



LOCAL MH•MR

NOTES

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BEAUMONT, AMARILLO STATE CENTERS CONDUCT COMMUNITY MR WORKSHOPS

Recent workshops in the Panhandle and Southeast Texas areas demonstrated various types of community mental retardation services for community MH/MR center representatives.

The workshops were conducted at the Beaumont and Amarillo State Centers for Human Development.

Topics included ways and means of implementing community MR programs, diagnostic and evaluation services, satellite programs, health and dental services and managerial aspects.

The groups also toured various center facilities.

TDMHMR personnel conducting the Amarillo workshop included **James Craft, Ed.D.**, assistant deputy commissioner for MR; **Jim King**, acting director, Regional Programs Division; and **Eugene Garms**, director of the Amarillo Center.

Beaumont workshop participants included Dr. Craft; King; **Howard Morrow**, Beaumont Center director; and **Burtis Hollis**, assistant superintendent, Richmond State School. ■

HARRIS CENTER MOVES OFFICES

The central office of the Harris County MH/MR Center has relocated at 821 Chelsea Street in Houston, effective November 1.

The new location includes offices of the executive director, formerly at 726 Gillette and the center's business office and other central administration offices, formerly at 500 Lovett.

Future meetings of the center's Board of Trustees will be held at the new central office.--**Sarah Cartsonas**. ■

GALVESTON MH/MR CENTER OPENS LA MARQUE PRE-SCHOOL FACILITY

The Galveston County MH/MR Center has opened a pre-school for the mentally retarded in La Marque.

Mrs. Mary MacKay, center director, said day-care and pre-school training will be offered for retarded children between three and 10 years of age who function at the three-year old level. The facility is housed in a former kindergarten building which belongs to the La Marque Independent School District.

The center has also begun group sessions for parents of mentally retarded children to give the parents an opportunity to share their feelings and discuss their problems.

The sessions are conducted by **Mrs. Bertha Zinc, R.N.**, coordinator of MR services, and **Dave La Cerda, Ph.D.**, a psychologist from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. ■

COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS ORGANIZED AT MEETING IN AUSTIN

The Texas Council of Comprehensive Community MH/MR Centers has been established to exchange information between centers and to plan a statewide program.

At an organizational meeting in Austin November 6 and 7, a steering committee for future activities and meetings was appointed and a timetable set for continued activity.

Among those taking part in the Austin meeting were **James J. Ferrero, M.D.**, and **John Weimer**, Austin/Travis County MH/MR Center; **Jim King**, Charles Martin and **Mrs. Sarah Conklin**, TDMHMR.

The council is affiliated with the National Council of Community MH/MR Centers. **Ron Moen**, executive director of the Bell County MH/MR Center, Belton, is regional coordinator for the national organization.--**Ed Peters**. ■

VOLUNTEER TRAINING UNDERWAY AT MIDLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

A volunteer training program in motor perceptual training for learning disabilities is underway at the Midland Community Center for MH/MR.

Five volunteers have graduated from the program directed by **John Carley, Ph.D.**, a staff member of Big Spring State Hospital. Five additional workers are currently enrolled in the six-month training course.

The center has over 90 volunteer workers assisting with its operation.

Volunteers visit homes, provide transportation and tutoring, serve as co-therapists in group therapy, man the center's crisis intervention-suicide prevention emergency service and assist with social activities.--**Bill Mims**. ■

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING SLATED BY NORTH TEXAS MH/MR CENTERS

A comprehensive briefing for North Central and North East Texas legislators is scheduled December 14 at the Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth.

The Tarrant County MH/MR Center is host for the meeting to inform area legislators about the activities and plans of community mental health and mental retardation programs.

Scheduled to appear on the program are **Tom Vandergriff**, Arlington mayor; **Warren Quinlan**, Midland business leader; and **Fernando Torgerson, Ph.D.**, dean of the Graduate School, Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington.

Organizational committee for the meeting includes **G. Clark Anderson** and **Doyle Lamb**, Tarrant County MH/MR Center; **Bob Dickson**, Midland Community MH/MR Center; **James Young**, MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas, San Angelo; and **Jackson King**, Central Texas MH/MR Center, Brownwood.--**G. Clark Anderson**. ■

AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY CENTER STARTS RECORDED TELEPHONE MESSAGE SERIES

A small notice in a newspaper's "personals" column attracted the attention of almost 3,000 persons to the Austin-Travis County MH/MR Center during a recent two-week period.

The "teaser"-type advertisement included the telephone number of the center's automatic recorded message equipment. Persons dialing the number were informed of the center's services for people with problems and where to call if they desired help.

Charles Bounds, Ph.D., director of the project, said similar advertisements are currently appearing in neighborhood newspapers throughout the city. According to Dr. Bounds, the telephone messages are changed periodically to account for different cultural backgrounds of those calling. ■

MIDLAND CENTER MR SERVICES SCHEDULED FOR ODESSA RETARDATES

The Midland Community Center for MH/MR has signed a contract with the Ector County Independent School District to provide pre-school services for mentally retarded children from Odessa.

The program, which offers day care services for as many as 13 youngsters at the Midland Opportunity Center, includes specialization, recreation and intellectual development.

The Midland MH/MR Center is already providing the services to the Midland school district.--**Bill Mims** ■

MRS. YOUNGBLOOD NAMED TO BOARD OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mrs. Edwina Youngblood, director of Mental Retardation Programs, Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center, has been elected a board member for the Texas State Special Olympics.

The Texas Special Olympics is an annual athletic competition for retardates from throughout the state.

--**Mrs. Donna Wiese** ■

DAY HOSPITAL SERVICES OPENED BY WICHITA FALLS MH/MR CENTER

The Wichita Falls Community MH/MR Center has opened a day hospital for patients nearing release from Wichita Falls State Hospital and others who may need supportive counseling.

Located at 2811 Avenue J, the day hospital occupies the center's former out-patient facilities.

MH/MR Center staff members assist in group counseling and recreational therapy for day hospital patients. Two groups of patients are currently scheduled each week, with more expected soon.--**Mrs. Carol G. Russell**. ■

BELL TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED FOR 1971

Members of the Board of Trustees for the Bell County MH/MR Center have been appointed for 1971.

Members are **Mrs. C.V. Griggs, Jim Kerns, Richard Wilson, S.R. Greenwood, N.C. Hightower, M.D., Mrs. Frank W. Mayborn, Mrs. Christine Odom, Rev. John Elliot, and Richard Wallace, M.D.** ■

BAYSHORE ARRANGEMENT ALLOWS DRUG PURCHASES ON BANKAMERICARD

A unique cooperative arrangement for the purchase of drugs has been developed by the Bayshore MH/MR Center, Baytown, the Harris County Pharmaceutical Association and BankAmericard.

Under the system, prescriptions for drugs issued to patients at the Bayshore Center are written on a BankAmericard sales draft with a notation made as to percentage of the cost to be paid by the patient. The patient may then take the prescription to a participating pharmacy (a member of the Harris County Pharmaceutical Association) where his prescription is filled. After the patient pays his share of the cost of the prescription to the pharmacy, the pharmacy then sends the sales draft for the remaining cost of the medication to BankAmericard. BankAmericard bills the Bayshore MH/MR Center.

The new system allows patients to have prescriptions filled or refilled at a participating pharmacy of their choice near their residence. Most of the area pharmacies are HCPA members.--**Sarah Cartsonas**. ■

BELL COUNTY CENTER GETS GRANT TO PROVIDE JUVENILE MH SERVICES

The Bell County MH/MR Center has received a \$35,000 grant from the Texas Criminal Justice Council to provide diagnostic, consultation and treatment services to the Bell County Juvenile Court.

The service will also be offered to five additional counties which comprise the Central Texas Council of Governments.

A psychologist, social worker and secretary have been hired by the center to implement the grant, which was effective September 1. ■

CENTERS ANNOUNCE STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recent appointments to the staffs of community MH/MR centers include:

James R. Zug, director of mental retardation services; Tarrant County MH/MR Center.

Miss Jean Flinn Carroll, coordinator of child programs; **Mrs. Ronald A. Brandon**, psychiatric nurse; **Patrick J. Moriarty**, MSW, social worker; and **Bill B. Peters**, clinical psychologist, Bell County MH/MR Center.

Miss Carolyn Bradford, psychiatric social worker; Wichita Falls Community MH/MR Center.

James Scarborough, M.D., consulting psychiatrist; **Mrs. Donna Wiese**, administrative assistant and **Mrs. Jewell Casey**, director of volunteer and emergency programs; Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center. ■

FEDERAL GRANT REQUESTED TO COMPLETE AMARILLO MH UNIT

Unfinished sections of the Psychiatric Pavilion at Amarillo's Northwest Hospital are scheduled for completion, pending approval of a \$280,000 federal grant.

The Pavilion, which opened in 1967, serves the Amarillo Community MH/MR Center. The 100-bed facility has operated at 80 to 90 percent occupancy since it opened.

F.S. Walters Jr., hospital administrator, recently submitted an application to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for a construction grant to use federal funds in the \$500,000 project. ■

WACO-McLENNAN MH/MR CENTER COMPLETES VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center recently completed a five-week training program for five volunteers.

Joe Long, ACSW, director of the center's Outpatient Clinic, will supervise the work of the volunteers trained in the program.

The volunteers will assist center staff, secure social histories, make home visits and follow up on state hospital returnees.—Mrs. Donna Wiese ■

SANDERS NAMED TO BAYSHORE COUNCIL

Charles M. Sanders, administrator of the San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, has been appointed to the advisory council of the Bayshore MH/MR Community Center in Baytown.

The appointment was made by the Board of Trustees of the Harris County MH/MR Center, Houston. ■

MINEOLA CHURCH YOUTHS COLLECT SMITH-WOOD PRE-SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The pre-school of the Smith-Wood Counties MH/MR Center is the recipient of equipment and furnishings collected by a Mineola church youth group recently.

Members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at the Mineola First Methodist Church collected the supplies for the pre-school during an October 17 "scavenger hunt".

The pre-school is operated by the center five days a week in Mineola in the Fellowship Hall of the First Christian Church. Purpose is to prepare mentally retarded and physically handicapped children, ages 3-12, for special education classes. ■

HIDALGO MH/MR CENTER CONDUCTS ORIENTATION COURSE FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Hidalgo County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center conducted a volunteer orientation course October 28 in Edinburg.

Volunteers were trained for service in the Day Activity Center. The Center provides an opportunity for persons who have experienced some emotional difficulty to become involved in activities and relationships with other people.

The course included instruction in good kitchen practices; tutoring in basic English, math, and spelling; sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet; arts and crafts, ceramics, decoupage and floral arrangement; indoor and outdoor recreational activities; and dancing and music. ■

BELL MH/MR CENTER APPLIES FOR CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM GRANT

The Bell County MH/MR Center has applied for a \$100,000 National Institute for Mental Health grant to develop a child advocacy program.

Ron Moen, executive director, said the Bell County Center is one of five agencies in the nation developing such a program.

Child advocacy programs include the development of community mental health services aimed specifically at children. ■

REGIONAL MR WORKSHOPS SET FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is sponsoring a series of regional workshops to acquaint county officials with their responsibility in meeting the needs of the mentally retarded.

Titled "Role and Responsibility of the County Judge in Promoting and Supporting Local Level Programs and Services for the Mentally Retarded," the workshops are conducted by Management Services Associates, Inc., of Austin, with the assistance of a Federal grant.

Dates and locations of the workshops are: Waco, November 19 and 20 at the Hilton Inn; Wichita Falls, December 10 and 11 at the Downtown Holiday Inn; Odessa, January 7 and 8 at the Inn of the Golden West; and San Antonio, February 11 and 12. Location for the San Antonio workshop is to be announced.

The series was instituted with a pilot workshop for county officials in Austin, October 22 and 23. ■

BAYTOWN MH/MR CENTER BEGINS SECOND "CARE AND SHARE" GROUP

The Bayshore MH/MR Center, Baytown, has begun a second "Care and Share" group for discussions and social activities.

The group meets each Tuesday at the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. The program provides a meeting place for group discussions and social activities. Participants do not have to be clients of the center. Staff members from the MH/MR Center are present at meetings to help find answers to questions.

The center has also extended its hours of operation until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. ■

SEMINOLE MR DAY SCHOOL OPENS

The Tri-Cities Satellite School for retardates, a satellite day school of the Amarillo State Center for Human Development, opened November 3 in Seminole.

Open to residents of the Seminole, Seagraves and Denver City area, the school offers special training and evaluation for pre-school educable retardates or trainable retarded pupils of all ages.

Classes are conducted from 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Fridays with a maximum of eight pupils.—Mrs. James Johnson ■

AUSTIN-TRAVIS CENTER BEGINS "BIG BUDDY" PROGRAM FOR RETARDATES

The Austin-Travis County MH/MR Center has instituted a "Big Buddy" program for retardates ten years of age or older.

Administered by the Center's MR Counseling Service, the program pairs youngsters with volunteer workers from The University of Texas. "Big Buddies" take their "Little Buddies" on picnics and fishing trips and to museums, movies and shopping. They also provide companionship and help with homework.

To date, over 100 "Big Buddies" have been paired with youngsters enrolled in the center's programs. Swimming and creative dancing classes for mentally retarded youngsters in Travis County are planned by the counseling service as part of the program.—Ed Peters.

GREGG-HARRISON CENTER GETS CASH GIFT FROM MARSHALL LIONS CLUB

A gift of \$177 to purchase language development material has been presented to the Gregg-Harrison MH/MR Center in Marshall by the Mar-Tex Evening Lions Club.

The material will be used in the center's pre-school program, which began operation in October. The program provides pre-school education for exceptional children in Harrison County. ■

TARRANT COUNTY HALFWAY HOUSE ADOPTS NEW ADMISSION POLICY

The Tarrant County MH/MR Center has adopted a formal admission policy for Fairchild House, halfway facility for mental patients.

The policy, designed to increase the efficiency of the halfway house, outlines the types of applications considered for admission and establishes a formal review procedure.

Center officials said the house previously had been operating at only half its capacity of 28 patients. Fairchild House was founded by the Tarrant County Association for Mental Health. The Tarrant MH/MR Center assumed responsibility for the operation in January, 1970. ■

RECOVERY, INC., SUPPLEMENTING CENTERS' PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

Recovery, Inc., a nonprofit voluntary association of former mental patients, is serving as an adjunct to psychiatric outpatient treatment at several community MH/MR centers.

Approximately 12,000 members employ the self-help techniques of psychiatrist Abraham A. Low, M.D., in a systematic method of self-help aftercare.

Aim of the organization is to help members achieve self-control to reduce everyday anxiety, hostility or fear. Weekly meetings conducted by trained lay leaders include a small panel of former patients. Persons who have been referred for help, and members of their families also attend.

The association's groups meet in Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo, San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

Recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, the organization was founded in 1937. Additional information is available from Irv Finkler, Recovery, Inc., area leader, 2440 El Cerrito Drive, Dallas. ■

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

Box 12668, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

HARRIS COUNTY TRUSTEES AWARD CONTRACTS FOR MH/MR SERVICES

The Harris County MH/MR Board of Trustees has awarded contracts totaling \$398,359 to three organizations for the delivery of mental health and mental retardation services to county residents.

The Harris County Center for the Retarded received \$255,000; Baytown Opportunity Center, \$9,059; and St. Joseph's Mid-Houston Community Mental Health Center, \$134,300.

Services covered in the one-year contracts include county-wide mental retardation services by the HCCR; mental retardation services in Baytown by the Baytown Opportunity Center; and mental health services to residents of Center Area 10 by the St. Joseph's facility. —Sarah Cartsonas. ■

"LOCAL MH/MR NOTES" CORRESPONDENTS

Paul Southern, Th.D., Abilene Area Center for MH/MR; Louise Evans, Amarillo MH/MR Regional Center; Ed Peters, MH/MR Center of Austin-Travis County; Mrs. Linda Chupik, Bell County MH/MR Center, Belton; James F. Bailey, Bexar County MH/MR Services, San Antonio; Mrs. Judy W. Bybee, Central Texas MH/MR Center, Brownwood; Mrs. Elizabeth Woodley, Central Plains Comprehensive Community MH/MR Center, Plainview; Robert H. Dovenmuehle, M.D., Dallas County MH/MR Center; Mrs. I.W. Gillett, El Paso Center for MH/MR Services; Mrs. Mary N. MacKay, Galveston County MH/MR Center; Mrs. Leon Polzin, Gulf Bend MH/MR Center, Victoria.

Sarah N. Cartsonas, Harris County MH/MR Services, Houston; Marion Shirah, Hidalgo County MH/MR Services, Edinburg; Vergia Mae Musselwhite, Jefferson County Community Center for MH, Beaumont; Clayton Mallett, Lubbock MH/MR Center; Bill Mims, Midland Community Center for MH/MR; Mrs. J.G. Bryson, Nueces County Community Center for MH/MR, Corpus Christi; Gary K. Smith, Smith-Wood County Center for MH/MR Services, Tyler; G. Clark Anderson, Tarrant County MH/MR Center, Fort Worth; William J. Dees, Texarkana Regional MH/MR Center; Mrs. Donna Wiese, Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center; James M. Young, MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas, San Angelo; Mrs. Charles Russell, Wichita Falls Community Center for MH/MR Services.

Regional Coordinators: Larry J. Mildren, West Central Texas, Abilene; Weldon F. Newton, North Texas (West), Fort Worth; J. Lyle Hill, Southwest Texas, San Antonio; Bascom L. Hodges, Capitol Region, Austin; Richard M. Bruner, South Texas, Harlingen; James R. Sones, Gulf Coast, Houston; Hal I. Hart, East Texas, Tyler; Clyde R. McLean, West Texas, Midland.

Items for *Local MH/MR Notes* should be forwarded to Information Services, TDMHMR, prior to the end of each month for the following month's issue. Address correspondence to *Local MH/MR Notes*, Information Services Division, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Box 12668, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.