

REPORT

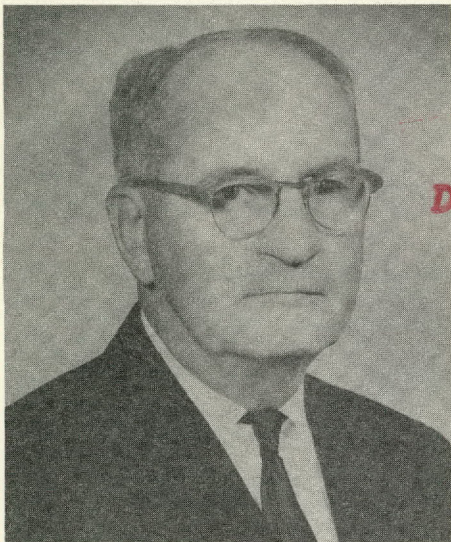
to employees concerning people, programs and progress
of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation



Vol. 1

Austin, September, 1969

No. 8



JESS M. OSBORN

Ex-Solon On MH/MR Board

Jess M. Osborn of Muleshoe has combined careers in public service and business for half a century.

The former state representative was appointed to the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for a two-year term when it was formed in 1965 and was reappointed to a six-year term in 1967.

A native of Okolona, Ark., Osborn served in the Army Air Corps during World War I and returned to his hometown to become its postmaster from 1920 until moving to Texas in 1924.

Settling in Friona, he got a banking job and within three years had been promoted into the bank's management.

As his business interest grew, so did his interest in public affairs.

Elected to the Texas Legislature in 1952, Osborn served five terms. He retired from his banking duties in 1956 to devote more time to his legislative duties.

Immediately upon his retirement from the Legislature in 1962, he was appointed to the former State Board for

See "Jess Osborn", page 4.

Vernon Center Ready To Accept First Patients

The Vernon Center, a \$3 million multi-service TDMHMR facility, is scheduled to accept its first patients about Sept. 15.

Frankie Williams, M.D., superintendent, said the first residents will be about 100 transfer patients from other TDMHMR facilities. Direct admissions are expected to begin Oct. 1. About 277 patients are expected within six months. Future construction will increase resident capacity to 1,000.

First Phase

The modern, campus-style center is on a 65-acre tract and has 11 buildings in its first phase. These include six ward buildings, an administration building, auditorium, physical therapy department, canteen and a central kitchen, warehouse, and maintenance complex.

One 44-bed retardation unit will be used for short-term care and for diagnostic, evaluation, and referral services.

Five buildings with a total of 233 beds, one an alcoholism unit, will be devoted to treatment of the mentally ill. All will be admission units, generally designed for short-term care and treatment, although long-term treatment will also be available. Outpatient services will also be offered.

Annex Gets New Name

On Sept. 1, the Vernon Center will also assume administration of what is now the Vernon Annex of the Wichita Falls State Hospital. The annex, to be renamed Vernon Center South; will become a general psychiatric annex of the main campus. Its present services for geriatric patients will be continued as required.

The Vernon Center will serve a 14-county area, but will not include

Wichita County, served by Wichita Falls State Hospital.

When fully staffed, the two Vernon center locations will have about 350 employees, including five physicians and psychiatrists. A budget of \$1.9 million is planned for the first year of operation. The annual payroll will be about \$1 million.

Board Adopts MH/MR Services Policy Statement

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has adopted a policy to "encourage, support, and develop" comprehensive community services for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded across the state.

The policy statement, adopted by the board at its August meeting in Austin, is the first written departmental policy statement on plans to deliver uniform MH/MR community services to all Texans.

Mental health services will include alcoholism, drug abuse, and emotional problems of later life. Mental retardation services will include prevention, care, treatment, and amelioration services. Special emphasis will be placed on preventive programs and services to emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded children and adolescents.

Local Services

The board will support and cooperate with local governing bodies and community MH/MR boards of trustees.

See "Board Policy", page 4.

MARIONETTE THERAPY

Consultant Pulls Strings

It takes a special kind of person to get maximum security residents to take part in a marionette presentation of "The Three Little Pigs."

At Rusk State Hospital, that person is Mrs. Fanny B. Vanderkooi, consultant in rehabilitation therapy.

The petite grandmother, whose charm, energy, and enthusiasm are undiminished after a 48-year career as an occupational therapist, came to Rusk in June to develop new programs on the maximum security unit. Her work is part of Rusk's Hospital Improvement Project.

Beginning a Program

She began by getting residents of two "open" wards to use the occupational therapy workshop on the second floor of one of the maximum security buildings. She also established regular crafts classes for more restricted residents on four other wards.

Under her direction, ten high school and college-age student workers from Jacksonville and Rusk recently joined maximum security residents in staging the marionette show. It played to full houses at two performances.

Surplus Materials

Using surplus materials, Mrs. Vanderkooi's "boys" constructed the stage settings and backdrops. The student workers created and operated the marionettes.

Since therapy materials are both scarce and expensive, the imaginative instructor is constantly seeking anything that is surplus. "I work four days a week and spend the fifth day scrounging for materials," she said, smiling.

She regularly drives her own house trailer to Terrell State Hospital and other places to collect paper, rug and fabric fragments, lumber, and other items.

Marionette Therapy

By developing a simple method of constructing and controlling marionettes, Mrs. Vanderkooi has adapted them for use by the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

"Group involvement is the key to successful occupational therapy," she said. "Even minor tasks are important ways of drawing patients out and involving them."

Useful Experience

Mrs. Vanderkooi, a registered occupational therapist, holds a B.S. degree in

Fine Arts from Texas Woman's University and an M.A. in Art from the University of Southern California. She served two years in the VISTA program with the West Virginia Department of Mental Health, developed and directed the school of Occupational Therapy at Texas Woman's University, and organized and headed the department of rehabilitation therapy at Terrell State Hospital.

Her experience also includes occupational therapy work at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Walter Reed Army Hospital, the Houston Settlement Association, Stockton (Calif.) State Hospital, and the Dallas Home for Jewish Aged.

A widow since 1931, she has two married children and four grandchildren. She has traveled extensively by trailer in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.



COLORFUL MARIONETTES are displayed by Mrs. Fanny B. Vanderkooi, consultant in rehabilitation therapy at Rusk State Hospital's maximum security unit.

Meeting Slated for Community Center Boards, Personnel

Community center board members and personnel will meet in Austin Sept. 11-12 for a TDMHMR conference on community center mental health programs.

Gary E. Miller, M.D., deputy commissioner for mental health, TDMHMR, is coordinating the agenda for the sessions at the Sheraton Crest Inn.

A similar meeting will be scheduled later to discuss mental retardation programs for community centers.

Walker Appointed Superintendent at San Angelo Center

Billy R. Walker, Ph.D., assistant superintendent of Abilene State School for the past two years, has been named superintendent of San Angelo Center, TDMHMR.

His appointment was announced by Horace E. Cromer, M.D., chairman of the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

San Angelo Center, formerly McKnight State Tuberculosis Hospital, will be transferred to the TDMHMR on Sept. 1, and will begin accepting retardates Sept. 15. It will eventually house 590 residents.

"Dr. Walker's experience as a psychologist and as an administrator and clinical director at Abilene has proven his qualifications," said John Kinross-Wright, M.D., Commissioner, TDMHMR, who submitted the appointment to the board.

Dr. Walker, a native of Indiana, has experience in schools for the retarded in Texas and Louisiana and is former head of the Psychology Department and chairman of the Social Science Division of Howard Payne College in Brownwood.



WALKER

Key Personnel Seminars Set

Key personnel meetings are scheduled during September for mental health and mental retardation divisions of TDMHMR.

Superintendents of special schools and directors of state mental retardation centers will meet Sept. 15-16 at Corpus Christi State School.

State Hospital superintendents and directors of state mental health clinics will meet in Harlingen Sept. 24-26 at the Rio Grande State Center.

Keynote speaker at the Harlingen conference will be Robert H. Barnes, M.D., professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas Medical School, San Antonio.

WFSH JOINS CHAMBER

Wichita Falls State Hospital joined the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce after a campaign among staff members and patients to raise \$450 for the membership. It exceeded the goal by \$112.

SCENIC FACILITIES

Leander Center Growing

The Leander Rehabilitation Center, under construction 10 miles northwest of Austin, will provide a "change of scenery" for residents of state schools and state hospitals.

Now a clean, quiet, tree-shaded recreation and social facility, its 100 acres of woodland were once used by the State Hog Farm. Seven acres of woodland were landscaped as a camping and recreation area this summer.

Austin State School students used the center for three-day "Tent-a-Rama" camping sessions in July and August. They also took part in various supervised recreation programs, including fishing in Buttermilk Creek, picnics, games, and sports.

Residents from other TDMHMR facilities will begin using the center next year. Playground equipment has been installed in a tree-shaded area near the campsite. Another large camping area and hiking trails are under construction for use next summer.

Freddie Kaufman, acting business manager for the Leander Center, is supervising the landscaping work. Kaufman joined TDMHMR recently when the Leander Center was authorized.

'Manpower, Money' Theme for Institute

"Manpower and Money" is the theme of the American Psychiatric Association's Institute on Hospital and Community Psychiatry, Sept. 15-18 in Houston.

Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes will welcome out-of-state participants at the Institute's opening session Sept. 16.

The TDMHMR will host a coffee lounge in the Shamrock Hilton Hotel's exhibit area throughout the four-day conference.

Institute speakers include John Kinross-Wright, M.D., Commissioner TDMHMR, several staff members, and other Texas mental health leaders. Effective use of professional manpower, in-service training, new systems of delivery of services, drugs in treatment, budgets, and computer usage are among subjects for Institute sessions.

Personnel from TDMHMR facilities are coordinating arrangements and will make presentations at allied professional meetings preceding and following the Institute.



ENJOYING PLAYGROUND equipment at Leander Rehabilitation Center, a student from Austin State School swings with help from a recreation therapist.

Students Help TDMHMR

Approximately 380 high school and college students have participated in summer employment programs at TDMHMR facilities this summer.

Varied Duties

Serving in full-time and part-time capacities, the students have filled a variety of positions in fields ranging from maintenance to clerical to psychology. In addition to financial benefits, the students were introduced to career opportunities in MH/MR work while rendering services to TDMHMR facilities.

Comments Are Good

Comments from administrators indicate their satisfaction with the performance of the student summer employees:

Austin State School: "They worked very well with the residents and are appreciated by the residents and staff alike. Many are experiencing their first exposure to mental retardation, and this may influence their ultimate career goals."

Beaumont State Center for Human Development: "These people are a definite asset. The increase in retardates in our recreation program during the summer creates a need for additional employees for a short time. These students are the answer."

Lubbock State School: "All made outstanding contributions to our institution this summer."

VSC Delegates To Hear Governor

Governor Preston Smith will address representatives of 26 affiliated programs at the 11th annual meeting of the Volunteer Services Council for Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools, Friday, Oct. 3, at Big Spring.

Members of the Midland Auxiliary to the Big Spring State Hospital will honor the governor at a reception preceding the dinner.

Lloyd Jary, Jr., of San Antonio, VSC chairman, said the program on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the hospital auditorium, would conclude with the chairman's dinner and installation of officers.

Volunteers and staff of the new San Angelo Center, formerly McKnight State Tuberculosis Hospital, will hold open house Friday for delegates enroute to the conference.

Tours of Big Spring State Hospital are also scheduled for visitors prior to the Friday dinner.

Travis State School: "We effectively utilize these employees to complete needed, useful projects we could not complete otherwise."

Two New Satellite Centers Planned

Satellite facilities for nine South Texas counties are being established in Laredo and Kingsville by the Rio Grande Center, TDMHMR, Harlingen.

A Kingsville MH outpatient facility, serving Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties, has been awarded a \$188,515 staffing grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Laredo satellite will offer MH/MR services to residents of Webb, Zapata, and Starr counties. Federal grants will finance 75 per cent of the initial \$200,000 MH program, with 25 per cent contributed by the state.

Diagnostic and evaluation teams for the mentally retarded are already at work in Laredo under direction of Corpus Christi State School. Similar MR services will be established soon in Kingsville.

Day Care centers for the mentally retarded will be operative in both Laredo and Kingsville Sept. 1.

WHO'S WHO IN TDMHMR

Deputy Commissioner, MH: Gary Miller, M. D.

(This is the second in a series of articles explaining the role of administrators in the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.)

The Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services of the TDMHMR is Gary Miller, M.D. and state mental health clinics in Fort Worth and Dallas. He is responsible for recommending the appointments of

Appointed by the Commissioner for TDMHMR and confirmed by the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services is responsible for the administration of all state mental health facilities.

He reports directly to the Commissioner as supervisor of the programs of the state's seven mental hospitals, the Vernon Center, the Rio Grande Center at Harlingen,



superintendents and other key mental health personnel to the Commissioner and for directing the state's treatment program for mental illness.

Dr. Miller is also responsible for providing advisory and support services for community mental health programs throughout the state.

He was appointed Deputy Commissioner in July after holding the position in an acting capacity for two years.

BOARD POLICY . . .

(Continued from page 1.)

TDMHMR will offer advice, consultation, and assistance "both financial and otherwise" to local groups.

The department will provide outreach programs including satellite clinics, day care facilities, contract treatment services or direct operation of facilities in areas where no local resources exist.

Cooperation Stressed

The policy stresses coordination of local, regional, and statewide services so the state's citizens will receive uniform benefits, and particularly endorses a close working relationship between TDMHMR facilities and community centers.

Abilene State School Wins Softball Tourney

Abilene State School won first place honors in the annual softball tournament for state schools held recently at Lufkin State School.

The Mexia team was second and Lufkin was third. "Participant" trophies were awarded to teams from Austin, Denton, and Travis State Schools.

The trophies, provided by the Lufkin Civitan Club, were presented by W.W. Beaver, superintendent of the host school. Special events during the tournament included a watermelon feast and picnic.

PERSONAL MENTION

Cynthia Bishop, TDMHMR chief of nutrition and food services, has been awarded the 1969 Medallion of Merit Award from the food services division of the Kitchens of Sara Lee, Deerfield, Ill. She was also honored by a resolution in the Texas House of Representatives for "her distinguished service" in the TDMHMR system.

Vernon M. "Max" Arrell, director of the Program on Alcoholism, TDMHMR, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Members of the Texas Rehabilitation Association.

Agustin D. Lopez, M.D. has been named Director of the Hospital Improvement Program at Wichita Falls State Hospital by Bernard A. Rappaport, M.D., Superintendent.

Mrs. Anne Kohler, former vocational rehabilitation counselor at Austin State Hospital, has been appointed research utilization specialist in Texas for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Texas Education Agency.

JESS OSBORN . . .

(Continued from page 1.)

Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools, serving until the new TDMHMR board was created and he became one of its charter members.

Osborn and his wife, Grace, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary earlier this year.

They have two daughters, Mrs. John B. Coleman of Portales, N.M., and Mrs. Norma Lee Mayben of Stamford, Conn.

Texas Department
of Mental Health
and Mental Retardation



John Kinross-Wright, M.D.
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