



DIRECTIONS

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DEEP EAST
TEXAS REGIONAL
MHMR SERVICES

Vol. 7, No. 4

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Care Provider

March-April, 1981



*Community Forum
Meeting in Jasper,
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Board Celebrates Seven Years

Members of the Board of Trustees of Deep East Texas MHMR are celebrating in 1981 their seventh anniversary. They enjoyed this anniversary cake at a recent meeting of the Board. From left are the Rev. Robert Carter, Judge Allen Sturrock, Chairman V.B. Woods, George Gee, Perry Sampson and Ward R. Burke. Mr. Woods, Mr. Gee and Mr. Burke were members of the original Board formed in February, 1974.

Advisory Councils Hold Public Meetings

County Advisory Councils all over the region are conducting or planning to conduct their annual community forum meetings in an effort to build public support and find out local needs.

One leading advisory council, the Jasper County Council, conducted its meeting Thursday, May 7, at the First National Bank Community Room. Approximately 25 attended the work session.

More public awareness of existing services and more community support of existing services by community volunteers were the consensus conclusions reached by the participants.

Products of this county meeting will be combined with others gathered from similar meetings in the 12 other counties of the region to form an annual report to the Deep East Texas MHMR staff. The advisory council members themselves have been conducting a local needs assessment that will be supplemented by the input from the recent public meeting.

"It is important that our community express its needs so planning will begin and services continue," said Bobbie Morgan, chairperson of the Jasper County Council.

There were other matters the participants felt were important. There needs to be more mental health therapy sessions for senior citizens, more emphasis on community involvement in job placement for the mentally handicapped in the sheltered workshop program, a sheltered workshop located in Kirbyville, and more attention given individual treatment for infants.

The Council works with three MHMR units in Jasper County: Jasper-Newton County Sheltered Workshop

directed by Marty Walker, the Kirbyville Developmental Center by Sally Navarre, and the Jasper County Outpatient Clinic by Paul Jackson.

Pictured on the front cover of "Directions" are Anna E. Hayles and Bobbie Morgan, left and right.

Mental Health Affects Community Well-Being

Communities that are prosperous and growing usually have a population that is not troubled to a large degree by mental health problems.

This is an important thing to remember, especially during May Mental Health month being sponsored locally by the nearest office of Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services.

Accidents, low productivity, and high personnel turnover are concrete community economic issues related significantly to mental health and mental illness.

Emotional problems are responsible for approximately 20 to 30 percent of employee absenteeism. Personal factors cause 80 to 90 percent of accidents on the job.

It may be only a guess, but evidence shows that about a quarter of any large work force is in serious need of help for some kind of psychological and social trouble.

Therefore, it's not surprising that where you find good mental health practiced, whether it be on the job, in schools or at home, there is a better likelihood that the community will prosper and grow.

This lesson is especially important to remember during May Mental Health month.



Far right. Clients sing at dedication ceremony. Standing from left, Carolyn McKenzie, Diane Reese, Lorianne Talley, David Garrett, Marie Jordan, Henry Porchia, Peggy Elliott, Louis Townsend, Barbara McLean, R.W. Rollins, Carol Mullens, Darrell Kyles, Doug Banks, Pam Thomas, Dwayne Rashall, Linda McKenzie, and Mary Miniffee. Seated, Pam Turner, Charles Loggins and Yvonne Neyland at the piano.

Upper right. Guests sign in, from left, Mildred Barclay, Doug Banks, Mr. and Mrs. James Banks, Barbara Paret, Viola Townsend, Lola Reed, and Dr. and Mrs. W.C. McNeil.

Top left. Karen Bash, Francis Cobble, Yvonne Neyland, Winnie Jones and Marie Bomer visit at Halfway House.

Above. At the Halfway House reception were Peggy Elliott, Ann Smart, Marie Jordan, V.L. Jones and granddaughter, Christina Jones.

Open House

The Rev. Robert Carter presided during the open house and dedication Friday, April 10, for the Hardin County Halfway House and the Sheltered Workshop. The Rev. Mr. Carter is pastor of the Pinecrest Baptist Church in Silsbee and is a member of the MHMR Board of Trustees.

The afternoon's activities began at 3:30 p.m. with a public meeting in the Silsbee Community Center.

The Rev. Allan Bash, Pastor of the Silsbee First Christian Church and a member of the MHMR Advisory Council in Hardin County, delivered the invocation.

Special guests at the meeting included Hardin County Judge Ray Martin, Silsbee Mayor Darrell Shine, Silsbee Chamber of Commerce President Paul Miller, County Commissioners James McGallion and Pete McKinney, City Councilman Burl Modisette, and Winnie Jones, Chairperson of the Hardin County MHMR Advisory Council.

Four certificates of appreciation were presented to citizens in the area who have been especially generous in their support of the workshop and halfway house. Jo Ann Fries, director of the workshop made these presentations: Scott Watjus, Director of Purchasing, Texaco; Winnie Jones, President of the Silsbee Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.; J.D. Cones, Silsbee Evening Lions Club; and Billy Lamb, representing United Paperworkers International Union, Local 825.

More than 100 at Use and Dedication

The awards ceremony was followed by a choral presentation by clients of MHMR directed by volunteer teacher Yvonne Neyland.

The dedication ceremony ended at 4:00 p.m. when the guests were invited to tour the sheltered workshop and the new halfway house.

Mrs. Fries is director of the Sheltered Workshop. Karen Bash is director of the Halfway House.



Group Advocates for Citizen Rights

The mentally impaired in Deep East Texas have a strong and effective group to guard their rights.

It's the Public Responsibility Committee and it is made up of citizens from the region who are committed to protect and advocate for the rights of the mentally impaired.

While Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services is the principal care provider for the mentally impaired in this region, the Public Responsibility Committee is completely independent and autonomous. Their only responsibility is to the mentally impaired.

Those who have a complaint regarding the abuse or denial or rights of a mentally impaired person may write the committee: Post Office Box 935, Lufkin, Texas 75901.

Members of the Committee are appointed by their local commissioners court. They are John Smith of Lufkin, representing Angelina County; Neill Hays of Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County; Mrs. Charles Scherzer of Center, Shelby, San Augustine and Sabine Counties; Mrs. L.O. Bean of Kirbyville, serving Jasper and Newton Counties; and Mrs. Robert Neyland of Silsbee, representing Hardin County.

Others on the Committee are Mrs. Bessie Sanders of Shepherd, representing San Jacinto and Polk Counties; Oma Bush of Groveton, Trinity County; Oscar Sanders of Crockett, Houston County; and Mrs. L.E. Crowson of Woodville, representing Tyler County.

MHMR Clients Make Plans for Summer Camp

As many as 120 mentally retarded clients of Deep East Texas MHMR Services are expected to attend Camp Leander this summer, June 8 through 12.

The clients will come from the 13-county region served by MHMR.

This is the largest group ever to attend Camp Leander since MHMR started sending clients five years ago.

Camp Leander is located 20 miles north of Austin. It is operated year-round for the physically and mentally handicapped by the Texas Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation.

Activities at the camp include horseback riding, baseball, swimming, fishing, and paddle-boat rides.

Also, tractor rides, campfire cookouts, talent shows and arts and crafts.

Cost for sending clients to Camp Leander is \$40. Not all clients can afford to attend.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a client to camp this summer may do so by making a donation to MHMR in the amount of \$40 for each client you wish to sponsor.

Contact the nearest unit of Deep East Texas MHMR or call Gwen Cunningham, Volunteer Director in Lufkin, 634-8241.

For a Healthy Baby

The Bakersfield, California Association for Retarded Citizens has recently published a pamphlet outlining some things a couple can do to give a baby a healthy start in life.

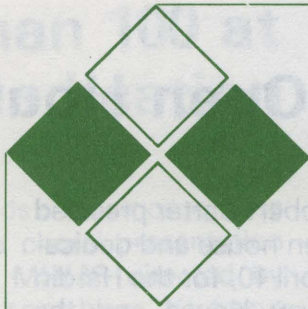
About half the cases of mental retardation and other defects could be prevented if simple procedures are followed.

The ten things listed include:

1. Think ahead. For example, think about seeking genetic counseling. Genetic factors cause one-fourth of all retardation.
2. See your doctor before conception, for immunizations and tests.
3. Eat the right foods. The wrong diet can damage the baby's future ability to learn.
4. Protect yourself with immunizations. Get tests for susceptibility to German Measles which can cause retardation or other birth defects.
5. Beware of radiation. X-rays can be dangerous.
6. Stop smoking. Smoking can result in smaller babies, susceptible to illnesses.
7. Continue to see your doctor. Regular appointments are important.
8. V.D. needs treatment. V.D. can cause serious defects in any infant.
9. Know your blood type. RH negative blood can cause anemia.
10. Avoid drugs, except those prescribed by your doctor. Even aspirin may not be safe during pregnancy.

Clients Rights

The Public Responsibility Committee will accept complaints regarding abuse and denial of right for mentally retarded citizens. Mail to P. O. Box 935, Lufkin, Texas 75901.



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Wayne Lawrence, Ph.D., Executive Director
Joe McCulley, Editor

A product of the Consultation and Education Services Program.

Toll Free Crisis Line - - - 1-800-392-8343



Certificate Presented

Maxie Riley, left, President of the Deep East Texas County Commissioners and Judges Association, receives a certificate of appreciation from Wayne Lawrence, Ph.D., Executive Director of Deep East Texas MHMR. Dr. Lawrence presented the certificate during a recent meeting of the Association in San Augustine. Looking on is Tyler County Judge Allen Sturrock. Mr. Riley is Commissioner in Tyler County.