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NOTES

Published by the Texas Youth Commission

Austin banker named to Board

Governor William P. Clements, Jr. has appointed Marilla B. Wood of Austin to a six-year term on the Texas Youth Commission Board.

Wood, a Vice President of Texas Commerce Bank-Austin, replaces Susan Bush of Athens, whose term expired August 31, 1989. Senate confirmation will occur during the Legislative Special Session in November. Wood will begin her service on the Board at the September 14 meeting.

Wood received both a Bachelor of English and Government and her teaching certifi-

cate from the University of Texas at Austin.

Wood has served as Director of the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services, a columnist with the *Austin America-Statesman*, and an English teacher with the Austin Independent School District.

In addition, Wood is active in numerous civic organizations in Austin serving as a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Seton Hospital League House, American Red Cross and St. David's Hospital Health Care Foundation.



MARILLA B. WOOD
New TYC Board Member

Senator McFarland, Representative Williamson receive TYC appreciation awards

State Senator Bob McFarland of Arlington and State Representative Richard Williamson of Weatherford were presented plaques of appreciation for their support and assistance to the Texas Youth Commission during the agency's annual awards banquet July 19 in Kerrville.

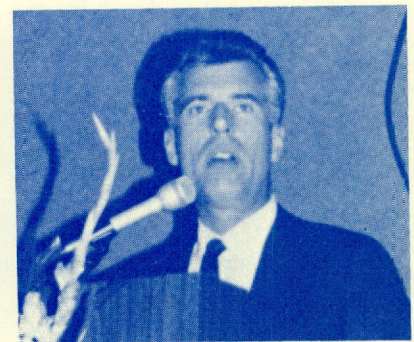
The two Legislators were recognized for their contribution to the youth and citizens of the State of Texas during the 71st session of the Texas Legislature.

Comer C. Cottrell of Dallas, a member of the Texas Youth Commission Board, presented the engraved plaque to Senator McFarland. Senator McFarland represents District 10 which includes the city of Arlington and other portions of Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties.

"Known throughout his legislative career as the master of compromise, Senator McFarland is generally at the forefront of the critical issues facing the legislature. If there is middle ground or a compromise position to be



SEN. BOB MCFARLAND received a plaque of appreciation from the Texas Youth Commission during the agency's annual awards banquet July 19 in Kerrville.



REP. RICHARD WILLIAMSON was presented a plaque of appreciation by the Texas Youth Commission during its annual awards banquet July 19.

found on an issue, Senator McFarland seems to steer both extremes in that direction. His legislative skills and knowledge have earned him numerous accolades by both liberal and conservative organizations as well as recognition by various statewide publications," said Mr. Cottrell in presenting him the award.

"Senator McFarland has extended his invaluable assistance to the agency during the 71st

Legislative Session by giving careful review and scrutiny to a major bill affecting the Commission that would have expanded the ability of judges to require specific treatment plans," Cottrell said.

"We are deeply grateful to Senator McFarland for his consistent support of our agency's

(Continued on page 2)

Legislators honored at agency banquet

(Continued from page 1)

tent support of our agency's budget request," Cottrell continued.

"As a member of the Sunset Commission, Senator McFarland has previously been involved in the bill that continued our agency. Prior to that time, Senator McFarland participated in the formation of the Juvenile Probation Commission," he added.

"The Texas Youth Commission is fortunate and grateful to Senator McFarland for his commitment to increased services to youth and is honored to present Senator McFarland with the Outstanding Legislative Award," Cottrell concluded.

Susan Bush of Athens, a member of the Texas Youth Commission Board, presented the engraved plaque to Representative Williamson. Representative Williamson represents District 63 which includes Cooke, Parker and Wise counties.

"Representative Williamson has sponsored numerous bills dealing with the efficiency and operation of state government. His efforts this past session have led to the reorganization of the Automated Information and Telecommunications Council, and the establishment of the new Statewide Accounting System. Through his personal efforts, the Youth Commission will be able to enter into a lease-purchase contract in order to acquire a new mainframe computer," said Susan Bush.

"As the Vice-Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and a member of the Budget Conference Committee, he is often called upon in support of state agencies' requests for funds. He is an advocate of prevention and recognizes the benefits of adequately funding juvenile programs both in probation and in the Youth Commission," continued Mrs. Bush.

"Beyond his work on the state budget, Representative Williamson early this past session chaired

the House Appropriations Committee on Alternatives to Prison Construction. One of the results of the findings of this committee led to the combination of the adult corrections agencies. The organization and operation of corrections, both adult and juvenile, will undoubtedly continue to remain in the forefront of the issues that receive considerable legislative review. Representative Williamson will play a significant role in future sessions as the legislature debates the funding and function of the Youth Commission," Bush said.

"The Texas Youth Commission appreciates Representative Williamson's outstanding contributions to the Texas Legislature and for his support of the agency," concluded Bush in presenting him the award.

YAS Staff Positions Upgraded

The Legislative Budget Board approved the reallocation of Texas Youth Commission Youth Activity Supervisor positions August 24. This reallocation was based on the Governor's budget execution request and his support of this salary group adjustment.

Last August, the Youth Commission requested that the State Auditor review the duties and responsibilities of the YAS positions. The Commission had advocated that the YAS staff be paid at a level comparable to the correctional officers in the Texas Department of Corrections. With an older, more delinquent youth being committed to TYC, the agency felt that the line staff should be reimbursed accordingly. While continuing to face financial constraints, the Legislature agreed in principal to support the reallocation. However, securing funding for the reallocation was difficult. The Legislature, eventually supported the reallocation and authorized the use of TYC's unexpended appropriations from this fiscal year

Central Office Open House

The Central Office of the Texas Youth Commission moved into its new offices June 24-25. The building was authorized by the 69th Legislature and completes the Human Services Complex. The Department of Human Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Blind Commission and the School for the Blind, as well as the Rehabilitation Commission, are all located within the same vicinity. The Youth Commission occupies the second floor and part of the third floor of this seven-floor structure. The public meeting rooms and cafeteria are shared by TYC/TRC on the first floor.

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to pay for these salary reclassifications.

In making its decision, the Legislative Budget Board considered various documents and discussed the rate of turnover of our line staff as well as the incidents of staff injuries by students. These factors led the Budget Board to unanimously approve the YAS reallocations. Ron Jackson, Executive Director, stated that "this decision by the legislative body recognizes the difficult tasks assigned to the YAS employees. Few other positions were so adjusted by the Legislature. The agency is extremely grateful by this decision and will continue to urge support for reclassifications at a level comparable to correctional officers."

The reallocation of YAS positions are as follows: YAS II from group 8 to group 9; YAS III from group 9 to group 11; and YAS IV from group 10 to group 12. The YAS I position will remain at its present group 7 and will continue to be a six-month entry level position.

Texas Youth Commission Outstanding Employees

DAVE DYESS AND IRVIN YARBOUGH

Outstanding Institutional Employees



Dave Dyess, Youth Activities Supervisor at the Crockett State School, was named Outstanding Child Care Worker in Institutions during the annual awards banquet July 19.



IRVIN YARBOUGH, left, Caseworker II at the Corsicana State Home, was named Outstanding Child Care Worker in Institutions during awards banquet July 19. TYC Board Member Richard Abalos of Odessa presented him with the plaque.

Dave Dyess, Youth Activities Supervisor IV, Crockett State School, and Irvin Yarbough, Caseworker II, Corsicana State Home, were named recipients of the Outstanding Child Care Worker in Institutions, during the agency's annual awards banquet in Kerrville July 19. Two selections were made this year because of the outstanding nature of their individual contributions to the Texas Youth Commission.

The winners were announced by Richard Abalos of Odessa, TYC board member.

"Dave has worked for TYC for over ten years and has been involved with the agency most of his life. Dave's parents were TYC employees and Dave even married a TYC employee, Judy Dyess. Two generations of Dyess family boast of seventy years of service to TYC," said Abalos in presenting the award. "From his grass roots beginnings as groundskeeper at the Gatesville State School to his current position, Dave epitomizes the profes-

sional child care worker. In addition to his regular duties, Dave seeks out those students who continually create problems for themselves and others," continued Abalos.

"Dave is recognized as a role model for all child care workers. His actions contribute not only to improved staff morale, but his expertise in the manner he carries out his duties insures that Crockett State School is a more pleasant and therapeutic place to be," concluded Abalos.

The second recipient of the Outstanding Child Care Worker in Institutions was Irvin Yarbough, Caseworker II at the Corsicana State Home.

"Irvin has worked over 15 years for the Texas Youth Commission and has shown his reliability, flexibility and versatility in his service to the agency by serving for over 12 years in the varied capacities as trainer and then becoming a caseworker when a fifth cottage of boys was opened

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WILBERT ROGERS

North Region

Outstanding Child Care Worker in Community Services

Wilbert Rogers, currently a parole officer II in the Forth Worth Parole Office, was named winner of the agency's award for Outstanding Child Care Worker in Community Services during the awards banquet July 19 in Kerrville.

Announcement of his award was made by TYC board member Susan Bush of Athens.

"Wilbert has served in a variety of paid and volunteer positions with the agency over the past 15 years beginning as a volunteer at Brownwood while attending Howard Payne University. Wilbert rose through the ranks at Brownwood State School leaving after six years to become a parole

officer, a position he has held for over six years," said Bush in presenting the award.

"Wilbert is respected by his peers and is assigned to one of the most difficult areas of Fort Worth," continued Bush. "He is often called upon to deal with youth in extremely difficult situations. He plays many roles in fighting for the welfare of 'his children.' In this day and age of burnout and bureaucratic callousness, Wilbert uses love as the main tool in his profession, tempered with a strong sense of judgement and fairness," concluded Bush.

Also nominated for the Outstanding Child Care Worker in



WILBERT ROGERS, Parole Officer in the Fort Worth Parole Office, accepts award during awards banquet July 19.

Community Services were Jesus Sanchez, Schaeffer House, West Texas Region; Dr. James Robinson, Middleton House, East Texas Region; Anthony Ray Washington, Nueces House, South Texas Region; and Patricia Searcey, Turman House, Central Texas Region.

FRANK AND MARIA LOPEZ Outstanding Contract Program

Frank and Maria Lopez, Texas Youth Commission foster parents from the West Texas Region, were named Outstanding Contract Program for 1989 during the agency's annual awards banquet July 19 in Kerrville.

"The Lopez family has contracted with TYC for the past three years and previously served the Texas Department of Human Services for thirteen years," said Comer C. Cottrell of Dallas, TYC Board Member who announced the winner.

"The Lopez family became TYC foster parents because of their commitment to work with the troubled and adolescent aged youth of Texas," continued Cottrell.

"The Lopez family has proven their commitment to TYC by constantly encouraging other families to become foster parents and always assisting new foster parents in the West Texas Region through phone support and personal visits. The Lopez family has created a very open environment for success, and are willing to share their enthusiasm and knowledge base with others," said Cottrell.

"The Lopez family deals with two very different population groups. They manage the youth



Maria Lopez of El Paso, accepted TYC's award for the Outstanding Contract Program at the agency awards banquet in Kerrville July 19.

who are native Texas residents and the illegal alien youth of Mexico. As an advocate for TYC, the Lopez family has worked with the El Paso school system to stop altercations at school before they happen, and they are an advocate for the safety and the rights of TYC youth, and have successfully completed a 100 percent positive discharge rate for the eleven boys they supervised this past year," concluded Cottrell in presenting the award.

Other contract programs nominated for the award were La Esperanza Home for Boys and Girls, South Texas Region; Lena Pope Home, North Texas Region; Youth Alternatives/The Bridge, Central Texas Region; and Family Connection, East Texas Region.

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- Board members include:
- Larry F. York, Austin, Chairman
 - Comer C. Cottrell, Dallas, Vice Chairman;
 - Richard Abalos, Odessa
 - Kenneth S. George, Dallas
 - Rev. Floyd N. Williams, Sr. Houston
 - Marilla B. Wood, Austin
 - Ron Jackson Executive Director

Tenure awards presented at Kerrville Workshop

Tenure awards were presented at the annual Kerrville workshop to employees who have reached 20-25-30 years of employment with the Texas Youth Commission.

Employees who received tenure plaques included Neil E. Nichols, Terry Graham, Louise Porfirio, Hy Steinberg, 15 years; John R. Arredondo, 20 years; John H. Franks, 25 years; and Joye B. Robinson, 30 years, Central Office; Bennie R. Reyes and Roy L. Washington, 15 years, San Antonio Parole; Wilbert C. Rogers, 15 years, Fort Worth Parole; Adrian L. Moore, 15 years, Central Region; Irvin Yarbough, 15 years, Corsicana State Home; Judy Dyess, 15 years, Crockett State School; Jerry A. Day, 15 years, Gainesville State School; Calvin C. Crenshaw, 15 years, Giddings State School; and Bobby Joe Lee, 20 years, Statewide Reception Center.

*****NOTICE*****

If you want to continue to receive TYC NOTES, Texas law requires that you request it in writing annually. Your name will be removed from the mailing list if you do not respond. To remain on the mailing list, return this page, signed and dated to:

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Austin, Texas 78765

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(NOTE: TYC Employees are exempt from this requirement because each TYC facility receives a verified number of TYC NOTES copies and distributes them to all employees.)

Giddings to Provide Intensive Treatment Program

Over the last several years, there have been a disturbing trend of older, larger and more aggressive youth being committed to the Texas Youth Commission. Even more alarming is the increase in the number of student assaults on staff. Many of these assaults have been perpetrated by the same individuals.

Limited programs are currently available to deal with these assaultive youth. Following many months of research and planning, the Crisis Management Unit (CMU) at the Giddings State School was created and will serve to protect both staff and students from becoming victims of assault by segregating aggressive youth from the general population. Equally important is that these youth will participate in an intensive treatment program during their assignment to the CMU.

The Texas Legislature appropriated new funding for eight additional youth activity supervisor positions to begin this program. A portion of the existing Giddings security building has been renovated to form a 20 bed facility with 20 separate rooms, an activity center, and a fenced recreational area which meet American Correctional Association standards.

Webb receives CFP status

Alana Webb, Chief of Nutrition for the Texas Youth Commission, recently achieved the Certified Foodservice Professional status, awarded by the American Correctional Food Service Association (ACFSA). A plaque of appreciation was presented to Alana during the ACFSA's awards ceremony which was held during its annual conference August 27-31.

The certification process was designed to recognize outstanding accomplishments and consistently positive achievements of individuals within a correctional foodservice setting.

To accomplish this distinction, Alana had to document her

All youth assigned to the CMU will be required to remain in the program for a minimum of 30 days. A behavior contract for each youth entering the program will be developed, with youth expected to follow an extremely structured program that includes academics, individual and group counseling, and recreation activities all within the CMU unit. Failure to follow the schedule or comply with staff instructions may result in an extended stay in the unit.

The group program and all individual counseling provided in the unit will be directed towards the eventual goal of reintegrating the youth into the general population of the campus. The emphasis will be placed on current behavior. Past experiences will not be accepted as an excuse for present irresponsible behavior.

It is believed that the establishment of the Crisis Management Unit at Giddings will help to curb the dangerous trend of student and staff assaults. Just as important, the CMU will begin to provide effective treatment to these young people who have thus far been so hard to reach.

education, experience, leadership and contributions to the food service operation with the Texas Youth Commission. The criteria for becoming a certified food service professional included enhancement of professionalism in correctional food service; advance knowledge by encouraging interdisciplinary exchanges of information and ideas; foster standards of excellence in food service; and to recognize achievement and the promise of achievement in food service. This CFP status assures compliance with ACA standards.

Judges rule on determinate sentencing case

On May 24 the Austin Court of Appeals filed its Opinion in the R.L.H. determinate sentencing case. This case was appealed on behalf of one of the first youths sentenced to the Texas Youth Commission under provisions of H. B. 682 from the 70th Legislature. The major argument of R.L.H.'s appeal was that H.B. 682 deprives youth of due process and equal protection. The Court of Appeals overruled all claims raised in the case. The attorney for the youth had argued that for the same offense a youth might either be sentenced under H.B. 682 for up to 30 years with a transfer to TDC at age 18, or be committed to TYC only until his 21st birthday. This claim was overruled because the issue of transfer has not yet occurred. If and when the decision on transfer is made the youth may appeal these points at the time of his transfer. The procedural question on whether a civil petition can be used as an indictment was also overruled. With regard to the other equal protection claims

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West Texas receives safety award

The West Texas Children's Home was presented the 1989 Institutional Safety Award during the agency's annual workshop in Kerrville in July.

The award was presented to Johnny Williams, Superintendent, and Richard Biggs, Safety Director. West Texas Children's Home has an injury frequency rate of 12.4%, compared to the agency average of 17.9%.

The presentation of this award was begun three years ago in order to recognize institutions with the lowest employee injury frequency rate. This rate is based on the number of injuries per 100 employees.

West Texas Children's Home was the first facility to receive this honor in 1986, followed by the Giddings State School in 1987 and the Crockett State School in 1988.

TYC Construction Update

During the recent regular session of the 71st Legislature, nearly \$17 million was approved for future Youth Commission construction projects. The construction will be financed through the sale of State issued bonds, which was the same method used to finance current construction projects. However, the bonds cannot be sold until they are approved by Texas voters in November.

Although most of the newly approved projects are for renovation and alteration of existing facilities, a new perimeter security fence is planned for the West Texas Children's Home in Pyote. Cafeteria renovation is also planned for the Statewide Reception Center in Brownwood. Building the new cafeteria and remodeling the existing kitchen space will free up existing building space for much needed academic classrooms.

Major repairs, safety improvements and roofing are the largest items in the new construction budget. These projects include security lock hardware, smoke evacuation and improved central heating and cooling systems, replacement of old and worn out roofs, installation of security type light fixtures, hardening of building interiors to resist vandalism, and other needed improvements.

Governor Clements has approved the immediate expenditure of \$190,000 in current fiscal year contingency funds. This money will be used for security and safety improvements at the Giddings and Brownwood State Schools and at the Statewide Reception Center.

The perimeter fence security system will be reconditioned and improved at the Brownwood State School. The security system is an electronic listening device

which can detect movement on the fence. The fence, which was originally constructed in 1982, will also receive a renovated gate operator. The Giddings State School will also receive new gate operators, replacing the two at the front gate.

Statewide Reception Center sleeping rooms will receive new air grilles which are specially designed and constructed to prevent a possible suicide.

As part of the Crisis Management Unit at the Giddings State School, a fenced outdoor recreation area will be built. The fence for this area will be similar to the new cantilever fence recently completed at the Gainesville State School. The special cantilever design, whose top is 15 feet above the ground and projects eight feet beyond its base, makes it extremely difficult to climb.

State Insurance

Contribution Increases

Effective September 1, 1989, the State of Texas' monthly contribution to state employee's premium cost for the Uniform Group Insurance Program coverages will increase as follows: Employee Only \$130.00; Employee/Spouse \$154.58; Employee/Children \$143.31; and Employee/Family \$176.93.

As in previous years, when an employee's total premium cost is less than the contribution available, the actual contribution will not exceed the total premium cost.

Judges rule on determinate sentencing case

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the Court found a compelling state interest for the balance the determinate sentencing law strikes between the safety of persons and the well-being of children. It helps close the gap between the criminal and juvenile systems for violent youthful offenders. This case may still be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Molly Ivins speaks at Awards Banquet

Molly Ivins, columnist for the *Dallas Times-Herald*, was the keynote speaker at the agency's annual employee awards banquet, July 19 in Kerrville.

Ivins, who is from Houston, has a bachelor's degree from Smith College and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and studied for a year at the Institute of Political Science in Paris. Ivins began her career in journalism by working for the *Houston Chronicle* and then went to work for the *Minneapolis Tribune*. In 1970, Ivins returned to Texas as coeditor of *The Texas Observer* where her speciality was covering the Texas Legislature. In 1976, Ivins joined *The New York Times* as a political reporter. In 1977, she was named Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief

and then returned to Texas in 1982.

Ivins' free-lance work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *TV guide* and numerous other publications. She also does occasional commentary for National Public Radio and the *McNeill/Lehrer* program. She served for three years on the board of the National News Council, is active in Amnesty International's Journalism Network and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. She writes about press issues for the American Civil Liberties Union and several journalism reviews. She has received a number of journalism awards and in 1976 was named Outstanding Alumna by Columbia University's School of Journalism.

Legislature approves Corsicana land sale

Legislation passed during the 71st Legislative Session that will effect the Texas Youth Commission includes the following:

H.B. 535 (Berlanga) amends Title 3 of the Family Code so that once again the juvenile court has exclusive jurisdiction over fineable misdemeanors and local ordinance violations. The bill also makes one act of public intoxication or one act of runaway CINS offenses. The commission of three or more fineable misdemeanors or local ordinance violations also constitute CINS.

H.B. 1477 (Hightower) includes \$3,647,300 for asbestos and poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCB) abatement at Texas Youth Commission facilities.

H.B. 2116 (Vowell) adds Chapter 71 to the Human Resources Code which establishes a Commission on Children, Youth and Family Services within the Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council. The commission is charged with coordinating and expanding services to youth.

H.B. 2335 (Hightower) Section II.35 of the Education Code was amended to permit a 16 year old to take the high school equivalency exam "GED" if TYC or a public agency having custody of the person under court order recommends that the person take the examination.

H.B. 2404 (Alexander) authorizes TYC to sell or lease approximately 105 acres of land deeded to the Corsicana State Home by Cynthia Kitchens. The proceeds of the sale or lease of the property are appropriated to TYC for construction, repair, improvement or equipping of buildings at the Corsicana State Home.

H.C.R. 108 (Garcia) directs the Juvenile Probation Commission to convene a study group with representatives of TDMHMR, TYC, TDHS and TEA to study the issue of child sexual abuse perpetrated by juveniles.

S.B. 72 (Green) relates to the admissibility of a statement of a child and requires that the juvenile be informed that he/she may be sentenced to commitment to TYC with a transfer to TDC for a term not to exceed 30 years if found to have committed certain aggravated offenses.

S.B. 839 (Dickson) permits the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to inspect certain juvenile files and records in order to facilitate the exchange of information and develop reports.

S.B. 959 (Brooks) contains a provision that will enable TYC to "test residents and clients of residential facilities for HIV antibodies of the Texas Youth Commission" under certain conditions.

The Legislature also passed a number of bills which will effect all state employees, including a five percent pay raise beginning September 1, 1989.

H.B. 827 (Richardson) entitles employees service credit upon retirement for accumulated sick leave

at the rate of one month for each 40 days, or 320 hours of accumulated sick leave that is unused on the last day of employment.

H.B. 2482 (Blair) amends the Open Records Act to give public access upon request, to the home address and home telephone number of former employees. Terminating employees and officials must elect to declare this information private if they do not wish it released.

S.B. 357 (Brooks) requires that each state agency establish and administer a sick leave pool to benefit certain state employees who suffer a catastrophic illness or injury.

S.B. 815 (Leedom) allows automatic reenrollment for purposes of premium redirection under the *Tex-Flex* program.

S.B. 1480 (Barrientos) creates a board to develop and administer a program to provide child care services for state employees who work in state-owned buildings.

The General Appropriations for the new biennium will also include several other changes in our budget. Travel changes include an increase in partial per diem as follows--breakfast \$4.00, lunch \$6.00 and dinner \$8.00 for an increase to \$18.00 compared to last year's \$15.00 allowance. The mileage rate will also increase from \$.21 to \$.24 a mile.

Additional positions in the institutions include thirty-five YAS II positions at the institutions to meet the 1:8 ratio required by the Morales settlement agreement. Teacher pay increases have not been finalized because the amount of the increase is dependent on whether or not local school districts elect to reduce the amount of local increment that they are currently paying. If all of the school districts maintain the current level of increment, then each TYC professional education position would receive a monthly increase of approximately \$192.00, and teacher aides would receive approximately \$115.00.

Other additions in the institutions include eight YAS II's at Giddings for the newly created Crisis Management Dorm (see related story); a caseworker III position added at Brownwood and West Texas to expand the Family Involvement program; the Substance Abuse Program expanded to include the Giddings State School and a program specialist and secretary in Central Office to monitor and administer the program.

Additions in the regional offices include a caseworker in the Central and North Region to provide mobile diagnostics; volunteer coordinator positions in the North and West Region; case service manager in the East Region to provide continuous case management services; parole supervisors reallocated to group 18 and parole officer I's to group 14; and nine additional YAS positions at halfway houses to meet the 1:8 ratio required by the Morales settlement.

TYC Developing Strategic Plan

The Research and Planning Department is currently coordinating the development of an agency strategic plan. It is anticipated that this plan will be a central mechanism of providing agency direction for key issues facing TYC in the years to come.

The component of the plan are the agency mission, philosophy, external environment, priority issues, and recommended strategies for resolving the issues. The identified priority issues are aftercare, AIDS, continuity of services, family involvement, gangs, population management, regionalization, safety and substance abuse.

The selection of the priority issues was initially proposed by ex-

ecutive staff members, with some revisions by the Youth Commission board. Each issue has an issue coordinator who is responsible for the initial development of the written material pertaining to the issue.

A draft of the priority issues and their corresponding recommended strategies was distributed to the participants of the agency's annual workshop in Kerrville in July, with a request for written feedback by August 7, including that written anonymously, from any TYC staff member.

The strategic plan is scheduled for presentation to the agency board in the fall.

Robinson receives prestigious award

Texas Youth Commission's Joye Robinson, Deputy Interstate Compact Administrator for Texas, was honored as this year's recipient of the prestigious William L. Frederick Award during the National Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators summer meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

The annual award is made by vote of the 53 member of the Association, representing each state as well as Washington D.C., Guam and the Virgin Islands.

"Joye deals with administrators, probation officers, parole officers, parents and runaway youth from every state," said Executive Director Ron Jackson, "and she truly serves as an outstanding ambassador of Texas because of her friendly, composed attitude in

(Continued on page 12)

Williams named Administrator of the Year 1989

Johnny Williams, Superintendent of the West Texas Children's Home, has been selected by his peers as the Texas Youth Commission's Administrator of the Year for 1989 during the agency's annual workshop in Kerrville, Texas in July.

Williams has been with the Youth Commission since June 1969 and has served as recreation director at West Texas Children's Home and the Brownwood State School, Unit Superintendent at the Sycamore Unit of the Gatesville State School, Director of Programs at the West Texas Children's Home, Assistant Superintendent at the Crockett State School and the West Texas Children's Home. Williams has held his current position since 1986.

In presenting the award to Williams, Ron Jackson, Executive Director, praised Williams for "turning the Pyote campus around and making it an exemplary facility where positive things happen."

Williams characterized the past three years as "developing good programs that provide maximum service to kids." Williams lauded the work of his staff, the contributions of area communities, the support of the legislature, TYC's Central Office and the West Region in accepting the award.

Qualifications for receiving this award include effective communication with employees and administrative peers, creativity in seeking solutions to problems in an efficient and effective manner, and completing stated objectives.

The Administrators Award is intended to recognize Central Office department heads, regional directors and institutional superintendents who would otherwise not be eligible for recognition in other award categories given at the awards banquet.

Juvenile officials tour Brownwood facilities

A joint meeting of officials from the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission met at the Comfort Inn in Brownwood June 9. The meeting was hosted by the Statewide Reception Center and the Brownwood State School and was organized to discuss ways in which communication could be enhanced to better serve the needs of the youth that both agencies serve.

"The purpose of the meeting was to provide a mechanism through which the two agencies could better communicate with respect to common issues and concerns," said Jay Lindgren, Deputy Executive Director of TYC.

Following the meeting, officials from both of the agencies toured the Statewide Reception Center and the Brownwood State School.

Consultant surveys security operations

In a continuing effort to strengthen and enhance the safety and security of Texas Youth Commission students, staff and visitors, an international expert consultant recently surveyed the overall security operations of the Giddings State School. James D. Henderson of Leavenworth, Kansas, whose correctional experience began in 1952 as a correctional officer at the United States Penitentiary in Leavenworth, provided professional consultation to TYC from July 31 to August 4. His last Bureau assignment as the North Central Regional Director ended in 1981 when he became a private criminal justice consultant and a senior correctional advisor for PRICOR, a private correctional firm. Henderson's juvenile and adult correctional consultation experience has taken him to Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Puerto Rico, England, and at least twenty different states in the U.S. where he consulted on institutional/prison operations, management, security and security staffing. He has also served as a court evaluator in Texas, Georgia, Tennessee and Puerto Rico. Hender-

son also co-authored the ACA publication "Guidelines for the Development of a Security Program."

During Henderson's visit at the Giddings facility, he reviewed security practices and procedures, the Crisis Management Unit proposal, staffing patterns, staff training requirements and architectural design concerns. He surveyed the dormitories, visitation areas, infirmary, the educational building, vocational areas, cafeteria and the security unit. In a debriefing meeting with Ron Jackson, Executive Director, and key staff, Henderson stated that "he was very impressed with the many aspects of the Giddings facility. He was most impressed with the varied and extensive recreational programs, immaculate food service component, and the overall appearance of the facility. He also stated that programming was the key to maintaining the facility effective and safe. Effective programming," he said, "keeps youth occupied thereby increasing rehabilitation and resulting in fewer problems."

Giddings begins staff quality improvement group

The Giddings State School has created a Staff Quality Improvement Program (SQIG) to improve staff morale, communication and rapport on its campus. The program was designed to improve the quality of care and treatment of the students placed at the Giddings State School.

Tim Horton, chairperson of the group and program therapist for the sex offender program, stated that "as a group, SQIG makes it possible for all staff to present suggestions, ideas, recommendations, questions, requests and complaints each month. Staff are assured that their views will

be heard and considered by administration."

Also, through the SQIG program, an outstanding employee of the month program was initiated to recognize outstanding staff. The monthly winner's name is placed at the entrance of the school, with local businesses providing free meals for the award recipient.

Giddings participates in telemedicine pilot study

The Giddings State School will participate in the Texas Telemedicine Project, and will provide medical/mental health and educational needs of various agencies in the Giddings area. This non-profit organization is piloting the use of an integrated fully-interactive video network to deliver services to rural locations. Other entities participating in this pilot include the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Texas Rehabilitation Commission and an outreach clinic of the Austin State Hospital and a private local dialysis clinic.

Participants in the telemedicine project will be able to communicate more effectively than ever before with their administrative headquarters and will have access to consultants and specialists not available locally, and will avoid the unnecessary transfer of clients/patients. In particular, this system will enable Youth Commission Central Office personnel to communicate over a video channel with staff at the Giddings State School. Applications of this system will enable health professionals such as psychologists to interview youth or permit training to occur between professionals and Giddings staff.

The telemedicine system includes a television monitor with a built in camera that enables staff to view one another as well as examine a youths records on the screen at the same time.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health at the University of Texas provided the initial funds to establish this pilot and is being undertaken by Telemedical Interactive Consultative Services, Inc. An evaluation to determine if savings can be achieved is planned after the initial study to determine if funds will be requested from the Texas Legislature for statewide implementation.

Open House

(Continued from page 2)

The Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission jointly hosted the dedication of the Brown-Heatly State Office Building September 14. An open house and tour of the building were conducted immediately following the dedication. The Brown-Heatly building is named after J.J. Brown, the first director of rehabilitation in Texas from 1929-1961; and Bill Heatly, the distinguished legislator from Paducah. Dr. George Beto of Huntsville, former chairman of the TYC Board and long time colleague of Representative Heatly, delivered remarks at the dedication. He described the many instances of Representative Heatly's commitment to persons incarcerated in the Texas Department of Corrections, as well as his efforts to expand services to juveniles.

Robinson

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many situations which are difficult and complicated."

"Her daily workload is made up of crises--and every state has different expectations," he added. "We are certainly pleased that she has been recognized by her peers as their most courteous, cooperative administrator."

Other criteria for the award included the ability to develop innovative procedures and policies, and a willingness to expedite requests to the proper agency in a timely manner.

Joye also serves on the executive committee of the Association. She has held her current position at TYC for six years, although she has 32 of years service as a state employee. She was also named TYC Central Office's Outstanding Employee in 1984.

New Curriculum

(Continued from page 4)

tricts, and other youth directors from area churches.

The "Choices" training incorporates a curriculum to help young women think about their future and encourage them to reach their full potential. This training is used in career development, family life, alternate education and encourages self discovery and the development of goal setting and decision-making skills.

The curriculum which was written by Mindy Bingham, Executive Director of the Girls Club of Santa Barbara, California was developed in response to a critical need for realistic future planning for women.

Since the development of the "Choices" curriculum, a similar curriculum has been developed for young men entitled "Challenges".

Penny Payne, who is an active community volunteer, was educated at the University of London, England, and has many years of professional experience in youth services.

NOTES

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