



MAY 8 1969

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LOCAL MH/MR NOTES

192

Published by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Box S, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
512 453-7231

Vol. 1

April, 1969

No. 3

TEXAS MR PUBLICATION WINNER IN RSA CONTEST

Boomerang Friendship, a brochure published by the Governor's Interagency Council for Mental Retardation, has been selected a winner in the Rehabilitation Services Administration Publications Contest. Written by Bert Kruger Smith and illustrated by Betsy Warren, Boomerang Friendship is the story of Teens Aid the Retarded, a volunteer youth organization sponsored by the Associations for Retarded Children in Texas.

Dr. John Kinross-Wright, commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, is chairman of the Governor's Interagency Council for Mental Retardation. Stuart Fisher, M.P.H., director of the TDMHMR office of planning and program development, is director of the Council.

According to Fisher, 18,000 copies of Boomerang Friendship were given to the Texas Association for Retarded Children, Littlefield Bldg., Austin, Tex. 78701.

The deadline for the third RSA publications contest is Dec. 31, 1969.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY MH/MR CENTER MAY OFFER SERVICES IN JUNE, 1969

The Midland Community Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation may begin offering MH/MR services in June, 1969.

Plans for the center's first year of operation call for emphasizing three areas of service: mental health and mental retardation coordination, information, and referral services; mental health and mental retardation diagnostic and evaluation services; and mental health 24-hour outpatient crises counseling services.

A 90-page county report and community plan for MH/MR services has been prepared for submission to the Midland County Commissioners and to the Midland City Council.

PUBLIC MH/MR INSTITUTIONS INVITED TO JOIN AHA

Thirty-four institutions for the mentally retarded and 150 institutions for the mentally ill are members of the American Hospital Association.

The figures were quoted in the March 7, 1969, issue of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors newsletter by Harry C. Schnibbe, executive director.

According to Schnibbe, 91 institutions for the mentally ill and 30 institutions for the mentally retarded are "registered" with the AHA.

Schnibbe also pointed out that 87 MH facilities and 81 MR facilities have no affiliation with the AHA, and that in 11 states none of the MH/MR institutions have joined the organization.

Personnel from MH/MR facilities interested in joining the AHA should write Dr. Edwin L. Crosby, executive vice-president and director, American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

NASMHPD NOMINATES MH/MR COMMISSIONER TO WORK ON STATE PLANS FOR CENTERS

John Kinross-Wright, M.D., commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, is one of three state program directors nominated to work with the National Institute of Mental Health on proposed guidelines for state plans for community mental health centers.

The other nominees are Dr. William Sheeley, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Mental Health, and Dr. Hans Schapire, chief, division of psychiatric services, Colorado Department of Institutions.

UT OFFERS GRANTS TO SPECIAL ED STUDENTS

Almost \$500,000 in grants will be available to students of special education at The University of Texas at Austin.

The department of special education is accepting applications for students studying to be counselors of mentally retarded, visually handicapped, emotionally disturbed, and physically handicapped students, as well as of students with learning disabilities.

Included in the grants are summer and long-term traineeships for graduates and undergraduates and fellowships for graduate students.

Applications and additional information are available from the Department of Special Education, The University of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712.

DALLAS MH/MR CENTER COOPERATES WITH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Dallas MH/MR Center reports that the County Health Department's offer to provide the equivalent of two registered nursing positions in mental health for Catchment Area VI was accepted for the county portion of the area outside the city.

This service will cost approximately \$13,250, with the travel allowance being paid by the County Health Department.

The nurses will be active in clinic, community, and home mental health services.

PSYCHODRAMA INSTITUTE TO BE HELD IN HARLINGEN

The third annual Moreno Psychodrama Institute will be held in Harlingen on April 17-19. Dr. J. L. Moreno, founder of psychodrama and a pioneer in the development of group psychotherapy, will direct the Harlingen meetings. Assisting him will be Zerka Moreno, general manager and director of training, Moreno Institute, Beacon, N.Y. Trained leaders will conduct small group sessions.

The Psychodrama Institute will be sponsored by the Rio Grande Valley Mental Health Foundation and the Rio Grande State Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. For further information contact Tom Laws, ACSW, Rio Grande MH/MR Center, 2115 N. 28th St., Harlingen, Tex. 78550. — From Mrs. Alma Cocke, C.V.C.

SIX MORE TEXAS CITIES HIRE COUNSELORS FOR ALCOHOLICS

Waco, Corpus Christi, Beaumont, Wichita Falls, Amarillo, and El Paso have hired counselors to work with alcoholics referred by community resources, by state hospital personnel, and by the Department of Corrections.

Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Fort Worth already have such counselors.

**TARC 1969 CONVENTION
SCHEDULED APRIL 25-27**

The Texas Association for Retarded Children will hold its nineteenth annual convention at the Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells, April 25-27.

The program for the three-day conference is reflected in its theme, "Edge of Change."

Speakers will include Dr. James Gallagher, associate commissioner, Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, U.S. Office of Education, H.E.W.; Frank Hayden, executive director of Special Olympics, Inc.; Dr. Philip Roos, executive director, National Association for Retarded Children; and Don L. Partridge, director, division of special education, Texas Education Agency.

The registration fee of \$13 includes charges for a fellowship night, the president's banquet, and an awards luncheon.

**NIMH ADMINISTRATOR
WINS FLEMING AWARD**

Bertram S. Brown, M.D., deputy director of the National Institute of Mental Health, is one of 10 winners of the 1969 Arthur S. Fleming Awards. Named in honor of the former secretary of health, education and welfare, the Fleming awards are given to five outstanding young men in government administrative and executive posts and to five in scientific or technical fields.

The only physician among the 1969 winners, Dr. Bertram was named the "Outstanding Young Administrator."

**SAN ANTONIO STATE HOSPITAL
ADDS NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT**

The department of nuclear medicine at the San Antonio State Hospital, formerly the radioisotope laboratory, will be directed by Dr. D. S. Garcia-Romeu.

As chief of the laboratory and pathologist, Dr. Garcia-Romeu is licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission to use radioactive materials for diagnostic procedures.

The SASH medical staff will use radioactive substances in diagnosing tumors of the brain, of the liver, and of other organs by detecting the radioactivity with sensitive instruments.

The nuclear medicine staff will also use radioactive iodine to diagnose thyroid disorders and will be able to diagnose pernicious anemia, to study the functions of the pancreas, and to determine the volume of blood and the quantity of water lost.

**UT NURSING SCHOOL TO SPONSOR
PSYCHIATRIC NURSING CONFERENCE**

"Clinical Conference in Psychiatric Nursing," sponsored by The University of Texas Nursing School in cooperation with the Waco Veterans Administration Hospital, will be held in Waco, April 27-May 2 and Sept. 7-12. Dr. William E. Field, director of the UT psychiatric nursing program, and Miss Bonnie Richelman, assistant professor of psychiatric nursing, will be the classroom and clinical instructors.

Enrollment will be limited to 30 participants per conference, and a registration fee of \$25 will be charged. Pre-registration is required. For further information contact Dorothy Blume, The University of Texas Nursing School, Austin, Tex. 78712.

**MENTAL RETARDATION PUBLICATION
IS AVAILABLE THROUGH NICHD**

The Social Sciences and Mental Retardation: Family Components is a 41-page publication available free from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Write NICHD, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

HEW PUBLICATION MEASURES NATION'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Toward a Social Report is the federal government's first attempt to measure and to evaluate systematically the social well-being of the nation. Issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the 198-page document is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, for 55 cents.

The report includes the following seven areas for initial study and observation: health; social mobility and opportunity; the physical environment; income and poverty; public order and safety; learning, science, and art; and participation and alienation.

MISSOURI DIVISION OF MENTAL DISEASES REPORTS ON EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN

A Major Mental Health Problem: Missouri's Emotionally Disturbed Children *is the title of the annual report, 1967-68, published by the Division of Mental Diseases of the Missouri Department of Public Health and Welfare.*

The report describes the growth of services for children and adolescents in Missouri and describes and illustrates the state's residential building program.

TEXARKANA MH/MR CENTER HIRES PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

Mrs. Leslie Merriwether, a psychiatric nurse from Dallas, has joined the staff of the Texarkana Regional MH/MR Center.

Mrs. Merriwether has a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of New York at Buffalo and a master of science degree in psychiatric nursing from Texas Women's University. She also earned a diploma in nursing from the Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Buffalo, N.Y. — From Allan R. Cutting, ACSW.

HARRIS COUNTY MH/MR CENTER REPORTS CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center's new address is 726 Gillette, Houston, Tex. 77019. The center can be reached by telephone through the county switchboard, 228-8311, Ext. 7476. — From Merton Trast, executive director.

"LOCAL MH/MR NOTES" CORRESPONDENTS

Dr. Paul Southern, Abilene Area Center for MH/MR; Louise Evans, Amarillo MH/MR Regional Board of Trustees; John B. Spragens, MH/MR Center of Austin-Travis County; Mrs. Sharon L. Grimm, Brownwood MH/MR Center; Mrs. Elizabeth Woodley, Central Plains Comprehensive Community MH/MR Center, Plainview; Henry Freeman, Galveston County MH/MR Services, Hitchcock; James R. Young, MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas, San Angelo; Merton Trast, Harris County MH/MR Services; Marion Shirah, Hidalgo County MH/MR Services; Vergia Mae Musselwhite, Jefferson County Community Center for MH.

Allan R. Cutting, Northeast Texas MH/MR Board, Texarkana; Mrs. Harold Vexler, Northwest Community Center, San Antonio; Mrs. J. G. Bryson, Nueces County Community Center for MH/MR, Corpus Christi; Gary K. Smith, Smith-Wood Counties Center for MH/MR Services, Tyler; G. Clark Anderson, Tarrant County MH/MR Center, Fort Worth; Mrs. Mary Whitmore, Waco-McClennan County MH/MR Center; and Mrs. Dick Gose, Wichita Falls Community Center for MH/MR Services.

Items for *Local MH/MR Notes* should be forwarded to Communications, TDMHMR, prior to the end of each month for inclusion in the issue for the following month. Address such correspondence to *Local MH/MR Notes*, Communications Division, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Box S, Capitol Station, Austin, Tex. 78711.