



NOTES

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The TEXAS DEPARTMENT of MENTAL HEALTH and MENTAL RETARDATION
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STUDY SHOWS TEXAS 6th IN NATION FOR SPENDING ON LOCAL MH CENTERS

State spending for community mental health facilities in Texas has risen in two years from last to sixth in the nation, a study by the National Association of State Mental Health Directors shows.

Through the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, state spending for community mental health centers currently totals \$3.5 million a year. Until 1967 no state funds were allocated for community facilities.

The 1969-70 budget will be determined by the Texas Legislature, which will meet in special session this month.

Texas ranks 15th in per capita spending, with an average of 32 cents per capita a year, for community mental health services.

Sixteen of the 41 states reporting in the national survey spend less than \$1 million annually, and nine allocate no state funds to community mental health facilities.

John Kinross-Wright, M.D., commissioner, TDMHMR, said Texas now has one of the fastest-growing community mental health programs in the nation and that increasingly higher budgeting for community facilities can be expected.

Centers are now in operation in 15 Texas communities. Nine have become operational since September, 1968, and another is ready to open.

HOG FARM, McKNIGHT HOSPITAL CONVERTED INTO TDMHMR CENTERS

The 61st Legislature converted two state facilities into TDMHMR centers.

The McKnight State Hospital for tuberculosis patients at San Angelo will be transferred from the Department of Health as the San Angelo Center, effective Sept. 1.

The TDMHMR State Hog Farm near Austin is now the Leander Rehabilitation Center, a social and recreation facility for the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

SOUTH TEXAS MH/MR LEADERS PLAN CHILD MEDICAL CENTER

South Texas MH/MR leaders plan to develop a comprehensive child medical center for their region by coordinating and expanding medical facilities for children in Corpus Christi.

McIver Furman, M.D., chairman of the Driscoll Foundation Board of Trustees, said the center is expected to become the most comprehensive of its kind in Texas, and possibly in the nation.

MH RESEARCH CENTER IN FORT WORTH TO CONTINUE TREATING DRUG ADDICTS

The Mental Health Clinical Research Center in Fort Worth will continue to treat narcotic addicts until an adequate number of community MH centers are established, federal officials have announced.

Robert Finch, secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, cancelled an earlier HEW report that the hospital would close. He said his department would help speed the development of local MH services.

WHITE TO DIRECT RICHMOND SCHOOL, GARMS TO DIRECT AMARILLO CENTER

H. Russell White, director of the Amarillo State Center for Human Development since 1967, assumed duties as superintendent of the Richmond State School on July 14.

At the same time, **Eugene W. Garms**, assistant superintendent of the Richmond school, became director of the Amarillo center.

Before coming to Texas in 1965 as director of the Hospital Improvement Project at Travis State School in Austin, White held various positions in the mental health and mental retardation field in Tennessee.

Garms, a native of Iowa, worked at schools for the retarded in Washington before coming to Texas in 1968 as assistant superintendent at Richmond.

CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR MH/MR CENTERS IS AUG. 31

Applications for 1969 federal funds to construct community mental health centers and mental retardation facilities must be submitted to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation by Aug. 31.

Grants for constructing MR facilities are authorized by Federal Public Law 88-164, Title I, Part C, as amended, while grants for community MH centers are authorized by Federal Public Law 88-164, Title II, as amended.

TDMHMR's responsibilities in administering the federal program include processing applications for grants and publishing the *Texas State Plan for Construction of Community Mental Health Centers* and the *Texas State Plan for Construction of Facilities for the Mentally Retarded*.

Further information is available from **J. Eugene McKee, A.I.A.**, supervisor, Community Facilities Construction, TDMHMR, Box S, Capitol Station, Austin, Tex. 78711.

TDMHMR REGIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION ANNOUNCES TEAM OF MH/MR CONSULTANTS

The TDMHMR Regional Programs Division has completed its team of consultants consisting of a psychologist, a social worker, and a psychiatric nurse.

Jim Hale, who holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and will complete his Ph.D. in educational psychology in October, joined the staff on July 1. Hale served numerous Texas communities as a consultant while studying at The University of Texas.

John Sims, A.C.S.W., will assume duties as a social work consultant Aug. 1. He spent the last eight years in Baton Rouge, La., working with state MH/MR facilities and community MH/MR centers and teaching at the university level.

Donna Stevens, R.N., psychiatric nurse, has been employed since February. She is in constant demand by regional coordinators for professional "back-up" as community programs and centers develop.

BEAUMONT, JEFFERSON COUNTY PLAN COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOLIC PROGRAM

The Beaumont Council on Alcoholism and the Jefferson County Community MH Center are developing a comprehensive alcoholic program.

Mrs. Emma Joe Falk is writing a program proposal, and consultants are **Winston Cochran, M.D.**; **Mrs. Liska Lyons**, executive director of the Beaumont council; and **Bob Sanders**, field representative of the Texas Commission on Alcoholism.

GREATER WEST TEXAS MH/MR CENTER CONDUCTS DAY CAMP FOR RETARDATES

The MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas sponsored a two-week day camp in June for 33 mental retardates from 7 to 27 years of age.

Boyd Smith, camp director, was assisted by Girl Scouts, Angelo State College students in special education classes, and volunteers. — **James Young**

NEW MH/MR PROGRAM TO REPLACE PHARR'S VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

A new program of community MH/MR services will replace the Valley Community Center at Pharr when it closes July 30.

Frank Alford, A.C.S.A., director of the center, will meet with **Richard Bruner**, South Texas regional coordinator, representatives of the Hidalgo MH/MR Center, and three Mexican-Americans from a local low-cost housing area.

BEXAR COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT RESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTY MH CENTERS

The Bexar County Hospital District and the Bexar County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board have let a contract giving the hospital district exclusive responsibility for the county's mental health centers.

The hospital district will plan, develop and operate, or contract for the operation of the mental health centers. State grants-in-aid will be channeled through the MH/MR services board for the district's use for centers.

HILL COUNTRY CENTER TO PROVIDE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES TO 11 COUNTIES

Eleven counties will receive psychiatric services at the local level when the Hill Country Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation opens in Kerrville in September.

Supervised by **Luther Ross, M.D.**, superintendent of the Kerrville State Hospital, the center will serve Mason, Llano, Blanco, Gillespie, Kimble, Sutton, Real, Edwards, Kendall, Kerr, and Bandera counties.

Among the psychiatric services to be offered are diagnostic testing, counseling, and occupational therapy. The staff will include an alcoholism counselor and a specialist in counseling emotionally disturbed adolescents.

GONZALEZ, RAGLAND APPOINTED TO STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jose L. Gonzalez, M.A., of Laredo and **G. R. Ragland, Ph.D.**, of Prairie View have been appointed to the State Advisory Council for Construction of Community Mental Health Centers and Community Mental Retardation Facilities.

Gonzalez is the administrator of the Laredo-Webb County Health Department. Ragland is head of the Department of Sociology at Prairie View A&M College.

TARRANT COUNTY MH ASSOCIATION PROVIDES HALFWAY HOUSE SERVICES

The Fairchild House, a rehabilitation residence for former mental patients of Tarrant County, opened June 19.

Sponsored by the Tarrant County Association for Mental Health the halfway house now has space for 10 residents. Funds are available through the Tarrant County MH/MR Center for expansion within six months for the facility to house 15 men and 15 women. — **G. Clark Anderson**

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION PROPOSES NETWORK OF CHILD CENTERS

The Joint Commission on Mental Health of Children has proposed that the federal government fund a network of 60,000 comprehensive child centers, with one center for every 1,000 American families.

The recommendation, described in a forthcoming report, has been endorsed by the American Psychiatric Association Task Force.

TEXAS A&M, TDMHMR CO-SPONSOR MH/MR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

A community MH/MR educational program is being developed by the Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Initiated by county extension agents and county program building committees, the pilot program will involve 42 Texas counties. It is designed to develop public awareness, interest, and concern for mental health and mental retardation, and to inform Texans, especially those in rural areas, about available MH/MR services.

Bandera County is the first of 11 counties in the Kerrville-Hill Country area and one of the first in the state to organize an MH/MR educational program.

DALLAS COUNTY MH/MR CENTER EXPANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Dallas County MH/MR Center has opened a summer day care center for 20 children in Mesquite. A project of the Educational Services and Extended Care Service, the day care center complements programs for 65 children in three other centers.

The District VI Adult Mental Health Center in Dallas County, now in full operation, provides inpatient, outpatient, and day care services. It has facilities for 8 inpatients and 10 day care patients, and an increasing number of outpatients are receiving medication and individual therapy.

Two appointments to the local board of trustees were recently announced by the Dallas County commissioners. They are **Frank Greenhaw** and **R. A. Hester**. — **Robert H. Dovenmuehle**

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM STARTED FOR RETARDATES IN NUECES COUNTY

Mentally retarded children in Nueces County are being provided an extensive recreational program including day camps and field trips.

The program is sponsored by the Coastal Bend Opportunity Center in conjunction with the school system, Park and Recreation Department, Wesley Center in Robstown, and Our Lady of Pilar Catholic Church in Molina. The program is the first of its kind in the county.

Organized activities for the retardates are held at five locations, and transportation is provided for those who need it.

Baldomar Garcia, recreation director of the Coastal Bend Opportunity Center, is in charge of the countywide project. This center is supported by state funds obtained through the Nueces County MH/MR Community Center. — **Mrs. J. G. Bryson**

CENTRAL TEXAS MH/MR BOARD SEEKS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Brownwood-Brown County MH/MR Board is seeking community involvement in developing plans for services in Central Texas.

Board members hope to write their plan to meet area needs by Aug. 31. Through their planning office in Brownwood, they sponsored a series of articles in local news media about mental health and mental retardation needs, services, and professionals. — **Sharon Grimm**

HARRIS COUNTY MH/MR CENTER GETS GERIATRIC PROTECTION GRANT

The Governor's Committee on Aging has awarded a staffing grant of \$43,925 to the Harris County MH/MR Center.

Entitled "Protective Mental Health Services for the Aged Under the Authority of the County Judge," the grant is effective July 1. It will finance a program made up of specialist teams to protect, by voluntary intervention, people over 60 from neglect, abuse, physical danger, and exploitation.

The team will serve the Harris County Judge just as probation departments and child welfare units serve the Domestic Relation Court.

Mrs. Agnes McRoberts, director of the Harris County Mental Health Screening Service, will supervise the geriatric program. — **Merton Trast**

ROBERT HENDRIX JR. SUCCEEDS HILL AS SOUTHWEST REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Robert E. Hendrix Jr., of San Antonio, former assistant director of health planning for the Alamo Area Council of Governments, has been appointed TDMHMR regional coordinator for Southwest Texas.

Hendrix succeeds **J. Lyle Hill**, who resigned to become executive director of the Corpus Christi-Nueces County MH/MR Center. Hendrix will have his office in San Antonio.

'TEENAGE HOT LINE' IN TARRANT COUNTY PROVIDES LISTENER FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

"Teenage Hot Line," a program designed to provide trained listeners for troubled teenagers in Tarrant County, is in operation daily from 6 p.m. to midnight. The hot line number is 332-4383.

One of the program's goals is to assist youngsters who are using, or are tempted to use, dangerous drugs.

"Teenage Hot Line" will operate on an interim basis under the Tarrant County Suicide Prevention program until September, when both programs will be placed under the administration of the Tarrant County MH/MR Center.

HOMEMAKING STUDENTS EARN CREDIT BY WORKING WITH MENTAL PATIENTS

Junior volunteers from Harlingen High School are earning one-half credit in homemaking by working with the mentally ill two days a week.

Mrs. Alma Cocke, volunteer coordinator at the Rio Grande Center, and **Mrs. Toy Smith**, home demonstration agent for Cameron County, developed the program with the assistance of the school's superintendent and homemaking teachers.

MH PERSONNEL PLAN 21st INSTITUTE ON HOSPITAL, COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRY

"Manpower and Money" will be discussed by mental health personnel at the 21st Institute on Hospital & Community Psychiatry in Houston, Sept. 15-18.

Formerly the Mental Hospital Institute, the national conference will include speeches by national authorities on mental health, allied professional meetings, films, exhibits, and section meetings.

John Kinross-Wright, M.D., commissioner, TDMHMR, will be chairman of a section meeting on "Use of Psychotropic Drugs for the Whole Range of Mental Disorders."

Four TDMHMR staff members are arrangements chairmen of pre-Institute allied professional meetings. They are:

Mrs. Helen Colburn, chief of volunteer services, Central Office, in charge of the American Association of Volunteer Services Coordinators meeting, Sept. 12-15.

Donna Stevens, R.N., psychiatric nurse consultant, Central Office, in charge of the Psychiatric Nurses meeting, Sept. 15.

Mrs. Vieune Revolinski, O.T.R., Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences, in charge of the Psychiatric Occupational Therapists meeting, Sept. 14.

Hazel Casler, information specialist, Central Office, is treasurer and in charge of the National Association of State Psychiatric Information Specialists meeting, Sept. 13-15.

Preliminary Institute programs, advance registration forms, and hotel reservation cards are available from **Mrs. Dorothy B. Mathieson**, American Psychiatric Association, 1700 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

TEXAS HAS 15 OF 100 CENTERS OPERATING THROUGHOUT U.S.

Two-thirds of the nation will lack community mental health centers when 351 funded centers are in operation, according to a report in *Federal Grant News*, a publication of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Although every state has a plan for community centers, only 100 centers are operating, including 15 in Texas. Of the 351 centers, 178 are private, non-profit organizations and 173 are public.

Construction and initial staffing grants are available to public and private, non-profit organizations through the National Institute of Mental Health.

CENTRAL PLAINS CENTER OFFERS SUMMER SPECIAL ED PROGRAM

The High Plains Training Center for Children, the mental retardation unit of the Central Plains Comprehensive Community MH/MR Center, is conducting a summer school program for children in special education classes of the Plainview public schools.

Mrs. Eleanor Griffin, administrator of the six-week program, said 129 participants are receiving help in the basics of school work and participating in games, music and swimming.

The center's staff members are preparing for a site visit by TDMHR representatives early in fall. Mrs. Elizabeth Woodley, program planner, visited mental health centers in Eldorado and Pine Bluff, Ark., to study their concepts of community mental health services. She said both centers stressed the need for establishing and strengthening the five essential services before expanding. — Mrs. Elizabeth Woodley

DALLAS TEENS SEE FILM ON MARIJUANA

More than 8,000 Dallas teenagers have seen a film on marijuana and participated in question-and-answer sessions about drug abuse this spring.

The drug education program is sponsored by the Mental Health Association and the Timberlawn Foundation.

RIO GRANDE CENTER EMPLOYEE RECEIVES NAMH, TAMH AWARDS

Mrs. Romero Ramirez, an attendant at the Rio Grande Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, has received awards from the National and Texas Associations for Mental Health for her outstanding contribution in caring for the mentally ill.

AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY MH/MR CENTER COORDINATES MANOR HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel from the Austin-Travis County MH/MR Center and public health nurses are providing health services to the Manor area through the Well Child Conference.

Mrs. Thelma Elliott, director of social work services, and Charles Bounds, Ph.D., director of psychological services, are cooperating with concerned agencies to coordinate welfare, public assistance, legal aid, and other services in the Manor area.

Monthly half-day clinics will be held at a school building provided by the Manor School System.

Del Valle MH/MR workers hope to expand the program into their area. — John Spragens

TEXANS TO VOTE ON RAISING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CEILING

The annual ceiling on state funds for public assistance payments will be raised from \$60 million to \$80 million, if Texans approve Constitutional Amendment No. 5 in a special election Aug. 5.

If approved, Amendment No. 5 will allow the Texas Department of Welfare to receive more federal funds for assistance payments. It will also:

—Provide an additional appropriation of \$15 million annually for the next two years to serve dependent children and adults.

—Raise the amount for Old Age Assistance from approximately \$48 million to \$50 million annually.

—Raise the amount for Aid to the Disabled from approximately \$4 million to \$5.5 million annually.

—Raise the amount for Aid to Families with Dependent Children from approximately \$6 million to approximately \$18 million.

DR. WILLIAMS NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW VERNON MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Frankie E. Williams, M.D., psychiatrist and former clinical director of the Big Spring State Hospital, has been named superintendent of the Vernon State Mental Health Center.

Scheduled to open between Aug. 15 and Sept. 1, the center will serve the mentally ill and mentally retarded in 14 counties.

RETARDATEES, HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ENJOY AUSTIN'S OPERATION SUNSHINE

Operation Sunshine, a supervised recreation program for mentally retarded and handicapped children from ages 6 to 20, is being held this summer in Austin.

Sponsored by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the Austin-Travis County MH/MR Center, and the Austin Association for Retarded Children, the program will end Aug. 6. Sessions are held at Peace Park Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The children are supervised by volunteers and teachers from the Austin State School.

"LOCAL MH/MR NOTES" CORRESPONDENTS

Paul Southern, Th.D., 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; Robert H. Dovenmuehle, Ph.D., Dallas County MH/MR Center; 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. Hugh C. Whitmore, Waco-McLennan 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, TDMHR, 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.