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I & R Exchange

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Connecting Information and Referral Providers Across the State

Spring 1994

Money, Money, Money

Funding is again available for I&Rs. The Work and Family Clearinghouse of the Texas Employment Commission will publish in mid-April its Request For Proposals (RFP). The Dependent Care Development Grant (DCDG) Program makes available awards of up to \$30,000 for the planning, development, establishment, operation, expansion, and/or improvement of information/resource and referral (I/R&R).

This year, urban and rural applicants will apply for and be reviewed under different guidelines. Applications from Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso will be considered urban, all others will be rural. To improve the quality of all applications, Clearinghouse staff will respond to all questions and comments through the Texas Register for May 13th if they have received them in writing by May 2nd. Proposals are due by June 7, 1994. DCDG local I/R&R contacts will begin October 1, 1994 and end no later than September 30, 1995. Contact the Work and Family Clearinghouse at 512-502-3770 for more information.

AIRS in Tucson, AZ

The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) is holding its 16th annual conference in Tucson, Arizona this year, May 22-26 in conjunction with the National Aging I&R Symposium. The focus will be on "celebrating the opportunities that grow out of crisis", as the conference organizers put it. Workshop topics will range from practical hands-on skills training sessions to planning new directions and roles for I&Rs in their communities. For registration information, call Ruth Gray at the AIRS office, 815-744-6922. For more information on the programs, call Roberto Armijo, Community I&R in Phoenix, AZ at 602-263-8845.

The Corner on Hubs

We want to recognize and welcome aboard our new Hubs for the following counties: **Kendall, Bell, Concho, Irion, Denton, Howard, Lee, Rockwall, Matagorda, and McMullen.** They joined us as of September.

What are Hubs up to?

INFO*LINE of Smith County in Tyler, and the Information and Referral Center of Collin County in Plano, have become involved in Regional Interagency Council meetings, a contact facilitated by the Texas Information and Referral Project. The United Way of Central Texas in Temple has joined Kleberg County Human Services in the growing list of

(continued on p. 3, What...)

State Health and Human Service Agencies Move To Same Computerized Screening Program

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission soon will release what the state health and human service agencies will use as their screener for determining potential eligibility. This brings Texas one step closer to making health and human services easier to use. It is an automated intake and screening tool, (read, a computer program) that will allow a staff member to enter basic demographic data about an individual and family members to determine **potential** eligibility for state provided services. The Texas Eligibility Screening System (TESS) will help decrease the number of times an applicant for state services must repeat basic information, and correspondingly, should result in fewer errors and faster service.

TESS will help decrease the number of times an applicant for state services must repeat basic information

Version 1 will be released May 1, 1994 and be available to state and local health and human service providers. Version 2, set to be released November 1, 1994, will allow communities to add customized screens and local services as well. For more information contact Jackie Jones, Texas Health and Human Services Commission at 512-502-3222.

Partners in Policymaking: Training for Parents and Advocates

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities is seeking applications from people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities to train them to advocate effectively for their needs. Partners in Policymaking teaches individuals to become advocates who can influence public officials. They are especially interested in training people who are not involved already in advocacy organizations. The training sessions last two days each and total eight in all, spread out one weekend a month. Applications are due April 29, 1994 for training that starts in August. For more information and applications call Jopie Smith at 512-483-4089.

Texas I&R Exchange is published quarterly by the Texas Information and Referral Project. Please direct questions, comments, information and articles to:

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The Texas Information and Referral Project, a division of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is funded by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities





March 1994 County Hub Directory

County Hub I&R providers have been identified as the most appropriate primary I&R contacts in their counties by other local I&R and service providers. They serve as touch points for their communities by knowing about the full range of services available, including other I&R services, and are well informed on I&R issues. They are the building blocks of the statewide network of I&R providers under development by the Texas Information and Referral Project.

 Please note the new Hubs that have joined the network since December.

Anderson County	<i>Palestine</i>	903-729-0344	Dallas County	<i>Dallas</i>	214-747-3711 800-548-1873
	Multi-Cultural Education Center			Community Council of Greater Dallas Information and Referral Service	
Archer County	<i>Archer City</i>	817-574-4572	Denton County	<i>Denton</i>	817-566-2688
	ANAG, Inc. Archer Services Center			United Way of Denton County, Inc. Information and Referral	
Bastrop County	<i>Bastrop</i>	512-321-7760	Ector County	<i>Odessa</i>	915-333-4357
	Family Crisis Center			United Way of Odessa First Call for Help	
Bell County	<i>Temple</i>	817-778-2495	Fannin County	<i>Bonham</i>	903-583-7740 800-259-7740
	United Way of Central Texas			Fannin County Crisis Center	
Bexar County	<i>San Antonio</i>	210-224-5000 x252	Fort Bend County	<i>Stafford</i>	713-499-5681
	United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County Information and Referral			United Way of Texas Gulf Coast Information and Referral	
Brazoria County	<i>Angleton</i>	409-849-4404	Galveston County	<i>Texas City</i>	409-948-4211
	Helpline, Information and Referral Service United Way of Brazoria County			Mainland Communities United Way of Galveston County	
Brazos County	<i>Bryan</i>	409-823-5226	Gillespie County	<i>Fredericksburg</i>	210-997-9756
	Brazos County Community Council			Hill Country Community Needs Council	
Caldwell County	<i>Lockhart</i>	512-398-6660 (9-1)	Grayson County	<i>Sherman</i>	903-868-1551
	Caldwell County Christian Ministries			United Way of Grayson County Information and Referral Services	
Clay County	<i>Henrietta</i>	817-538-4357	Harris County	<i>Houston</i>	713-957-4357 800-833-5948
	Cross Timber Council on Substance Abuse			United Way Helpline - Houston	
Collin County	<i>Plano</i>	214-422-1850 800-725-4936	Houston County	<i>Crockett</i>	409-544-2811
	Information and Referral Center of Collin Co.			Tri-County Awareness Association	
Concho County	<i>Eden</i>	915-869-2471	Howard County	<i>Big Spring</i>	915-267-9536
	Eden Community Multi-Purpose Center			West Texas Opportunities, Inc. Community Action Agency	
			Irion County	<i>Mertzon</i>	915-835-4111
				Irion County Treasurer's Office	

Jefferson County	<i>Nederland</i>	409-721-5465	800-395-5465	Potter County	<i>Amarillo</i>	806-373-2662	
	LinkAGE Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission-AAA				United Way of Amarillo-Canyon Helpline/Travelers Assistance		
Kaufman County	<i>Terrell</i>	214-563-1422		Randall County	<i>Amarillo</i>	806-373-2662	
	Kaufman County Senior Citizens Services				United Way of Amarillo-Canyon Helpline/Travelers Assistance		
Kendall County	<i>Boerne</i>	210-249-8643		Rockwall County	<i>Rockwall</i>	214-771-4357	
	Hill Country Family Services, Inc.				Rockwall County Helping Hands		
Kerr County	<i>Kerrville</i>	210-896-6888	800-858-6889	San Saba County	<i>San Saba</i>	915-372-5833	
	Partners In Parenting Education, Inc. Kerr County Information and Referral				Hill Country Community Action Multi-Service Senior Service Center		
Kleberg County	<i>Kingsville</i>	512-595-8572	800-356-3463	Schleicher County	<i>Eldorado</i>	915-853-2603	800-586-2574
	Kleberg County Human Services				Community Resource Center		
Lee County	<i>Giddings</i>	409-542-1284		Smith County	<i>Tyler</i>	903-581-6376	
	Primary Health Care Program				United Way of Tyler/Smith County INFO*LINE		
Leon County	<i>Centerville</i>	903-536-2812		Tarrant County	<i>Fort Worth</i>	817-878-0100	
	Leon County Social Services				United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County First Call for Help		
Lubbock County	<i>Lubbock</i>	806-765-6262		Taylor County	<i>Abilene</i>	915-673-8211	
	City of Lubbock Information and Referral of Lubbock				Call for Help		
 Matagorda County	<i>Bay City</i>	409-245-5852		Tom Green County	<i>San Angelo</i>	915-942-7670	
	United Way - Helpline				United Way of Tom Green County First Call for Help		
McLennan County	<i>Waco</i>	817-752-8355		Waller County	<i>Brookshire</i>	713-375-5110	
	United Way of Waco-McLennan County Information and Referral Services				United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast		
 McMullen County	<i>Tilden</i>	512-274-3324		Wichita County	<i>Wichita Falls</i>	817-322-8638	
	McMullen County Public Health Region 11 Field Office				United Way of Greater Wichita Falls Information and Referral Service		
Midland County	<i>Midland</i>	915-697-HELP		Wilbarger County	<i>Vernon</i>	817-552-5474	
	Casa de Amigos Information & Referral Midland				Texas Agricultural Extension Service		
Montgomery County	<i>The Woodlands</i>	713-367-8003					
	Montgomery County United Way Information and Referral						
Nueces County	<i>Corpus Christi</i>	512-882-4636	800-421-4636				
	United Way of the Coastal Bend INFO*LINE						

What...

(continued from p.1)

Hubs who have provided information and referral at their local Capital For A Day.

As part of the I&R network in Texas, these Hubs are working to share and improve local I&R expertise. The Texas Information and Referral Project also shares information it gathers, including: software commonly used by I&R providers, questions to ask when automating I&R, and information on available grants. Besides being selected by their peers as the best source of comprehensive I&R in the community, Hubs also receive such benefits as: free copies of *Finding Help in Texas: A Directory of Information and Referral Providers*; sample press releases following their confirmation as Hubs; certificates from the Governor recognizing their contributions; and appropriate referrals from the Office of the Governor.

Resource Reminder

If you want to become more familiar with the nursing homes in your area, call the Texas Department of Human Services, Long Term Care at 1-800-252-8016. Their "1994 Nursing Home Profile" covers location, care specialties, activities offered, primary staff contacts, medical director and owner affiliations. They also have information about a nursing facility's compliance with state and federal regulations.

Child Care Resource & Referral Providers Will Meet in Dallas

For those who are interested in child care resource and referral, we pass on the announcement of the upcoming conference of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Region VI/Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral, in Dallas. The dates are April 9-10, Saturday and Sunday, at the Hyatt Regency. For more information and to register contact The Child Care Group, in Dallas at 214-630-7911.

Capital For A Day Moves Austin to Kingsville

It was a great day in Kingsville when the seat of state government moved to this small coastal city in South Texas for the day on February 24th, 1994. Capital for a Day brings representatives of many state agencies together in one place so that citizens can voice their complaints and frustrations and actually seek solutions on the spot. To showcase the importance of information and referral, **Kleberg County Human Services** provided guidance to people trying to solve their problems. As the Hub information and referral provider for the county, **Kleberg County Human Services** keeps track of the tangle of health and human services providers so that people have some place to call when they can't figure out who — state, county, city, church, or non-profit — can assist them.

Ben Figueroa, Director of Kleberg County Human Services, brought two staff members to field questions from the public and distributed nearly 60 directories to people wondering about local health and human services. Mr. Figueroa also had a chance to speak with Commissioner Ladd about local health and human services issues. Staff from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission appreciated the help that Mr. Figueroa provided, especially in making local information so easily available.

Something for (almost) Nothing

Do you have plans for automation in your future but your board feels the cost of the hardware is too much? For what you may wish to do, wordprocessing, some data recording, maybe a simple database to ease the updating of local resource information, you don't need the latest and fastest machine. Luckily, as others move up the power curve in computing, their machines often are donated to the Cristina Foundation. This organization will distribute computers to individuals with disabilities and organizations who help these people. If you have ever provided information and referral to people with disabilities, you should contact the Texas Rehabilitation Commission at 512-483-4185 for more information on what is currently available. Since their "stock" depends on what corporations are giving at the moment, you may not be able to request specific hardware options.

Hearings held by the Texas Commission on Children and Youth

The Texas Commission on Children and Youth is holding hearings around the state. The current schedule includes: San Antonio, March 28; Lubbock, April 8; Dallas, April 18; El Paso, May 6; Waco, May 13; McAllen, May 23; Bryan/College Station, June 13; and the remaining ones in Austin, June 27, July 15, August 19, September 9, October 21, and November 14. For more information and to be placed on their mailing list call 512-305-9056.

Texas Information and Referral Project
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yet, call 1-800-
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**to stay
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your address.

The mission of the Texas Information and Referral Project is to develop a statewide network of information and referral providers which advocates for clear and easy access to health and human services for all people in Texas.