

REPORT

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



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Comments from the Commissioner



John Kinross-Wright, M. D.

It is good for each of us, from time to time, to reflect upon our role in the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

We are a big agency. There are more than 12,000 of us on its payroll. The citizens of Texas have, in effect, hired us to do one job: to provide the best possible treatment for our mentally ill citizens and to care for and train those who are mentally retarded so that each may live his life in the most productive and enjoyable way.

That is our *only* job.

At times it may be difficult for some of us in jobs that do not involve direct contact with the patients or students to see just where we fit into the treatment picture. Certainly our professional people design and execute the treatment and training programs. But there is no employee who is more important in treatment than the attendant who spends more time with the patients and

(See "Comments," page 4)

Vernon Center Begins Out-Patient Service

The Vernon Center now offers out-patient services to residents of a 14-county catchment area.

The services are being coordinated by Melvin Thorne, chief of social services, and by Julian Bleeck, Ph.D., chief of psychological services.

The center is developing an out-patient program that will include family counseling, individual and group therapy, follow-up treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction, mental retardation services, consultation to community agencies, and geriatric adjustments.

LEGISLATIVE STUDY TO BEGIN

Governor, Speaker Name MH/MR Panel Members

Gov. Preston Smith and House Speaker Gus Mutscher have named six persons to a committee that will study mental health and mental retardation laws and make recommendations for legislation to improve them.

Mutscher also named three state representatives to a committee to study the need for creating a maximum security hospital for the criminally insane.

James Craft Joins MR Services Staff

James Craft has been appointed to a new position as assistant to Charles H. Martin, deputy commissioner for mental retardation services, TDMHMR.

Craft who assumed his new duties February 16 at the central office in



CRAFT

Austin, previously was assistant superintendent at Mexia State School. He has been on temporary leave from Mexia to complete requirements for a Ph.D. degree, which he is to be awarded by Baylor University in May.

His duties include working with the State Centers for Human Development at Amarillo and Beaumont and local MH/MR centers. He will work closely with all community services programs of the Department.

The MR deputy's other assistant, Stan Pinder, is now working primarily with the 10 state schools. His duties also include supervision of waiting lists and planning and development of MR out-reach programs.

The committee studying MH/MR legislation is a joint interim legislative committee made up of three lay members appointed by the Governor, three state representatives appointed by the Speaker, and three state senators to be appointed by Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes.

The citizen members appointed by Gov. Smith are Hale County Judge C.L. Abernethy of Plainview, Don Wooten of Snyder, and Mrs. Helen Jane Farabee of Wichita Falls.

The state representatives are W.S. (Bill) Heatley of Paducah, Hudson Moyer of Amarillo, and Harold Davis of Austin.

Hospital Study

Mutscher named Rep. Joe Allen of Baytown as chairman of a committee to study the possible creation of a maximum

(See "Committees," page 4)

Therapy Workshop Set for April 30

"Family and Group Therapy" is the theme of an April 30 workshop for psychiatric technicians at Austin State Hospital.

Scheduled in the hospital recreation hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the one-day program will include films and discussion sessions.

The workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Adrienne Kadushin, R.N., and Miss Linda Freeman, R.N., clinical specialists in adult psychiatry and mental health nursing.

A \$2 registration fee will be payable at the door. Psychiatric technicians from other TDMHMR facilities who wish to attend should contact Mrs. Maxine Wells at Austin State Hospital.

Job Program To Train 125 Retarded Texans

An on-the-job contract to prepare 500 mentally retarded workers in Texas, Maryland, New Jersey, and Washington for jobs has been announced by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The 15-month contract with the National Association for Retarded Children is funded with a \$252,233 grant under the Manpower Development and Training Act.

About 125 retardates will be recruited in each state for training at restaurants and hotels, factories, retail stores, laundries, and other service-type employment.

Employers will pay retardates prevailing rates for inexperienced workers until completion of training. Then, the retarded workers will be retained as full-time employees, with the same pay and status as other workers.

Trainees will be selected through Vocational Rehabilitation centers and state employment service offices.

Further information may be obtained from Nick Huestis, State Coordinator, On-the-Job Training Project, Texas Association for Retarded Children, 706-8 Littlefield Building, Austin, (512) 478-9835.

ABILENE VOLUNTEERS HEAR MARTIN

Teaching Is Key in MR

Charles H. Martin, TDMHMR deputy commissioner for mental retardation, discussed behavior shaping techniques and praised volunteer programs at a meeting of the Abilene State School Volunteer Council.

"Many times, the reason a retarded child does not learn to do simple things is not because he is incapable of learning, but because he has not been taught how," Martin said.

Behavior shaping, he explained, involves breaking down basic concepts into small steps and emphasizing each step, with a pat on the back or some candy as a reward.

Martin said the current trend is to

return a retardate to his community whenever possible.

"Institutions cannot take care of the total problem. There are 330,000 retardates in Texas. We would need 330 institutions of 1,000 beds in each," he said.

"We must develop community facilities to keep them out of institutions, to send them back into the community after rehabilitation."

Praising volunteers, Martin said, "People in this area should be proud of their volunteer program. Texas has the best volunteer groups I have seen. They do their part; they get involved."

PERSONAL MENTION

Warren Main of Austin has been named chief of the internal audit section for TDMHMR. Main has been with the system of hospitals and special schools and TDMHMR since 1950.

Roberto Mejia, M.D., is medical director for Corpus Christi State School. Dr. Mejia, a native of Colombia, is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, a Fellow of the American Medical Association and American College of Chest Physicians, and a member of the Texas Public Health Association and Texas Medical Association.

George R. Colvin has been named president of the Big Spring State Hospital Credit Union.

Ed Hinojosa is the new director of student life and training for Corpus Christi State School.

John Cobb, administrator, Texas Research Institute, is a new member of the board of directors of the M.D. Anderson Federal Credit Union, serving as secretary of the executive committee.

L.W. (Bill) Cain, superintendent of Abilene State School, is the new president of the executive board of the Chisholm Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Hill Returns As S-Tex. Coordinator

J. Lyle Hill has returned to San Antonio and his former position as TDMHMR regional coordinator for Southwest Texas.

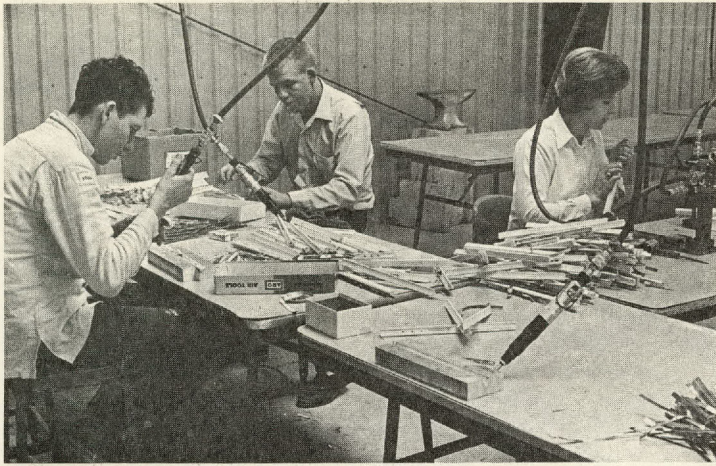
He had served as executive director of the Nueces County MH/MR Community Center in Corpus Christi for the past seven months.

Before joining TDMHMR, Hill directed the San Antonio Catholic Archdiocese's Neighborhood Youth Corps and Head Start programs. Previously he spent 20 years as an educator in schools in Kenedy, Refugio, McAllen, and Port Lavaca.

Robert E. Hendrix, Jr., who earlier succeeded Hill as regional coordinator in San Antonio, has assumed new duties with the TDMHMR central office in Austin as director of alcoholism programs.



MICKEY MANTLE autographed five dozen baseballs recently for students at Lubbock State School, and added his name to a sports celebrity collection for the school's trophy case. From left are Mrs. Anne Barasch, volunteer services coordinator; Mantle; F.T. Putman, manager of Globe Shopping City which donated the baseballs; and Bobby White, technical programs administrator.



MEXIA SCHOOL residents assemble thousands of items daily using step-by-step methods.



RETARDATES and factory representatives work together on workshop's assembly lines.

MEXIA RESIDENTS EARN SALARIES

Workshop Teaches Self-Esteem

The popping inside the big metal building sounds like hundreds of people stepping on crickets, but it is the sound of pride for dozens of residents of Mexia State School.

It means that they are earning money for the first time in their lives.

The sound is really the snapping shut of plastic capsules containing prizes that will fill vending machines. The work is being done by the school's students at the Cen-Tex On-Campus Workshop through a contract with the Graff Vending Machine Co. of Dallas.

Filling up plastic capsules with toy

Amarillo Group Builds Playhouse at Center

A new playhouse means new fun for young students at the Amarillo State Center for Human Development.

The playhouse was financed and built by the Texas Panhandle Builders' Auxiliary, an Amarillo women's group.

The women spent six months and \$1,000 building the full-size playhouse, which is on the children's playground at the center.

When the project was begun, the women's group consulted with Larry Sava, the center's physical education and recreation director. Sava's suggestions for furnishing the playhouse resulted in a decor of varied wall paneling, furniture decorated with storybook classics, a mirror, and toy animals made from rug material.

prizes all day might not sound like a desirable job to most people. But for a retardate, perhaps confined to a wheelchair, who has never had a job before, it is one of pride. The workers range from teen-agers to the elderly. There are no loafers. On a good day, 40 men and women will fill more than 500,000 capsules.

Nearby, other student workers put together pieces of electronic gear, one simple step at a time. They are working on a project subcontracted from Varo, Inc.

In another room of the 60 by 160-foot building, several women do ironing on a piece basis. It is all methodical work. It is work that someone must do. The Mexia State School residents do it well.

The on-campus workshop began operations in the new \$72,000 building three months ago. Don Johanson directs the operation, partially financed by a grant from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. Johanson has a staff of seven instructors. It will be expanded as required.

The workshop program is designed to provide a constructive wage-earning activity for Mexia State School residents, to give them a purpose in life. It is the first step for many toward beginning life outside the school as productive citizens. Currently, 172 residents work full or part time in the workshop.

Workers are paid on an hourly basis. Some work all day. Others work only a few hours. They get some of their

pay in cash. The rest goes into a trust fund for them. Those who gain confidence and skill can be transferred to jobs in town, either at the Cen-Tex Workshop for boys or the Cen-Tex Rehabilitation Center for girls.

Many may never leave the school. Still, they will have a job and the self-esteem that goes with it.

"The sheltered workshop program is one of the most beneficial ever added to Mexia State School," said Supt. Malcolm Lauderdale. "When you see the faces of the people working here, you see pride and purpose. When you see that, what more can you ask?"

State Hospital Patients Have Clothing Shop

The Fashion Shop is "open for business" at Wichita Falls State Hospital.

Patients staff the shop on industrial therapy assignments. Any patient may browse in the shop and select clothing which is free of charge.

The clothing is contributed to the hospital. It is then sized and displayed in the traditional department store manner.

The shop's racks, shelving, and cases were given to the hospital by Sears when the firm moved from its old building into new quarters in downtown Wichita Falls.

Mrs. Pauline Johnson and her assistant, Mrs. Dora Chaddick, supervise the Fashion Shop.

WHO'S WHO IN TDMHMR

Chief of Legal Services: Earl M. Scott

Earl M. Scott, Chief of Legal Services for the TDMHMR, is responsible for negotiating, drafting, and executing interagency contracts, treatment and planning contracts, leases, easements, and contracts involving departmental lands. He also prepares departmental directives and policy statements and interprets proposed legislation to legislative committees.

His division provides legal services to the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Commissioner, deputy commissioners, division heads,

and superintendents and business managers of TDMHMR facilities.



Scott is the Department's liaison with the State Attorney General's office in legal matters and requests for opinions.

Scott, who has an LLB (J.B.) degree from the University of Texas, is a member of the State Bar of Texas. He is a colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army Reserve.

He previously was chief of legal services for the Board for Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools.

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

PATIENTS RATE TREATMENT

TRI Pavilion Scores High

Treatment methods at the Center Pavilion hospital, psychiatric inpatient facility of the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences in Houston, received a high vote of confidence in a recent survey.

Just before being discharged, 100 patients were asked to rate their treatment and the operation of the hospital. The hospital received approval from a large majority of patients.

The rating scale was from 1 to 4, with 4 as the highest positive response. In response to the question, "Would you choose to return, if necessary?", 54 patients answered 4, and 30 answered 3.

The question, "Was the staff considerate and helpful?", received the highest positive response of all; 61-4, 27-3, 9-2, 0-1, with only three patients not answering.

Other questions rating patient approval included the governing committees through which patients augment the staff in running the hospital program; the color grading system in which patients determine their own privileges; and family reactions to the patient's care. Comfort, food, occupational therapy, and recreation were rated high. Day hospital arrangements and vocational rehabilitation received favorable, but lukewarm, reactions.

Comments. . .

(Continued from page 1)

retardates than anyone.

Just as important, however, are the business-oriented personnel, the secretaries, accountants, and the many others who make our organization function. The typist who does not take pride in preparing letters and reports can delay or destroy the work of many others. The mail clerk who is tardy may cause a patient to fail to receive a needed service or an administrator to make an important decision without the benefit of valuable information. This consideration extends throughout our entire organization, and applies to every person and every job.

Although our department is structured so that no one of us is indispensable, every employee is important to our overall success.

The quality of services we provide for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded citizens of Texas depends on each one of us doing his job to the best of his ability.

Committees. . .

(Continued from page 1)

security hospital, and Rep. Ralph Wayne of Plainview and Rep. R.B. McAlister of Lubbock as members.

Gov. Preston Smith will name five citizens to the hospital committee.

At present, the state's only special facility for the criminally insane is the maximum security unit at Rusk State Hospital. Because of limited facilities there, it is used to treat only male patients accused of committing major crimes.

Texas Department
of Mental Health
and Mental Retardation



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