



LOCAL MH-MR

NOTES

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MEMBERS OF LOCAL BOARDS, TDMHMR PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR CENTERS

Members of local boards of trustees and TDMHMR representatives are preparing rules and regulations for MH/MR services by community centers.

The group met in Austin Aug. 4 to prepare a preliminary draft of the guidelines, including the formula for budgeting state grants to community centers.

John Kinross-Wright, M.D., commissioner, TDMHMR, said "the principal purpose was to allow members of local boards to participate in carrying out provisions of the MH/MR act of 1965 as amended this year by the Legislature."

Dr. Kinross-Wright said copies of the preliminary draft of rules and regulations were sent to the chairmen of all local boards for their assessment and additional suggestions.

Representatives of local MH/MR boards from the 10 Texas regions at the meeting were: Ed Bridges, Austin, Capitol Region; Jack Jackson, Tyler, East Texas; Ernest Kershaw, Houston, Gulf Coast; Jerry Gilmore, Dallas, North Texas; Marion Shirah, Edinburg, South Texas; Richard Goldsmith, San Antonio, Southwest Texas; Kenneth Beasley, El Paso, Trans Pecos; James Young, San Angelo, West Central; and Louise Evans, Amarillo, Panhandle Region.

TWO NATIONAL HEALTH GROUPS DEVELOP DRUG INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Communities facing problems of drug dependence and abuse may request information from the American Social Health Association and the National Institute of Mental Health.

NIMH is using all news media to communicate information about drugs to Americans of all ages. Its target groups are youth in general, youth already experimenting with drugs, parents, adults who overuse amphetamines and barbiturates, and urbanites exposed daily to heroin addiction.

Information is available upon request from ASHA through its Southern Regional Office, 173 Walton St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga.

JOE THOMPSON WILL DIRECT TARRANT COUNTY MH ASSOCIATION

Joe E. Thompson, past president and former board member of the Abilene Association of Mental Health, is the new executive director of the Tarrant County Mental Health Association.

SEN. YARBOROUGH'S BILL FAVORS COMMUNITY MH SERVICES CONCEPT

U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas has introduced a comprehensive mental health bill that would extend and renew the Community Mental Health Centers Act that expires in 1970.

The bill proposes that the limitation of 51 months for staffing aid to centers be extended to 10 years at 80 per cent for the first two years and 65 per cent for the next eight years. It also authorizes \$975 million in federal funds over a five-year period to develop new mental health services.

Sen. Yarborough said urban and rural poverty areas need a "larger measure of federal assistance" and proposed that up to five per cent of the annual appropriations established by Congress in 1965 for staffing of mental health centers be set aside to make developing and staffing grants available to local, public, or private non-profit agencies in these areas.

The National Association of Mental Health drafted the bill at Sen. Yarborough's request.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WEEK TO BE OBSERVED OCT. 19-25

The 7th annual Community Health Week sponsored by the American Medical Association will be observed Oct. 19-25.

Conducted at the community level, the educational program of health care service is directed and will be observed by the nation's nearly 2,000 medical societies.

TDMHMR WILL SPONSOR CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY CENTER MH PROGRAMS

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

Participants will meet at the Sheraton Crest Inn at 9 a.m., Sept. 11 for the one-and-a-half day session.

Gary E. Miller, M.D., deputy commissioner for mental health, TDMHMR, is coordinating the agenda, which will be based on suggestions submitted by board chairmen. Presentations will include descriptions of crisis intervention efforts, partial hospitalization plans, innovative use of personnel, and outreach programs.

"Some exciting and effective projects are in operation across Texas and the Department would fail to do its job if we don't provide a method for community center staffs to share their success stories, and even their failures," Dr. Miller said. "One center's experience may be invaluable in shortening another center's route to success."

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

This issue of the *Notes* includes an insert on "The Policy for Delivery of Statewide Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services," adopted by the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Aug. 9, 1969.

BROWNWOOD MH/MR BOARD HOSTS MEETING FOR COUNTY JUDGES

County judges from seven Central Texas counties met recently with the Brownwood-Brown County MH/MR Board of Trustees and TDMHMR officials to discuss establishing a regional mental health center in Brownwood.

Mrs. George Grimm, program planner for the Central Texas area, presented statistics and research findings indicating a need for MH/MR services in the area. Other presentations outlined services and goals of Texas MH/MR centers.

Participants included officials from McCulloch, Mills, Coleman, San Saba, Comanche, Eastland, and Brown counties.

Board members planning the meeting included Harry Miller, Stuart Coleman, and Groner Pitts, all of Brownwood.

Representing TDMHMR were John Kinross-Wright, M.D., commissioner; Charles Eskridge, director of regional programs; Max Arrell, director of alcohol programs; Robert Vassallo, director for rehabilitation services; and Larry Mildren of Abilene, regional coordinator for West Central Texas. ■

BUS FOR DISTURBED YOUNGSTERS IS GOAL AS HOSPITAL STAFF COLLECTS GREEN STAMPS

Marjorie Lawliss, M.D., and a group of staff members at Austin State Hospital are collecting S&H Green Stamps to purchase a bus.

The vehicle would allow emotionally disturbed children at ASH to take excursions.

The drive began after the patients had to borrow a Salvation Army bus for an outing to Padre Island. The hospital's buses were too old to make the trip. ■

TARRANT COUNTY SCHOOL PERSONNEL ATTEND MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

A three-day mental health workshop for school personnel in Tarrant County was sponsored in Fort Worth this month by the Tarrant County Association for Mental Health.

Theme of the seminar was "Mental Health Is One, Two, Three." Sessions emphasized creation of "good" mental health in teaching situations. ■

HIGH PLAINS TRAINING CENTER GETS \$23,003 HEW STAFFING GRANT

The High Plains Training Center, Plainview, has received a \$23,003 grant from the Division of Mental Retardation of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The grant will be used to pay the salaries of professional and technical personnel. Other operating funds will be raised locally. ■

CHILDREN'S HOME IN PAMPA ACCEPTS MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The Happy Haven Children's Home in Pampa is accepting mentally and physically handicapped children from birth to 10 years of age. Exceptions to this age limit will be made in special cases.

Licensed by the State of Texas, the center is a non-profit organization designed to serve 18 children. Fees range from \$175 to \$225 monthly for 24-hour total care.

Mrs. Majaunta Hills, R.N., director of the home, said educable residents may attend special education classes at the local school. ■

INFORMATION ON HEALTH CARE ADAPTED TO INDIGENT WOMEN IN TARRANT COUNTY

Audio-Visual materials on maternal and child care and on availability of MH/MR services are being prepared for Tarrant County's indigent women of child-bearing age.

The project is sponsored by the Tarrant County MH/MR Center, in cooperation with the Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University.

The center will provide an audio-visual projector, adapted to serve individual viewers, to relay information about prenatal care, family planning, and the care of infants.—G. Clark Anderson ■

MIDLAND COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS TEMPORARY QUARTERS

The Midland Community Center for MH/MR has opened in temporary quarters at 1800 Wall St.

Office personnel include Mrs. Barbara Sandstrom, psychiatric social worker, and Mrs. Emmie Randolph, secretary. ■

SMITH-WOOD COUNTY CENTER RECEIVES MR SERVICES GRANT

The Smith-Wood County MH/MR Center is the recipient of a \$47,348 award for mental retardation services.

Central offices for the bi-county MH/MR services will be located in Tyler, with a secondary office in Quitman.

The grant from the Social and Rehabilitation Service of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will be matched by state and local funds to develop a \$91,000 mental retardation program.

The center will offer MH/MR services beginning Nov. 1.—Gary K. Smith ■

RUSK STATE HOSPITAL TRAINEES STUDY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hospital staff development trainees from Rusk State Hospital are studying the relationship among state hospitals, community centers, and the community.

Under the direction of Beth Banks, R.N., trainees are interpreting the responsibilities of the hospital and the role of community centers. Their projects included a field trip to the Summit Oaks Achievement Center for Disturbed Children in Laneville, Tex., a private community agency. ■

DESPONDENT STUDENTS AT UT TURNING TO 'LISTENING EAR'

The "Listening Ear" is manned by approximately 90 volunteer counselors interested in helping despondent students at The University of Texas at Austin.

A black-bordered ad in the student newspaper describes the "Ear" as "a friendly place where, in the late night hours, people who care will listen, over a cup of coffee, to whatever is troubling you."

The Rev. Bob Breihan of the Methodist Student Center, where the service is located, said the volunteers have no time for amateur psychology.

Most of the counselors are Austin residents, UT students, or local clergymen. UT psychiatrists and members of the Austin-Travis County Mental Health Association act as advisors. ■

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

Policy for Delivery of Statewide Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services

The Policy of the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is to encourage, support, and develop comprehensive services for the mentally ill and for the mentally retarded in or near the communities where they reside. Mental Health services shall include services to those suffering from alcoholism, drug abuse, and emotional problems of later life. Mental retardation services shall include services in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, and amelioration. The Board places special emphasis on the development of preventive programs and on services to children and adolescents, both emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded.

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation further declares that the Policy of said Board is and shall be to continue to cooperate with and to support local governing bodies and Boards of Trustees in those local areas where organized plans for the delivery of mental health and/or mental retardation services exist or are planned and that the resources of said Board and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall be pledged to the provision of advice, consultation, and assistance, both financial and otherwise, consistent with the Law and Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for the effective and efficient administration of such centers. The Board recognizes that the implementation of programs of services for the mentally ill and for the mentally retarded may require variable and unique approaches in their solutions.

Said Board further declares, in its concern for all Texas citizens, that in those areas where no local resources exist for prevention, care, and treatment, or where local agencies do not wish or are unable to provide services on a partnership funding basis, the Department shall provide these through outreach programs from institutions under said Board, including satellite clinics, day care facilities, contract treatment services, or direct operation of facilities, so that each Texas citizen, wherever he resides, may avail himself of his entitlement under the law.

The Policy of the Board shall be to coordinate all services whether local, regional, or statewide so that the citizens of this State shall benefit as uniformly as possible from the highest standards of care. This coordination shall extend to cooperation with all other agencies – local, state, and federal – engaged in activities which promote the health and welfare of the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. The Board particularly endorses a close working relationship between the Department's institutions and the community centers.

It shall be the Policy of said Board that such grant-in-aid and contract services funds as may be appropriated by the Texas Legislature for the purpose of supporting mental health/mental retardation services (including alcoholism programs and drug abuse) shall be disbursed fairly and equitably with due consideration to be given factors of population of the areas to be served, economic status, existing services, economic use of manpower and finances, and such other objective criteria as may be relevant.

Adopted by the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation on Aug. 9, 1969.

CLASSES FOR DISTURBED CHILDREN TO BE HELD IN CORPUS CHRISTI

Emotionally disturbed children in Corpus Christi schools will attend special classes on a part-time basis through the Child Treatment Center, to be opened in October.

Organized through the Coastal Bend Association for Mental Health, the program can accommodate 25 students daily.

Sponsors are the Corpus Christi public schools, First United Methodist Church, Coastal Bend Association for Mental Health, Corpus Christi Guidance Center, and the Nueces County MH/MR Community Center. ■

GROUND BROKEN FOR WACO HOSPITAL ; COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITIES INCLUDED

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$6 million New Providence Hospital were held July 24 in Waco.

Scheduled for completion in 1971, the hospital will include a \$2.4 million community MH/MR center offering comprehensive services. Quarters for the center's staff will also be provided

Joel Westbrook, chairman of the Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Board, is vice-president of the Providence Hospital Foundation. James R. Dolby, Ph.D., is the center's program director. — Bascom Hodges ■

NUECES COUNTY MH/MR CENTER ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY BUDGET

H. Lee Howell Jr., chairman of the Nueces County Board of Trustees, has announced a preliminary budget of \$554,732 for the Nueces County MH/MR Center during 1969-70.

Howell said \$347,654 of the funds were requested from the state and \$207,078 from local sources.

The center's mental health services budget is \$315,545, and the mental retardation services budget is \$177,553. ■

SAN ANTONIO MH CENTER GETS GRANT FOR NARCOTICS ADDICT TREATMENT CENTER

The Northwest San Antonio Mental Health Center has been awarded \$166,708 to help establish and staff facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of narcotics addicts.

The grant, one of the first of its type in the nation, was made by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare under the Public Health Service Act of 1968, which provides for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and narcotics addicts.

The center is expected to assist from 2,000 to 2,500 addicts in the San Antonio area. ■

BAYSHORE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES GRANTS, LOCAL FUNDS

The Bayshore Mental Health Center in Baytown has received a \$103,886 second-year staffing grant for mental health services and a \$49,216 federal staffing grant for mental retardation services to begin Sept. 1.

The center also received \$5,000 from the East Harris County Community Chest for support of mental health services.—Merton Trast ■

YARMAC, SHEPHERD JOIN STAFF OF WACO-McLENNAN COUNTY CENTER

Ed Yarmac, director of the Texas Special Olympics, is the new director of mental retardation at the Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center.

Charles Shepherd recently joined the center staff as psychologist. ■

DALLAS DRUG ABUSE COMMITTEE DEFINES PRELIMINARY GOALS

The Dallas Mental Health Drug Abuse Committee, appointed by County Judge Lew Sterrett, has defined its preliminary plans and goals:

—To treat resulting illnesses of drug abuse and to plan preventative public health measures.

—To work with other concerned groups to determine the present and future problems of drug abuse in Dallas.

—To study the drug problems and solutions in other cities and to examine existing facilities and personnel.

—To cooperate with agencies in developing a mental health education program and a system of evaluating plans and developments. ■

FREE FILMS ON MENTAL RETARDATION AVAILABLE FROM HEW SERVICE

Seventy-three films on mental retardation for professional audiences and 81 films for nonprofessional audiences are described in the *Mental Retardation Film List*.

Compiled for the Division of Mental Retardation of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the list includes information about film availability and distributors.

It is available free from the Social and Rehabilitation Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20201. ■

MIDLAND CENTER BOARD SEEKS HALFWAY HOUSE FOR ALCOHOLICS

The board of trustees of the Midland Community MH/MR Center is negotiating with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Texas Education Agency for a halfway house to aid alcoholics in the Midland-Odessa Area.

Local residents will raise funds for the project.

"This is a prime example of what a community can do when it is interested in the field of rehabilitation," said J. L. Thurman, regional VR director from Lubbock. ■

BEAUMONT MENTAL PATIENTS TO HAVE HALFWAY HOUSE

Beaumont citizens are raising funds for Land Manor, a halfway house where mental patients can readjust to living in a home-like environment away from hospital care.

Winston Cochran, M.D., medical director of the Jefferson County Community Center for Mental Health and psychiatrist-in-chief of the Beaumont Neurological Center, said Land Manor would be especially helpful for persons who need treatment away from their homes but have completed or do not need hospital treatment.

The two-story frame structure will accommodate up to 12 residents, each of whom will stay four—six months.

Supporters of the project have formed an auxiliary to raise funds for operating expenses and furniture. ■

RIO GRANDE CENTER TO ESTABLISH SATELLITES IN LAREDO, KINGSVILLE

Satellite facilities in Laredo and Kingsville are being established by the Rio Grande Center for MH/MR, Harlingen, to provide services for nine South Texas counties.

The Kingsville satellite will serve Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties. Mental health field workers will be stationed in some of the counties and services will be provided through contracts with local physicians. The Kingsville outpatient facility is funded by a \$188,515 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

When the Kingsville satellite is established, a diagnostic and evaluation team from Corpus Christi State School will begin regularly scheduled visits to provide services for the mentally retarded.

The Laredo satellite will offer MH/MR services to residents of Webb, Zapata, and Starr counties. The state is contributing 25 per cent of the initial funding for the \$200,000 Laredo MH program while federal grants will finance 75 per cent.

A diagnostic and evaluation team for the mentally retarded is already operating in Laredo under direction of the Corpus Christi State School. Two day care facilities will open in Laredo on Sept. 1. Retardation day care programs will also begin Sept. 1 in Kingsville, Harlingen, Alice, and Brownsville.

Ralph Osborn, director of outreach services at Corpus Christi State School, is conducting in-service training sessions for teachers involved in the six day care programs. ■

COMMUNITY MH FILM AVAILABLE

A new film, "A Community Mental Health Center—The New Way," may be obtained free on loan from the National Medical Audiovisual Center, Chamblee, Ga., or purchased from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 W. 55th St., New York, N.Y. ■

NEW SAN ANTONIO CLINIC OPENED FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

The Clinic for Children's Behavioral Difficulties has been organized at the Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio.

George Willeford, M.D., director, said a limited number of children with problems such as mental retardation, learning disabilities, and emotional difficulties will be seen at this diagnostic and treatment facility.

The clinic's staff will make a final diagnosis for patients and recommend a treatment program and prognosis to the referring agency. ■

HARRIS COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MATCH FUNDS FOR MH CENTER

A fund-raising campaign to establish a community mental health center in January, 1970, by matching a federal staffing grant with local money is being held in Harris County.

An Advisory Council appointed by the Harris County MH/MR Board of Trustees to serve Center Area 3 developed the plan. The Rev. Harry Johnson is chairman of the Council. ■

APPEAL TO MERCHANTS HELPS PROVIDE FURNITURE FOR CENTER'S THERAPY ROOM

The group therapy department of the Hidalgo County MH/MR Center is being furnished with items donated by furniture store owners in the McAllen area. ■

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC ESTABLISHED FOR OUTPATIENTS IN PARIS AREA

The Lamar Medical Center Advisory Board recently opened a Mental Health Clinic to serve residents of the Paris area.

The clinic, in the old Welfare Building behind the Medical Center in Paris, is staffed five days a week by a social worker and a secretary. A psychiatrist and social workers from Terrell State Hospital visit the clinic each Friday.

Approximately 30 persons who cannot get transportation to outpatient services at Terrell are being treated at the new facility. Additional outpatients are accepted on recommendation from local physicians.

The clinic staff is assisted by a recently organized Mental Health Auxiliary. — Hal Hart ■

SCHOOL PROGRAM PROVES SUCCESSFUL AT BEAUMONT NEUROLOGICAL CENTER

School-age patients at the Beaumont Neurological Center are fulfilling academic requirements in the city's schools with the help of tutors.

The patients receive private tutoring through the Beaumont Neurological School Program, organized in 1967.

Although originally intended for inpatients, the school program soon was expanded to include outpatients. Center residents receive free services, while outpatients are charged \$10 daily.

At the end of the program's first year, seven students were promoted and two were graduated from high school. In 1968-69, 23 students were promoted and six were graduated from high school.—Vergia Mae Musselwhite ■

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITY CENTERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN 3 COUNTIES

The Governor's Committee on Aging awarded a \$24,530 grant to the Kerrville State Hospital Volunteer Council for Senior Citizen Activity Centers in Kerr, Gillespie, and Bandera counties.

Mrs. Patricia Ernst is project director. Plans are to establish a demonstration center in Kerrville and activity centers in Gillespie and Bandera counties during the project's first year.

An outreach program will be expanded to include other communities during the second year. ■

"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, 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.