



# DIRECTIONS DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MHMR SERVICES

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## MHMR BOARD MEETS

The Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the Day Treatment/Administration Facility in Lufkin, Texas. The Board heard a report on the Volunteer Recognition Banquet held at the Lufkin Civic Center on May 4. Over 200 volunteers throughout the thirteen county Deep East Texas Region attended the banquet with 71 of them receiving recognition for 100 or more volunteer hours. The Board considered the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 1979 and the Biennium Request for 1980-1981. The Board approved the request of \$3,004,619 for FY 1979.

Other action taken at the meeting included: consideration of proposed contract for computer services, consideration of proposed revision in Texas Commission on Alcoholism Grant application, consideration of proposed workshop on Mentally Retarded Persons Act, consideration of nominees for County Advisory Committees and Councils and consideration of personnel matters. The Board approved the hiring of Mrs. Sandy Skelton in the position of Director, Outpatient Clinics, effective June 5, 1978.

## MR. BURKE RECEIVES AWARD

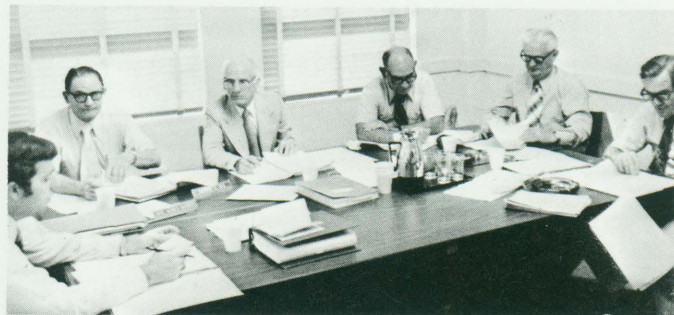
Mr. Ward Burke, Chairman, Board of Trustees, has been chosen to receive the 1978 Commissioner's Award for Volunteer Services.

The Commissioner's Award for Volunteer Services was created in 1975 to express appreciation and support of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for volunteer accomplishments.

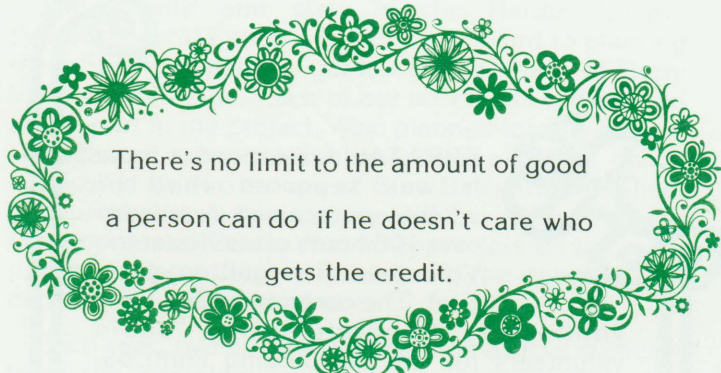
The award is presented to individuals and/or organizations whose service, dedication, support, loyalty and continued efforts are monumental evidence of their concern for the treatment and care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded citizens of Texas.

Mr. Burke's volunteer service in addition to serving as MHMR's Board Chairman include: The Lufkin Council for Retarded Children (member, co-founder and former president); Texas Association for Retarded Children (member and presently on Board of Directors); Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (former member on Board of Directors and former Chairman of the Board from 1963 to 1971); and he was instrumental in converting the Lufkin Radar Base to a State School for Retarded citizens.

Congratulations to Mr. Burke from the board and staff of Deep East Texas Regional MHMR for this well deserved honor.



Mr. Ward Burke, third from left, discusses Center matters with other Board members. Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director; Mr. George Gee, Board; Mr. Burke; Judge Allen Sturrock, Board; Mr. Tom Mann, Board; and Mr. V.B. Woods, Board.



There's no limit to the amount of good a person can do if he doesn't care who gets the credit.

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## from the **Director's Desk**

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH**

A report recently published by the President's Commission on Mental Health has as a top priority the need for more community-based mental health services. The commission worked for over one year and involved hundreds of citizens around the country. The commission noted that "Over half the estimated \$17 billion spent for mental health care annually is spent in large state institutions and in nursing homes." The report also stated, "There is an urgent need for a national policy that will alter the balance of mental health expenditures in order to develop needed community-based services."

First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, honorary chairperson of the commission spoke recently in Austin at a seminar sponsored by the Texas based Hogg Foundation for mental health. Hundreds of delegates to this conference from across the state emphasized the pressing need for expansion of community-based services in order to assist people in remaining in their home communities. One psychiatrist in attendance at this conference stated "A person should not have to go 200 miles and stay four weeks in an institution to have his depression treated any more than he should have to go 200 miles and stay four weeks to have his appendicitis treated."

### **EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER**

Janis Smith, Unit Supervisor at the Newton County Development Center, and Johnny Stokman, Community Service Aide III, at the Day Treatment Program, were recognized as Employees of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter of FY 1978. Congratulations, Janis and Johnny!



### **MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS ACT**

The Mentally Retarded Persons' Act (MRPA) became law January 1 of this year. The law itself contains a Bill of Rights for Mentally Retarded citizens, and outlines what recourse is available if the law is violated. The Texas Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation is legally responsible for writing rules that interpret the law. These are beginning to appear, and will have a far-reaching effect on the Service Delivery System.

One portion of the law outlines that every MR client receiving services must have a comprehensive Diagnosis and Evaluation, performed by a certified team consisting of a Psychologist, Education Specialist, Social Worker, and Physician. If the client (if over 18), or family objects to the findings of the D and E team they have a right to appeal the findings.

Another significant aspect of the new law is the provision surrounding Guardianship. It is no longer assumed that an MR client over 18 years of age automatically has had his rights removed. Until a court determines the need for full or limited guardianship, an MR adult has full legal rights under the law.

The new Public Responsibility Committee, formed to serve the Deep East Texas Region, is also an outgrowth of this law. The responsibilities of this committee include receiving, investigating, and making recommendations regarding alleged denial of rights or abuse of clients served in MHMR programs. They will meet at least quarterly to discuss items before them, or more often if necessary.



**ERRATA:** In last month's issue it was reported that 17 volunteers received awards for over 100 hours of service at the Volunteer Recognition Banquet. The correct number is 71 volunteers. Congratulations, again volunteers for the outstanding contributions you are making to our clients.



## **KIRBYVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER**

This has been a very busy month for the staff and clients at our center. Several of our clients had birthdays this month and we celebrated each birthday with a party. Each client had cake, punch, and presents at their party. The Center would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. William Smith, Mrs. David Askew, and Mrs. Herman Davis for their time and help with the parties.

Along with the birthday parties, our clients enjoyed several field trips this month. On the first field trip the clients visited a local farm where they fished in a small pond, went on a hayride, watched cattle grazing, and ate a picnic lunch. Another outing included a trip to the Lufkin Zoo. The clients were fascinated with all the animals. Their favorite animal was the hippopotamus. The clients also enjoyed a day of splashing and swimming at Red Hills Lake. We met the San Augustine Nursing Center staff and residents at the lake where we enjoyed a reunion with an ex-client of our Center who is now a resident of the nursing center. A few of the clients who were afraid of the water waded or played in the water. Everyone had a lot of fun. Staff and clients of the Developmental Center would like to express our appreciation to our volunteers, Arcell Bean and Margie Saulsbury, for accompanying us on our trips.

Our academic program has been enriched through the help of our volunteer, Carolyn Faulkner. She works individually with clients in their problem areas. All the Center's volunteers contribute a vital function to the program and the staff greatly appreciates their time, work, and dedication.

## **HARDIN COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER**

The clients and staff of the Hardin County Developmental Center are looking forward to planting their Spring vegetable garden at the home of Betty Verdine, staff aide. Each of our six clients will take an active part in the project. Also planned for this month, is a garage sale, general store and a square dance sponsored by two troupes of Blue Birds from Silsbee. The proceeds of this activity will be donated to the Developmental Center. We do appreciate all the community support that we receive and the donation will certainly be put to good use.

Each year, two or three Senior High School students from the Sociology class, come to our center and volunteer on a regular basis. These students come once or twice a week and spend several hours working with the clients on a one to one basis. The help that they provide our clients is invaluable and we certainly appreciate each and every one of these volunteers.

## **NACOGDOCHES SHELTERED WORKSHOP**

The top of news for May was our visit to Austin for the State Special Olympics Track and Field Meet. The event lasted from the 24th through the 26th. We had five athletes; Mike Gilley, Ginger Lee, Dusty Collins, Lloyd Perkins and Brent McElmurry, one coach; Becky Runyan, and two volunteers; Jeannie Spector and Tom Colkin attend the meet from our workshop. We brought home one gold medal for the softball throw, two bronze medals for the 50 meter dash and several other 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place ribbons. Needless to say, we're proud!

We will begin moving into our new workshop June 1 and invite you all to come visit us.

## **NEWTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

The Newton County Developmental Center took part in an Open House May 15th, as the County invited the public to inspect the newly renovated facility. The staff appreciated the support of Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Mr. Russ Burbank, Ms. Marcia Northcutt, and Mr. and Mrs. George Gee on this occasion.

The staff and clients were treated to a picnic, Friday, May 26th, at the Woods Park. Refreshments and lunches were furnished by the Newton Junior High Cafeteria Staff.

Ms. Shelia Spivey provided us with a lovely cake for an end of School party. This was a nice way to end the school term. We are looking forward to the summer holidays and making plans for another productive year next fall.

## **HOUSTON COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP**

The Houston County Sheltered Workshop has successfully completed one year of operation this month. In April of 1977 the Houston County Developmental Center was phased out and the workshop was born. The clients and staff moved into a new 2500 sq. ft. building that same month.

The twenty-three clients and four staff are currently working on several types of contract work including detailing cars for three local auto dealers, salvaging paper for Ennis Business Forms, janitorial service for the Trinity County Outpatient Clinic in Groveton, salvaging telephone parts for Western Electric, and the manufacture of ceramic products.

Everyone at the workshop is looking forward to having another successful year in Crockett. The public is invited to visit anytime between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## "DIRECTIONS" FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

You receive on a monthly basis the newsletter, "Directions", which is produced by the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services. This questionnaire has been developed to assess the newsletter.

For each question listed below, please circle the appropriate answer. After completion of the questionnaire, please cut out and mail to the address below. Please return this questionnaire by July 7, 1978. Your cooperation with this assessment is greatly appreciated. Mail to: MHRM Directions, 4101 South Medford Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901.

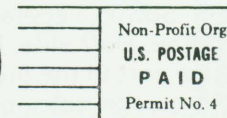
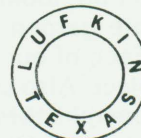
For each question listed below, please circle the appropriate answer.

1. Do you receive the "Directions" newsletter?
  - A. No, I never remember receiving the "Directions" newsletter.
  - B. I have received the "Directions" newsletter in the past, but have not received one in the last six months.
  - C. I receive the "Directions" newsletter about once a quarter.
  - D. I receive the "Directions" newsletter most every month.
  - E. I receive the "Directions" newsletter monthly.
  
2. Do you read the "Directions" newsletter?
  - A. I never read the "Directions" newsletter.
  - B. I seldom read the "Directions" newsletter.
  - C. I frequently read the "Directions" newsletter, at least partially.
  - D. I read the "Directions" newsletter monthly, at least partially.
  - E. I read the majority of the items in the "Directions" newsletter on a monthly basis.
3. Concerning the content of the "Directions" newsletter:
  - A. Very uninteresting.
  - B. Usually not interesting.
  - C. Not particularly interesting or uninteresting.
  - D. Usually interesting.
  - E. Very interesting.
4. The quality of the "Directions" newsletter (pictures, type paper, style of writing, etc.) is:
 

A. Very poor.	D. Good.
B. Poor.	E. Very good.
C. Fair.	
  
5. Do you feel the content of "Directions" is balanced information about the Board of Trustees, information about the programs and information about the staff.
  - A. Too much information about the staff, not enough about the Board and programs.
  - B. Too much information about the Board, not enough about the staff and programs.
  - C. Too much information about the programs, not enough about the Board and the staff.
  - D. Information about the Board, programs and staff is sometimes well balanced.
  - E. Information about the Board, programs is well balanced.
6. Does "Directions" provide you with useful information?
  - A. Never.
  - B. Seldom.
  - C. Some issues do, some issues don't.
  - D. Frequently.
  - E. Always.
7. Do you feel "Directions" is worthwhile and should be continued?
  - A. No.
  - B. Yes, with major improvements.
  - C. Yes, with some improvements.
  - D. Yes, with minor improvements.
  - E. Yes.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address correction requested



Please address correspondence to: DIRECTIONS, Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, 4101 S. Medford Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901.

The Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services operates in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and Executive Order 11246, as amended.