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DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
SERVICES

An Equal Opportunity Employer Vol. 1 No. 5 January 20, 1975

HAPPY NEW YEAR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER SPOTLIGHTED

This section will be a regular feature for the next several months in order to introduce each Board member to the citizens of the region.

Mr. R. B. (Ben) Hille is currently serving a two-year term as s DETR-MHMRS Board of Trustees member representing Polk and San Jacinto Counties. He also serves as Secretary for the Board.

Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Hille spent most of his childhood in Port Arthur, Texas, where he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High in 1960. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Lamar State University and a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

He served in the U. S. Navy as a training officer and was discharged in 1968 as a full lieutenant. Mr. Hille, for a time, served as Executive Director of the Bi-State Health Planning Board in Texarkana. In 1970, he was appointed Deputy Executive Director for the Deep East Texas Council of Governments. In 1972, he became Director of the Polk County Solid Wastes Disposal Program and is presently engaged in the general insurance business.

He and his wife, Becky, are very active in the United Pentecostal Church.

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTERS ASSUMED

On January 1, 1975, DETRMHMRS acquired three Community Counseling Centers from the Deep East Texas Council of Governments. These Counseling Centers, located in Jasper, Livingston and Nacogdoches, serve as primary treatment facilities for persons experiencing alcohol or drug related problems. Persons interested in these programs should contact one of the following:

Jasper------Jolyon Bowman, Counselor
Post Office Box 1017
713-384-8589

Livingston--Don Braun, Counselor
415 North Washington
713-327-4197

Nacogdoches-Jon Ed Smith, Counselor
Debbie Barthol, Secretary
305 E. College
713-569-0066

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

The Jasper County Developmental Center clients were delighted by a visit from Santa Claus on December 17, 1974, when the V.F.W. Women's Auxiliary gave the class a Christmas party. Each child received several gifts with a basket of fruit donated by volunteers. Father Tom Huhn provided a delightful cartoon show for the children.

Other civic and volunteer involvement included the First National Bank providing a wreath for the door, St. Michael's Catholic Church decorating the interior, and Southwestern Timber Company providing the tree.

The V.F.W. Women's Auxiliary has been very instrumental in the growth of the Center in 1974 by financial contributions each month.

The Tyler County Developmental Center clients were visited by Santa Claus in December during a Christmas party given by the Heritage Civic Club.

Other civic and volunteer involvement included gifts from Alpha Delta Kappa, mittens filled with candy from Kim Thompson, toothbrushes from Jarrott's Pharmacy and Dr. J. M. Radford, and decorations were provided by the Woodville Convalescent Center. A dinner was prepared and served by Mrs. Lounell Hays. Christmas songs were played on the piano by Mrs. Maxine Wooten.

The Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop celebrated their Christmas holiday with a party on December 25, 1974. Gifts were donated by the Westminister Presbyterian Church and Joanne Nall. Volunteers, Cindy Reynolds and Mrs. Miriam Goodrum, prepared the refreshments. German fruit bread and German cookies were served with a hot drink called "Wassel".

Volunteers continue to be a very important part of DETRMHMRS programs and the Board, staff and clients would like to express their appreciation to all of the very thoughtful persons who donate of their time and energies in such an unselfish fashion.

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COMMISSIONER'S COURTS TAKE OFFICE

The following is a current listing of the County Judges and Commissioners for the Deep East Texas region who took office as of January 1, 1975. It is only with the continued support for involvement in our programs by these individuals that our services can continue. We would like to express our appreciation to each of the Commissioner's Courts that has approved our funding requests and once again, congratulate the Courts for working in harmony on a regional project. Listed alphabetically by County, the Courts are structured as follows:

ANGELINA COUNTY
County Judge - Claude Welch
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Leon Tillman
Pct. 2 - Louis Parise
Pct. 3 - Charles Shofner
Pct. 4 - Robert Colwell

HARDIN COUNTY
County Judge - Emmett Lack
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Rex Moore
Pct. 2 - Howard Barrington
Pct. 3 - Hugh B. Means
Pct. 4 - J. L. Loftin

HOUSTON COUNTY
County Judge - J. B. Lively
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - J. R. McLeod
Pct. 2 - Fagan Huff
Pct. 3 - L. A. Little
Pct. 4 - Rayford Gallant

JASPER COUNTY
County Judge - T. Gilbert Adams
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - E. B. May
Pct. 2 - Doyle Hancock
Pct. 3 - Charles G. Smith
Pct. 4 - Corbitt Whitehead

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY
County Judge - Steve Burgess
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - M. E. Tubbe
Pct. 2 - Amos Henderson, Sr.
Pct. 3 - Mrs. Joan Cason
Pct. 4 - Woodrow Parmer

NEWTON COUNTY
County Judge - Lee Roy Fillyaw
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Marvin J. Hall
Pct. 2 - Ottis "Bo" Lewis
Pct. 3 - Henry Irby
Pct. 4 - Melvin Smith

POLK COUNTY
County Judge - Wayne Baker
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Donald Hill
Pct. 2 - Billy Jack Jones
Pct. 3 - Sidney Adams
Pct. 4 - Alvin Ross

SABINE COUNTY
County Judge - W. T. Love
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - R. E. Smith
Pct. 2 - G. W. Russell, Jr.
Pct. 3 - Paul Lout
Pct. 4 - Jimmy Vickers

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY
County Judge - Wyatt C. Teel
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - John Arnold
Pct. 2 - C. L. (Jack) Smith
Pct. 3 - T. J. Woods
Pct. 4 - Marvin Dickerson

SAN JACINTO COUNTY
County Judge - K. P. Bryant
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - G. R. McKellar, Jr.
Pct. 2 - Roy Lewis
Pct. 3 - Donald Cox
Pct. 4 - Ralph Hilzerdager

SHELBY COUNTY
County Judge - Paul Carlisle
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Lomax Webb
Pct. 2 - O. L. "Billy" Greer
Pct. 3 - Joe S. Alford
Pct. 4 - L. G. Allen

TRINITY COUNTY
County Judge - Albert Hutson
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Lynn Reynolds
Pct. 2 - Dean Price
Pct. 3 - Clifton Reynolds
Pct. 4 - R. C. Davis

TYLER COUNTY
County Judge - Tom D. Mann
Commissioners:
Pct. 1 - Joe I. Best
Pct. 2 - H. M. Parks
Pct. 3 - Kenneth C. Belt
Pct. 4 - James Jordan

SHELTERED WORKSHOP OPENS

DETRMHMRS has recently begun operation of the Shelby County Sheltered Workshop for the mentally retarded. The Workshop is located on Highway 96, one and a half miles south of Center.

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide training in personal, social, and vocational skills for mentally retarded persons. The overall objective of the Workshop is to provide training that will enable retarded individuals to remain in the community and home, and to contribute to the local work force through gainful employment.

Training in a variety of job skills will be provided through work contracts with local businesses.

The director of the Workshop is Mr. Tom Watkins and the trainer is Mrs. Clementine Lathan. Persons interested in referral to the Shelby County Sheltered Workshop may call 713-598-7634. The Workshop is open from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

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ADVISORY COUNCILS MEET

The Tyler County Advisory Council for DETRMHMRS met on December 16 in the Commissioner's Courtroom of the County Courthouse. Members present included: Judge Tom D. Mann - Chairman, Mrs. Janis Grillot, Mrs. Marge Esler, Rev. Roger Shumate, Brad Smith, Sam Sullivan, and Dr. Raymond Parker, all of Woodville.

Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director, and Mrs. Betty Ecker, Director of Mental Health Programs, represented DETRMHMRS and discussed the agency's programs and plans as they relate to Tyler County.

The group discussed several topics such as the need for additional volunteers, the Child Development Center, and the opening of an Outpatient Clinic in Woodville.

The Tyler County Outpatient Clinic will provide counseling and guidance services in such areas as marriage counseling, alcoholism and drug abuse problems, family therapy, etc., and is planned to open during late January.

The Newton County Advisory Council for DETRMHMRS held their organizational meeting on December 16 in the Board room at the High School. Robert G. Miles, Robert C. Sneed, Gerald Pace, Agnes Martin, and James D. Duncan, all of Newton, attended.

The Newton County Commissioner's Court, at the regular monthly meeting held on December 7, voted to participate in this program by providing $4,752.00 to help finance the Newton County Outpatient Clinic and other programs such as alcoholism counseling, mental retardation classes and inpatient psychiatric care.

The group discussed several topics including the need for an Outpatient Clinic in Newton County to assist individuals needing help in a variety of areas, the possible locations for such a program, and employment procedures for a Clinic Director.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MEET IN DIBOLL

The January meeting of the DETRMHMRS Board of Trustees will be held in the City Hall in Diboll on January 23, 1975. The public is invited.

DETRMHMRS RECEIVES GRANTS

DETRMHMRS has recently received approval of three grant requests.

The agency received a total of $63,000 in grant funds from three separate sources. A total of $14,500 was received from the Developmental Disabilities section of the Social and Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to finance the operation of the Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop. This grant will provide funds to expand the services to more mentally retarded clients, as well as improve the quality of care being rendered.

Another grant in the amount of $25,000 was received from the Texas Commission on Alcoholism and will finance the operation of three Community Counseling Centers (located in Jasper, Livingston, and Nacogdoches) for a period of six months. These Counseling Centers provide direct counseling and guidance programs to individuals experiencing alcohol abuse problems.

The third grant totaling $23,000 was received from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to operate a halfway house for individuals who have alcohol and drug abuse problems. Under this program, people needing a sheltered living environment will be able to live in a group home atmosphere under the supervision of specially trained personnel and will receive training in vocational, social, and personal adjustment areas.

TDMHMR STAFF VISITS

Mrs. Ruth Parker, TDMHMR Coordinator, Centralized Waiting List, recently visited with several DETRMHMRS staff members. Mrs. Parker, who is responsible for the coordination for all applications for State School admissions in the State of Texas, worked closely with Mr. Byron Crawford, Mental Retardation Caseworker, during her visit. She and Mr. Crawford reviewed the procedures involved in State School application process as well as social work techniques.

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MENTAL HEALTH IS HOW WE FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES, ABOUT OTHERS, AND - HOW WE COPE WITH THE STRESS AND STRAINS OF LIFE.

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Please address correspondence to: DIRECTIONS, Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, P. O. Box 592, Lufkin, Texas 75901.

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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.