in Independent Living	ARCEP	Dallas
24 - 26	Assessment of Persons with LLD	ARCEP	Dallas