



# Highlights

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Senator Gonzalo Barrientos addresses disability advocates at a rally at the State Capitol Building. Advocates from across the state united to fight proposed budget cuts.

## 73rd Legislative Session results both good & bad

The 73rd Legislative Session, which ended May 31, brought a mixture of good and bad news. The good news is that a variety of bills were passed that will improve health and human services (HHS) in Texas and budget cuts were not as severe as predicted. The bad news is that only a few programs were expanded and the budget is about \$400 million below what it would take to maintain the current level of services for HHS.

Although many HHS programs which provide community services and support to people with disabilities were targeted for massive cuts or even elimination, most of the funding was restored in conference

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## Partners learn to change lives, make things better

*"Partners has put me on the same level as the professionals I deal with. It's changed my life. But what is so amazing, is now I can change others' lives."*

— Laura Warren, parent, Austin

There are three types of people: people who make things happen, people who watch things happen and people who wonder what happened. Thirty-two Texans have spent eight months learning how to make things happen.

These individuals, adults with disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities,

graduated from the Council's third Partners in Policymaking class on May 8. This program prepares individuals to be effective leaders and advocates so they can influence legislation and policy and obtain state-of-the-art services for themselves and others.

"I don't think I have done anything in my life that has impacted me more," said Thomas Tyree, Dallas. "It's not just the skills that you learn or the information...It's understanding that I, as an adult with a disability, have a responsibility to others."

What's really important is making a fundamental change in the way people view individuals with disabilities, he explained, "such as the assumption that I can't be a contributor or that I can't have any idea that could help somebody else, or that I'm somebody to be taken care of."

"What I have learned, I have brought back to share with everyone at the Fort Worth State School where I live," Debra Hooks remarked. "I have brought back

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## 73rd Legislative Session results *Continued from page 1*

committee negotiations after the Comptroller certified an additional \$1.3 billion in available revenue. The \$70 billion budget for 1994-95 represents an 11.4% increase over this biennium. It includes \$23.6 billion for health and human services, an increase of \$4.3 billion.

Even though this sounds good, much of the increase will go for growing caseloads and mandates handed down by not funded by the federal government. Then add inflation. The bottom line is Texas still ranks at the bottom on spending for HHS, and in too many cases, people on waiting lists will remain there.

While most programs received level funding, some were cut. Those hardest hit include HIV/AIDS services, OBRA (nursing home reform) and children's protective services. Chronically Ill and Disabled Children Services (CIDC) programs, under the Texas Department of Health, dropped \$22 million below the 1993 level, primarily due to expanded EPSDT services and recoupment for services provided to Medicaid-eligible children.

### **Beyond the Budget...**

Here's a look at some of the issues that the Council followed.

**□ Respite and Community Care:** HB 1551 by Nancy McDonald renames the Home Health Act as the Home and Community Support Act. It creates three new categories of services: home health, hospice and personal assistance for which providers would have to be licensed. The bill also defines personal assistance and respite in law for the first time. Finally, it requires development of a Memorandum of Understanding to determine when certain health-related tasks could be performed without delegation by a nurse. Passed.

**□ Diagnostic and Evaluation Process:** HB 771 by Elliott Naishtat simplifies and streamlines the TXMHMR Diagnosis and Eval-

uation (D&E) Process. It allows people easier, faster and less costly access to services. Passed.

**□ Special Education Funding Weights:** SB 7 by Bill Ratliff on school finance includes a section which will change funding weights to begin to remove financial disincentives for integrating students with disabilities in regular classrooms. The current system pro-

### **Say thanks!..**

It was a long, tough legislative session. Now that it's over, take time to thank legislators who supported bills which benefit people with disabilities. Write to senators at: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, Texas Senate, P.O. Box 12068 - Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. Write to representatives at: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, Texas House of Representatives, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78769.

vides the most money for the most segregated placements. Passed.

**□ State School Closure:** Disability advocates, including the Council, were successful in stopping two attempts by Rep. Doyle Willis to prevent closure of Fort Worth and Travis State Schools. After the original legislation (HB 174) got stuck in a committee, Willis convinced the House to attach it to HB 1510. The Senate removed this amendment before passing the bill.

**□ Guardianship:** 3 of 4 bills by Senator Mike Moncrief passed. SB 236 requires guardianships to be individually designed. It also creates new protections for individuals in need of guardianship and requires training for judges and attorneys involved in guardianship. SB 332 allows surrogate decision-makers to authorize medical treatment for incapacitated or comatose patients. SB 1142 creates a surrogate decision making process for certain ICF-MR residents to ensure inform-

ed consent for treatment or services. SB 333 to create an Office of Public Guardian did not pass because of its projected cost.

**□ Architectural Barriers:** SB 540 by Gonzalo Barrientos puts Texas in compliance with architectural barriers laws under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Passed.

**□ Inclusive Education:** HB 1686 by Scott Hochberg creates a pilot program to include students with disabilities in regular classrooms. Passed.

**□ Health Insurance for Small Employers:** HB 2055 by Mike Martin permits purchasing pools for employers of 3-50 workers. Employers can choose from three levels of health insurance; however, participation is voluntary. Because the bill is tied to employment, it will have little impact on the more than 80% of people with disabilities who are unemployed. Passed.

**□ State School Employees:** SB 681 by Gonzalo Barrientos was designed to provide employment and job severance guarantees to workers at the Travis and Fort Worth State Schools as the institutions close. While the bill died, its substance was attached to HB 1510 and signed into law.

**□ Residential Services:** Two bad budget riders (instructions on how to spend funds) died in conference committee. One would have changed the six-bed rule to allow new ICF-MR group homes with up to 15 beds. The other would have tied funds to each state school and limited the ability to transfer funds between the facilities. Additionally, two bills related to zoning died.

**□ HHSC Restructuring:** HB 1510 by Jack Vowell addresses the powers and duties of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). It also expands the number of parents on the Early Childhood Intervention Council and makes it a separate agency. Passed. ♦

## Last Tuesday... *By Edward Willard*

5:45 a.m. — My alarm goes off with the sound of a Texan's wake-up call, Country Music. By 7:45, I'm in my car on the way to work as Director of Housing for a community program. By 9 o'clock I am taking part in a state-wide telephone conference hosted by Justin Dart, meaning the results of the call will end up on Mr. Bill's desk.

I spend the rest of the work day meeting with state reviewers, biting my nails along with the Director and other co-workers, hoping we will be certified. After sweating some bullets, the reviewers give us the stamp of approval.

After a full day's work, I stop by my almost completed new home, to check on some finishing touches. To unwind from the stressful day, I do some laps at the pool. Next, I go home, play with my cat, eat dinner, read my mail, make some phone calls, watch some news and then go to bed, feeling tired but good about another full, productive day.

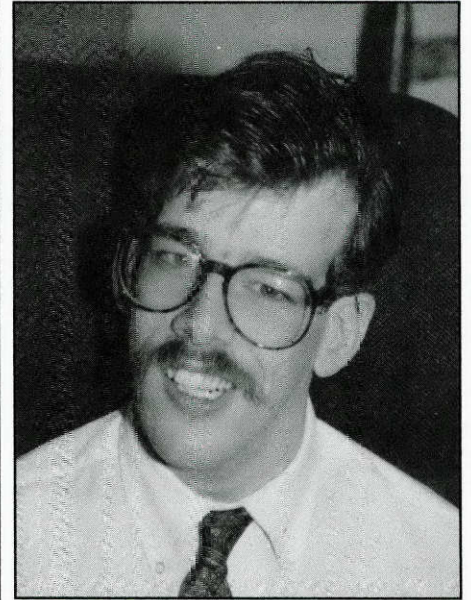
At the age of six months, my mother was told by our family doc-

tor, "Lorraine, this child will amount to nothing more than a vegetable. Brandon state school will take good care of him. You have three other kids who would benefit from your giving this crippled child up to the state." Thankfully, both my parents told the almighty doctor where to put that advice.

At of age of 17, I started serving time in a jail called Bob Hope High for Crippled Children. Besides living in a setting that most people wouldn't allow their pets to live in, my parents were informed by a team of "experts" that I was Retarded, and that they should look for a nursing home that offered outings once a week. If seven years ago you told me what my life would be like last Tuesday, I would have asked you what drugs you were on.

I want to give all of you a gift. This gift is something that all Partners have. Please close your eyes and put out a hand... Ok, close your hand.

In each of our hands, we hold



*Edward (Tad) Willard*

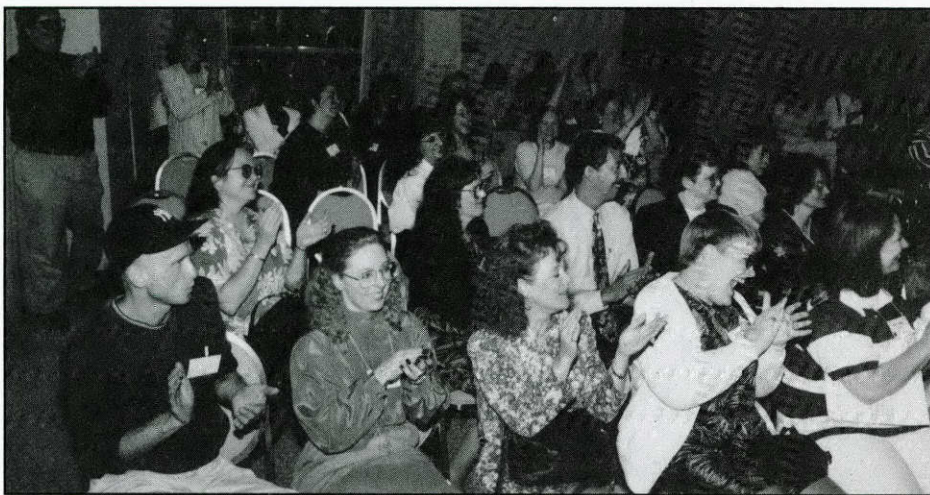
two keys. The first key unlocks the doors of the institutions of all sizes that imprison our brothers and sisters. The next key we share. This key opens doors for people in the community to live, to work, and to play. Why did I say we share this key? Because many times advocates forget one thing. We forget to practice what we preach. If along the way of helping others gain a better quality of life, we also look out for our own needs and wants, that's ok. Our efforts and devotion to this cause will not be any less for it. So take time to enjoy life for yourself sometimes.

Once all people are living where, with whom and how they choose, and participating in their community to their maximum potential, we can take out that first key and lock up those institutions for good.

GO USE THEM  
KEYS, PARTNERS!



*Edward Willard graduated in May 1993 from the third class of Partners in Policymaking in Texas. He presented these thoughts at the National Academy on Partners in Policymaking.*



**Ready to Change the World:** *Partners from across the nation share their enthusiasm and determination to end segregation. One hundred forty-seven people from 34 states and one territory attended the 1993 National Academy on Partners in Policymaking, May 20-22, in Austin. They came to share their experiences and to continue spreading the leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Participants represented 18 states which already have Partners in Policymaking and 16 states and one territory which recently started or plan to start it. Texas also hosted an academy last year in Dallas.*

## Partners in Policymaking *Continued from page 1*

several things...that they are using, including facilitated communication, and they are starting to let us live more normal lives.

"My ultimate goal," Debra said, "is to leave the state school and have an apartment of my own with a friend." She recently used her new skills to testify in favor of closing two state schools before a Senate committee.

Ed Rankin, a parent from Plano, challenged his fellow graduates to oppose segregation. "As long as any child anywhere is in a segregated educational setting, we have to keep fighting. As long as any person, any human being, is living in an institution, we have got to keep fighting."

"I think it is easy to forget that we as individuals have political power, but we do, especially when we band together," observed Sherri Coles, a parent from Arlington. "We have a responsibility to try and change the system for the better."

"We have shared our experiences, our victories and our defeats. We have learned from each other," pointed out Tamie Morgan, Fort Worth. "I am now filled with



**People Who Make Things Happen:** Panel members listen to testimony on disability issues from individuals attending the Council's leadership training program. Pictured are Rep. Elliott Naishtat (from left), Rick Crawford with the Speaker Pete Laney's office, Buddy Garcia with Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.'s office and Judith Farrell, Disability Policy Consortium.

this overwhelming need to help others...and I feel I have a responsibility to help make a change."

"Partners made me take a strong look at standards for myself and for others with disabilities," revealed Edward (Tad) Willard, Jr., Austin. He used to believe that some people need group homes, including a friend who needs support 24 hours a day. "How dare I play God and take away the basic

right of living in one's own home," Tad exclaimed.

Tad is now the housing director for Community Options of Texas. As such, he is asking people, "What is your dream home?" And then he adds, "Let's go find it."

As part of their training, "Partners" participated in a Mock Legislative Hearing before a panel of state leaders this spring. "I was impressed with government officials' participation and interest in these issues," one Partner commented.

Panelists included: Rep. Elliott Naishtat (D-Austin); Leslie Lemon, Rick Crawford and Scott Spiller all with Speaker Pete Laney's office (D-Hale Center); Buddy Garcia with Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.'s office (D-Brownsville); and Becky Brownlee with the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Other panelists were: Bruce Baskett, ECI Program, Texas Department of Health; Judith Farrell, Disability Policy Consortium; and Emily Untemeyer, Texas Cancer Council.

Partners also studied current issues affecting people with disabilities and best practices as well as policymaking and legislative

See "Partners" page 5

Highlights

## Partners Class of '93 graduates

The Texas Planning Council congratulates the 32 consumers and parents who graduated from its third Partners in Policymaking class on May 8.

1. Fina H. Buentello, Weslaco
2. Tom Burchfield, III, Fort Worth
3. Sherri Coles, Arlington
4. Fil C. Edmonson, Wichita Falls
5. Olachi Ezech, Austin
6. Francis R. Flores, Dumas
7. Chris Fox, Amarillo
8. Peter Garcia, Jr., M.D., Austin
9. Tony Hackebeil, Castroville
10. Debra Hooks, Fort Worth
11. Cecilio Jaime, El Paso
12. Joanne Jensen, Lewisville
13. Patrick W. Kelly, Arlington
14. Joel Lollas, Manchaca
15. Kim Mannin, Plainview
16. Tamie R. Morgan, Fort Worth
17. Barbara Walker Murdock, Austin
18. Susan Murphree, Wichita Falls
19. Carla Murray, Longview
20. Jana O'Givie, San Marcos
21. Humberto Orozco, San Juan
22. Carmen Palacios, Corpus Christi
23. Ed Rankin, Plano
24. Theadora M. Ross, Garland
25. Debbi Lee Spraggins, Austin
26. Kathy Stephens, Jacksboro
27. Scott Tooke, Lubbock
28. Thomas L. Tyree, Dallas
29. Sondra Ellene Urban, Midland
30. Laura J. Warren, Austin
31. Lisa White, Houston
32. Edward H. Willard, Jr., Austin

## *A part or apart?*

# New grants promote full inclusion in everyday life

It sounds so simple. Living in your own home. Going to school. And working in a regular job. Most of us take these things for granted. But for children and adults with disabilities, they can be very difficult. Difficult, but possible. Systems are changing and so are lives.

In the last few months, the Council has started a variety of grant projects\* which address inclusive education, employment, moving children and adults from institutions to homes, and assistive technology. These grants are making it possible for more people with disabilities to be fully included in their community.

### **Inclusive Education Projects**

One grant project is targeting the statewide educational system. Three others are working to inte-

## **Partners**

*Continued from page 4*

processes at the local, state and federal levels. They attended eight 2-day training sessions, and each Partner selected a personal project such as serving an internship with a public official, or organizing a letter writing campaign or local coalition.

The next leadership class begins in August. Applications for the following class will be ready in March.

"I know that the changes being fought for will help my son and my friends around Texas," said Joanne Jensen, Lewisville. "I'm not alone in my battle any more."

Partners in Policymaking has given us the knowledge, information and hands on experience to go out into our communities with strength and courage to make a difference, stated Lisa White from Houston at their graduation. "I leave now with new expectations of myself and a strong sense of empowerment." ♦

*June/July 1993*

grate specific Independent School Districts (ISDs). Each of the 3 1/2 year grants began Jan. 1, 1993.

#### ❑ **Inclusive Education**

**Systems Change:** This statewide project, awarded to the Association for Retarded Citizens of Texas, is promoting inclusion of all students in neighborhood schools and regular classes. The grant will emphasize public awareness, technical assistance and training, teacher preparation, a policy development forum and implementation of the TEA "Leadership Initiative." Partial funding for this project is provided by the Texas Education Agency.

#### ❑ **Inclusive Education Dem-**

**onstration Project:** Fort Bend ISD (Sugar Land). Under this project, all students with disabilities in the Fort Bend ISD, pre-K through 12th grade, are to be educated in integrated classrooms. The program features a district-wide advisory committee with inclusive education teams on each campus.

#### ❑ **Inclusive Education Dem-**

**onstration Project:** Mansfield ISD. This project will allow the Mansfield ISD to expand its efforts in inclusive education so that all students with disabilities will be educated in regular, age-appropriate classrooms in their neighborhood schools. Campus-based teams will train all school personnel, community leaders, parents, volunteers and school board members in concepts and skills necessary for inclusion.

#### ❑ **Inclusive Education Dem-**

**onstration Project:** Dallas ISD. Two major reform efforts currently underway are being merged into a site-based management model that will provide an integrated educational system for all students. The

primary focus is on providing training to various groups, providing technical assistance to campus personnel, and developing a strategic plan of inclusion that merges with the district's long-range plan to implement site-based management.

### **Employment Projects**

#### ❑ **Local/Regional Employment Systems Change Project:**

Austin-Travis County MHMR. This 2 1/2-year project will use community integrated work settings to assess, train and employ individuals who are currently in day programs.

#### ❑ **Local/Regional Employment Systems Change Project:**

Junction Five-O-Five (Bryan). Under this 4 1/2-year grant, businesses and service providers will work together to develop a local system for community integrated employment of people with disabilities. An interagency cooperative and business advisory council will combine efforts and resources.

#### ❑ **Local/Regional Employment Systems Change Project:**

Collin County MHMR Center (McKinney). This grant will provide transition from a sheltered workshop/vocational day programming to community integrated employment. During a five-year period, the project expects to place all workers in new jobs, redesignate the workshop for other uses, and develop a conversion guide.

### **Community Living Projects**

#### ❑ **Community Living Systems Change:**

Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. More than 2,000 children and youth with mental retarda-

*See "Grants" page 8*

# From the Executive Director: *Opportunity keeps knocking*

By Roger Webb

Persistence, time and dedication are beginning to pay off. All across America, barriers are falling. People with disabilities are finding it easier to go to a movie or restaurant, obtain jobs and find hotels with truly accessible rooms. But the work has barely begun.

On July 26th, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will celebrate its third anniversary. While it is exciting that progress is being made to implement the ADA, it is still essential to educate businesses about the needs of people with disabilities and accessibility. The opportunity to create change knocks every day.

When was the last time you saw a new building going up? Or heard that a company changed owners? Or an establishment was going to relocate?

How often have you seen a sign which proudly proclaimed that a new store or business was going to locate on that site? Or read in the newspaper that a hotel was undergoing renovation?

These are all opportunities knocking. Every time a business opens or moves, a hotel changes hands or a building is remodeled, we have an excellent opportunity to educate businesses about changes that will make them truly accessible.

In fact, this is the perfect time to bring up accessibility. Explain to the owners or managers that now, when they are undergoing renovation or other changes, is the ideal time to address physical accessibility, rather than having to go back later and retrofit.

But don't limit your discussion to just physical accessibility. For example, you can talk about:

- making brochures, menus, price tags and other materials accessible;
- signs;

- parking; and
- ways in which a little personal assistance makes a big difference.

People with disabilities are the best consultants on the ADA. You can show what needs to be done and why, rather than just telling businesses what's accessible. You also can let them know that most of the accommodations are common sense and require minimal changes.

customers that they are welcome and valued, which builds loyalty.

While many businesses are already meeting minimum standards under the ADA, they can expand their customer base by going beyond the requirements. For example, hotels which provide more accessible guest rooms than required may corner the market on meetings where a number of people with

## **Every time a business opens or moves, a hotel changes hands or a building is remodeled, we have an excellent opportunity to educate businesses about changes that will make them truly accessible.**

In addition to helping businesses meet their responsibilities under the law, explain how going beyond the requirements can expand their customer and employee base even more, as well as customer satisfaction. Stress that improving accessibility benefits the individual company and the general public, as well as people with disabilities.

Be sure to point out ways that everyone benefits from the improvements. For example:

- Parents with small children find it easier to use the larger restroom stalls.
- Children and the elderly can use restroom grab bars to help maintain their balance, especially when standing up again.
- Bigger signs are easier for everyone to read.
- Wider aisles make it easier for people to pass each other and shoppers don't feel like a roadblock when they want to take time to select an item.
- Wider doors and automatic doors are convenient for people carrying packages or children, as well as people with temporary injuries, such as people using crutches.
- Everyone can use a little personal assistance at times to find what they need. By providing this assistance, businesses show all

disabilities attend.

Also talk to hotel managers about transportation, especially if they have a new owner. Are they considering buying a new van? If so, suggest they get one with a lift.

Stress that the end result of making improvements is that more people can access the business and purchase its products or services.

If you'd like more information on the ADA and its regulations or accessibility checklists that businesses can use, contact the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711; (512) 463-5739. The Governor's Committee also can refer you to local, state and federal organizations that assist in implementing the ADA.

When a business is responsive to your efforts, especially if they go beyond requirements of the ADA, make sure you show how much you appreciate what they've done. It's nice to show your appreciation by sending a note, but it's even better to show it with your wallet and patronage.

Just as thousands of people across the nation worked together to get the ADA passed, so now individuals must work together to promote its implementation. Together we can ensure that accessibility is a reality. ♦

## Respite/family supports help keep children in homes

*"I have not met a family yet, that if given the right set of supports, did not want to take care of their own child."* — Patricia McGill Smith

"By in large, American families are very, very good," points out Patricia McGill Smith, National Parent Network on Disabilities. "One of the reasons that some of them are in trouble is because they haven't had the support; they haven't had the help they needed."

The importance of families and of supporting them was paramount at the fourth national conference on respite care. The Texas Planning Council co-sponsored the conference which was hosted by the Texas Respite Resource Network, Dec. 6-9, 1992, in San Antonio. Individuals attended from 40 states,

### Stipends increase attendance at events throughout Texas

Is your organization planning a conference, workshop or other event that will enhance independence, productivity and community integration for people with developmental disabilities? Do you wish more individuals with disabilities and their family members could afford to attend?

If so, you might want to apply for the Council's stipend program which provides funds to organizations sponsoring events in Texas, so more consumers can participate.

Sponsoring organizations must apply for funding at least 120 days before an event. If multiple organizations are sponsoring the program, only one may apply. Applicants are encouraged to apply early enough to ensure plenty of time to publicize the stipends, if approved.

For more details and an application kit, write to W.D. Nielson, TPCDD, 4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751-2399. ♦

four countries and two territories.

Raising a child with a disability is like running a marathon, Smith noted. It takes lots of practice, lots of perseverance and lots of work. And it goes on and on and on.

"Respite can be one of the most wonderful things to help relieve some of the stress that is on families," she said. By providing temporary care for an individual with developmental disabilities, respite gives families a break and the rest they need to resume care.

We have to take the inherent strengths of families and empower them, Smith explained. And you have to consider all members of the family. "Parents want to do what they can, if they can only be shown or helped to do it."

The two main things you have to do for families, she told participants, are to listen to them and gain their trust. Tell them there is help. There is a future. "And don't let anyone say a child can't do something, until that is proven."

It's important to help parents know what they can do to change their own lives, she added. "Many of them do not think they have alternatives. Nor do they think there is any hope for changing their lives."

Conference participants learned about a variety of respite services and other forms of family support that are available in different states and at local levels. For example:

- ❑ An Indiana program provides home-based services to prevent out-of-home placement, while providing training on parenting skills.
- ❑ Educational Respite Care in Alaska teaches consumers independent living skills as they near adulthood. Services can be provided in the individual's home, the community, or the respite provider's home.
- ❑ A permanency planning program in Michigan works to ensure that all children have a home in a family. The idea is that the family is there throughout the child's life.

❑ Family Friends, a program of Any Baby Can in San Antonio, matches volunteers who are at least 55 years old with children who have a chronic illness and/or disability. Volunteers receive 25 hours of training and spend at least four hours a week with the family.

❑ A respite program in Maryland provides the option of home-based care or taking a respite worker along so the whole family can participate in an activity. It emphasizes the need for recreation and leisure.

❑ Some states have created flexible resources that make services easily accessible, affordable and available whenever and wherever needed.

This permits families to build their own supports rather than being forced into an existing program that may not meet their needs. For example, the In-Home and Family Support Program in Texas gives families funds to pay for requested services, including respite care.

❑ For 1 1/2 years, a Respite Task Force has been meeting in Texas in an attempt to develop a statewide system of respite options. It has been instrumental in changing regulations and passing legislation regarding who can perform certain on-going health-related tasks, such as administration of medications.

Family support, in some form, has been implemented in over 40 states. Now it's time to go further.

"It is essential that our government think in a way that transforms how services are delivered so that we develop a true family support system...and not a system which often, for example, puts the needs of children in conflict with the needs of whole families," explained Dr. Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, who has served as Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

We must put family support at the center of all our policymaking, she said "We must look at families as the fundamental, indeed, perhaps the prime asset in our society." ♦

## Grants promote inclusion *Continued from page 5*

tion or autism live in residential placements in Texas. This permanency planning project seeks to increase community living options available to families and their children. The project is providing training and technical assistance needed to shift attitudes and to move the state away from residential placement of children so that the service system enables them to remain in families. The project ends in May 1996.

### □ **Community Living**

**Systems Change:** Community Options, Inc. This 3 1/2-year project will provide supports for people with severe developmental disabilities to transition from institutional residency to community living (in apartments, condominiums and single family homes). Community Options will use circles of support, personal futures planning, technology, family supports and supported employment. This project is based in Austin.

### **All Children Belong Demonstration Project:**

Awarded to the Dallas County Mental Health Mental Retardation

Center, this is a 3 1/2-year project. It will demonstrate one model for reunifying children, who were placed in institutions, with their birth families or with support families who may adopt.

### **Texas Assistive Technology Partnership Project**

The University Affiliated Program at The University of Texas at Austin has received a three-year federal grant to establish a state-wide, assistive technology program for Texans with disabilities. This grant, from the National Institute on Disability and Research, will develop an assistive technology

training program and a regional system of assistive technology services and programs. A Texas Planning Council grant will provide a full-time information and referral specialist under the project. The project also will update a resource guide on assistive technology in Texas which was published in 1990 under a previous Council grant. ♦

*\* Grant funds are awarded on behalf of the Texas Planning Council by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission which provides administrative support to the Council.*



# Highlights

*Highlights* is produced by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities for distribution to Council members, grantees and other interested persons throughout the state. Organizations that serve persons who have developmental disabilities are encouraged to submit news for publication. Inquiries may be addressed to Lucy Walker, editor, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, 4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751-2399, (512) 483-4092 voice or TDD (512) 483-4099. Taped copies and other formats available on request.

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