



LOCAL MH-MR

NOTES

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STATE MH/MR BOARD APPROVES GRANTS-IN-AID TO COMMUNITY CENTERS

The Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, at its December meeting in Austin, approved state grants-in-aid totaling \$125,789 to provide major first-year financing for three new community mental health and mental retardation centers.

The new centers, each serving a multi-county area, will receive funding for the 8-month period beginning January 1, 1970. The state grants were made to local boards of trustees that will have responsibility for operating the centers.

The grants are:

Smith-Wood County MH/MR Board of Trustees, Tyler (Smith and Wood Counties), \$40,359.

Gulf Bend Regional MH/MR Board of Trustees, Victoria (Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Refugio, and Victoria Counties), \$32,272.

Central Texas Community MH/MR Center Board of Trustees, Brownwood (Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, McCulloch, Mills, and San Saba Counties), \$53,158.

The grants were awarded on the basis of a formula which uses the number of citizens served by a center as the primary consideration. Local MH/MR centers are required to provide matching funds of between 20 and 40 percent of the state funds to qualify for the grants, which extend through August 31, 1970. ■

TWO RETARDATION PROGRAMS SCHEDULED IN HARRIS COUNTY

Two new mental retardation programs began recently in Harris County. The Mental Retardation Unit of the Bayshore MH/MR Center opened and the mental retardation services at the Baytown Opportunity Center were expanded.

The projects have been approved for federal staffing grants and matching local funds will be provided by the Harris County MH/MR Board of Trustees.

Services provided by the Mental Retardation Unit of the Bayshore Center will include diagnosis and evaluation (infancy through adult), psychological services, medical examinations and consultation, home visits, counseling for parents and children, state school applications and referrals, consultation, education, and speech therapy. The Unit will also provide psychological testing and related services under a contract with Baytown schools.

The Baytown Opportunity Center is expanding its training, workshop and vocational and educational programs. The Center serves children from ages 4-18 and the workshop serves adults. ■

YARMAC APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF TEXAS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Edward Yarmac, director of mental retardation services for the Waco-McLennan County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, Waco, has been appointed state director of the 1970 Special Olympics program for Texas, by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. Texas will receive a \$1,100 Foundation grant for the program.

Yarmac directed the state's first Special Olympics June 7, 1969, in Waco at which more than 240 mentally retarded athletes received awards.

The Special Olympics program was developed by the Kennedy Foundation to promote sports and athletic competition for mentally retarded children. Last summer more than 50,000 retarded children took part in eight Regional Special Olympics in the United States and Canada; more are expected to participate next summer. According to Frank J. Hayden, Ph.D., director of Physical Education and Recreation for the Foundation, "The success experienced by these children on the athletic field forms the basis for success at school, at home, and on the job. The Special Olympics program can be the beginning of a happy and constructive life within society, not separated from it."

Co-Sponsors of the Texas Special Olympics are the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce, TDMHMR, Texas Education Agency, Texas Association for Retarded Children, and Texas Teens-Aid-Retarded. ■

TARRANT COUNTY CENTER INCREASES STAFF

Tarrant County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, Fort Worth, has recently hired eight new employees. They are Nina Holliday, secretary; Connie Glover, Carol Hagar, John Lytle, William Moore, and Kathleen Dulin, field counselors; Carol Walker, records clerk; and Diana Williams, receptionist.

The five field counselors contact individuals who have called the Center's Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Service. ■

TDMHMR HAS NEW PHONE NUMBER

The TDMHMR Central Office headquarters in Austin has a new telephone number.

The new number for all incoming calls to Central Office is:

(512) 454-3761

The new number coincides with the distribution of new telephone directories for the City of Austin, telephone company officials noted.

DALLAS POST OFFICE CITED FOR HIRING 17 RETARDED PERSONS

The Dallas Post Office received the sixth annual "Employer of the Year" award presented by the Dallas Association for Retarded Children.

The Dallas Post Office was cited for employing 17 retarded persons as mail handlers to load and unload mail trucks and distribute mail sacks. All 17 have been working at the Post Office since 1964, except for two who served in the Armed Forces and returned after their discharges, and a third who is still on active duty.

The award was accepted by Roy Frederick, general superintendent of mails, at the association's annual banquet, Nov. 13.

Employers cited as runners-up included the Neiman-Marcus Zodiac Room, which has hired five retarded persons for various kitchen jobs; and Parkland Hospital, which has a retarded employees' training program. Retarded employees do such jobs as wheeling patients to x-ray rooms. ■

HASKELL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY HEARS PROPOSAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Members of the Haskell County Medical Society have given "unanimous and enthusiastic" approval to a proposed mental health clinic in Haskell.

As outlined by Frankie Williams, M.D., superintendent of the Vernon Center, the clinic would operate as an outreach program of the center and would serve residents of Haskell, Throckmorton, and Stonewall Counties.

A full-time caseworker and clerk and a psychiatrist working on a half-day a week basis would staff the proposed clinic. Physicians in Haskell would hold medication clinics. ■

KERR COUNTY MH/MR PROGRAMS BEING DEVELOPED BY PLANNING GROUP

The appointment of a Mental Health and Mental Retardation Subcommittee for Kerr County was recently announced by Warren Klein, chairman of the Kerr County Program Building Committee, Kerrville.

The subcommittee, with Mrs. Pat Ernst, volunteer coordinator at Kerrville State Hospital, as chairman, will develop plans for educational programs in mental health and mental retardation for the county. The programs will be based on a study of existing county problems, identifying the most urgent to determine the program's priorities.

The subcommittee will be assisted in studying the county situation, planning and conducting the program by the Kerr County Agricultural Extension Agents and resource persons from Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service and the TDMHMR. ■

KOUNTZE GETS OUTREACH CLINIC

An outreach clinic supported by Rusk State Hospital is now operating in Kountze. Located in the county court house building, the clinic serves residents of Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, Trinity, and Liberty Counties.

Al Bolch, M.D., Port Arthur psychiatrist, and John Tate, M.D., of Rusk State Hospital, are serving the clinic on a one-half day per week basis. ■

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CENTERS AFFECTED BY BUDGET BUREAU CLEARING HOUSE

A new network clearing house system for federal grant applications affects programs including community mental retardation facilities and mental health center construction, vocational rehabilitation facilities construction, and narcotic treatment center construction.

Under new regulations of the Bureau of the Budget, the clearing house will "aid in the coordination of federal or federally-assisted social, economic, and physical development projects and programs with state, regional, and local planning."

Any public agency, organization, or individual seeking federal aid in specified areas will be required to notify the clearing house in its state and region. ■

ABILENE PAPER WINS NAMH BELL AWARD

The Abilene Reporter-News has received an honorable mention award in the annual Mental Health Bell Award competition sponsored by the National Association for Mental Health. Ed Wishcamper, the paper's editor, accepted the award plaque from Cleve Cullers, president of the Abilene Chapter of NAMH. ■

YOUTH JOBS AID MH/MR INSTITUTIONS

Under the Neighborhood Youth Corps program of the U.S. Labor Department, funds are available to pay salary costs of jobs for disadvantaged youngsters.

During the summer, more than 1,000 youths were employed for institutional and conservation work in Pennsylvania. Nearly half were placed in clinical positions at state mental hospitals and state schools and hospitals for the mentally retarded.

The young people are hired on cost reimbursable contracts with the federal government. The employing agency submits a monthly invoice, pays 10 percent of the cost, and receives 90 percent from federal sources. In addition to assisting disadvantaged youths, the program is also considered as an opportunity to interest them in health service careers. ■

ABILENE CLINIC EXPANDS SERVICE HOURS

The Taylor County Mental Health Clinic in Abilene is now open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An outreach program of Big Spring State Hospital, the Saturday clinic is directed by Charles Bray, M.D., a psychiatrist at the MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas in San Angelo. Dr. Bray is assisted by Bill Rickman, Ph.D., a psychologist from the San Angelo MH/MR Center. ■

BROWNWOOD MH/MR OFFICE MOVES

The Central Texas Mental Health and Mental Retardation planning office in Brownwood has moved to the Brownwood-Brown County Health Department at 100 Melwood Ave.

The office's telephone number remains the same—646-8337.

Mrs. George Grimm is program developer for MH/MR in Brownwood. ■

HILL COUNTRY STATE CENTER SERVES TWELVE-COUNTY AREA FROM KERRVILLE

The Hill Country State Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation is now in operation in Kerrville at the Callcott House on West Water Street. The center serves Mason, Llano, Menard, Gillespie, Kimble, Sutton, Edwards, Real, Kendall, Bandera, and Kerr Counties.

The Center provides psychiatric services for the mentally ill, diagnostic testing and counseling services for the mentally retarded and for adolescents with emotional problems, and a counselor to work with alcoholics. Some occupational therapy is offered. There are also activities for senior citizens.

Kerrville State Hospital is setting aside 26 beds for a small number of patients who may need inpatient care. The patients will be treated and rehabilitated as quickly as possible and returned to their home communities. ■

ABILENE MH/MR BOARD REVIEWS REVISED PROPOSAL FOR AREA CENTER

The Board of Directors of the Abilene Area Center for MH/MR recently held a work session to review and correct a revised version of the proposed center's plan. Committees were assigned to work on the budget and work manual.

Board members attending were O.E. Harper, M.D., Pete Palasota, M.D., Mrs. W.R. Cree, Paul Southern, Th.D., Don Wooten, Mrs. T.C. Campbell, Allen Baird, and Harry Walker. Larry Mildren, TDMHMR regional coordinator for West Central Texas, also attended. ■

CHILD ABUSE LAW AMENDED

Greater protection for children who are physically abused, either through injury or neglect, has been provided by the Texas Legislature.

Formerly, only physicians were given legal immunity in reporting child abuse. The new amendment, passed by House Bill 926, extends immunity to school teachers, nursery school directors, social workers, registered nurses, and other persons making a report "without malice."

In addition, the amendment stipulates that child abuse reports be made either to the county attorney or to the nearest State Department of Public Welfare Office. ■

HARRIS COUNTY MH/MR BOARD MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

Members of the Harris County MH/MR Board of Trustees Medical Advisory Committee recently held an orientation meeting in Houston. The nine-member committee will act in an advisory capacity to the Board in relation to medical standards and practices. Representatives of the Harris County Medical Society, the Houston Psychiatric Society, the Baylor College of Medicine, and members from various fields of the medical profession serve on the advisory committee. ■

QUITMAN PRINCIPAL NAMED TO BOARD

William T. Black, Jr, Quitman high school principal, has joined the Board of Trustees of the Smith-Wood County Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Black, who is responsible for the creation of the Wood County MH/MR unit, succeeds James Freeman, M.D., who recently moved to Oklahoma. ■

SEMINAR HELD FOR UNION COUNSELORS ON COMMUNITY MH/MR SERVICES

Merton Trast, executive director of the Harris County MH/MR Center, conducted a recent seminar on community mental health and mental retardation services for 125 union counselors in Houston.

The counselors, all members of the Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO, are responsible for providing information on available community services to clients. They are also encouraged to participate as members of community service committees. ■

MARION SHIRAH APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HIDALGO COUNTY MH/MR CENTER

Marion Shirah has been appointed executive director of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center at Edinburg. Shirah, who assumes his new duties on January 1, 1970, was formerly director of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. He also served as vice-chairman of the county board for MH/MR for the past two years.

Bob Giles of McAllen, who has been serving as the center's executive director, has been named by the board as director of social services, also effective January 1. The new position has been established because of rapid expansion of social service aspects of the program. Giles, affiliated with the county MH/MR board since 1967, originally served as program developer.

Shirah said that he will be working for better public support of the center and closer coordination with TDMHMR. "We'll also be applying for federal funds for building expansion, staffing grants, inpatient facilities, partial hospitalization, day care centers, emergency services, family counseling, and referral services." Shirah said. ■

TEENAGE VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZED BY GAINES COUNTY MH CLINIC

A teenage volunteer group, the "Riderettes," has been established in Seminole to assist mental health programs of the Gaines County Mental Health Clinic. The Clinic, under the outreach supervision of Big Spring State Hospital, organized the group in conjunction with the Hospital's "Circuit Rider" volunteer program.

The Riderettes hope to expand the program eventually to other counties that have outreach clinics. Mrs. Betty Duncan, of volunteer services at Big Spring State Hospital, is assisting the new group. ■

MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH CLINIC IS PLANNED FOR BASTROP COUNTY

A new mental health outreach clinic is being established in Bastrop to serve Bastrop County residents. The clinic's primary function will be follow-up work with former patients of Austin State Hospital. It will also provide general mental health and mental retardation services.

Two full-time staff members, a nurse or caseworker and a clerk, will be employed and local physicians will provide medical coverage one-half day a week. Oscar Yero, M.D., director of the Galveston Psychiatric Unit of the Austin State Hospital, will provide continuing consultation and supervision. ■

SAN ANTONIO CLERGYMEN ATTEND COMMUNITY CENTER ORIENTATIONS

One hundred clergymen from the San Antonio area are receiving an orientation in the newly-expanded facilities of San Antonio's Northwest Community Mental Health Center. The orientations are funded by the Bexar County MH/MR Board of Trustees.

The lectures are sponsored by the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health. Fifty clergymen received their orientation last month and the remaining fifty will receive theirs early next year. ■

LAMPASAS CLINIC HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

The Lampasas County Outreach Clinic in Lampasas has begun its second month of operation as a satellite of Austin State Hospital.

The clinic, opened November 1, held an open house November 14. Ex-officio host for the event was County Judge R.L. Northington.

The staff includes Mrs. W.L. Hardin, R.N., director; Mrs. Irene Miller, office manager; and W.M. Brook, M.D., consultant physician.

W.O. Wheeler, M.D., director of the Texas Unit at Austin State Hospital, provides training, consultation, and supervision for the clinic which is co-sponsored by Lampasas County. ■

BEAUMONT YOUTH ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LAND MANOR HALFWAY HOUSE

The Columbian Squires, boys' branch of the Knights of Columbus in Beaumont, is collecting and assembling trading stamp books to aid Land Manor, Beaumont halfway house for the mentally retarded. The books of stamps are being donated by women of 20 Catholic parishes in the area to raise funds for the halfway house. George Robins, chief counselor of the Squires, speaking of the boys, said, "We are trying to help them gain a sense of reality and feel the pride of accomplishment." ■

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

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EL PASO MH/MR CENTER, HOSPITAL COOPERATE TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES

The El Paso Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation has reached an agreement with the Board of Managers of Thomason General Hospital on financing and providing facilities for outpatient psychiatric care. The Board of Managers will provide \$85,000, which will make up a portion of the \$118,500 in local matching funds needed to receive \$446,604 in state and federal funds for programs in El Paso.

Under terms of the agreement, the center will operate the Gilbert Annex of the hospital as an outpatient and day care facility for the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

Mrs. Robert Given is chairman of the MH/MR board and Ray Dwigans is chairman of the hospital board. ■

VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE TRAINING AT WACO

The Waco-McLennan County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, Waco, is offering a training program for volunteers who work with emotionally disturbed persons.

The training program consists of six two-hour sessions. ■

"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, M.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. ■