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DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
SERVICES

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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. George Gee is currently serving as a DETRMHMR's Board of Trustees member, representing Jasper and Newton counties.

Mr. Gee was born and raised in Call, Newton County, Texas in 1918. Following his graduation from Kirbyville High School in 1936, Mr. Gee worked in a local drug store for a short period of time.

Upon entering the service he served in the United States Naval Reserve, as well as having a tour of duty in the Fleet Marine Force in the South Pacific during World War II. During this tour of duty Mr. Gee received a letter of commendation from his commanding officer for exhibiting exceptional bravery during combat.

In 1946 Mr. Gee entered the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. Following graduation with honors in 1949, Mr. Gee worked in pharmacies in Kirbyville and Jasper and also worked for a pharmaceutical company. In 1958 he entered the retail pharmacy business, opening his own store in Jasper by 1961, which he still operates.

He and his wife, Lois Baker Gee, are members of the First Church of the Nazarene in Jasper. Mr. Gee is active in the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star; as well as the Sabine/Neches, Texas and American Pharmaceutical Associations.

The Gees, who were married in 1950, have three children. They are Mr. William B. Gee, Jasper; Mr. Charles E. Gee, Jasper and Mrs. Lois Comal, Temple.

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED

The Board and staff of DETRMHMRS are actively involved in the planning of an Open House to be held in the month of May. May is traditionally designated as Mental Health month (on a national basis) and an open house held in each separate DETRMHMRS program may help increase public awareness of our services and mental health in general. More details later.

BOARD CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Trustees of DETRMHMRS met at City Hall, Diboll, Texas on February 20, 1975 and celebrated the first anniversary since its formation in 1974.

Action taken by the Board included revising the fee schedule for service, increasing the travel re-imbursement rates for staff and Board, and the acceptance of donated property.

The Board also authorized the staff to initiate accreditation efforts.



Members present for the Board of Trustees First Anniversary meeting posed with a cake commemorating the event. (l.to r.) Rev. Jerry Self, George Gee, Chairman Ward R. Burke, Judge Tom D. Mann, Treasurer V.B. Woods, Vice Chairman W.J. Gentry and Secretary R.B. Hille. Not present were Cleo Hines and Judge Emmett Lack.

ALTERNATIVES SERIES PLANNED

An intensive public education program entitled ALTERNATIVES is planned to begin in the next 30 days. This program will include newspaper releases, radio and television spots depicting typical mental illness and mental retardation and alcoholism problems.

The purpose of the program will be to increase public awareness concerning the area of mental health and mental retardation as well as provide information on where individuals can receive assistance.

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COMPRESSOR ARRIVES AT CENTER

A much needed compressor was delivered on March 7 to the Shelby County Workshop, that will be used for the building of birdhouses and hanging baskets.

Orders are now being sought for the Workshop, including a large contract anticipated in the near future, for the building of pallets for a Shelbyville company, and another contract to build tables and stools for a Dallas firm.

Current projects going on are chair repairs, sanding of furniture and the construction of birdhouses.

Tomato seeds have been planted for later replanting in a garden that will be situated behind the Workshop.

Local businessmen are being advised of the Workshop's activities and capabilities and a good response from them is anticipated in the form of more orders.

Mr. Tom Watkins is Director of the Shelby County Workshop and Mrs. Clementine Lathan is Trainer.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CONTINUES

Monday, March 17, Reverend Jerry Self, Board member representing Nacogdoches County and Mr. Si Morrison, Director of Program Support Services were interviewed on radio station KJCS in Nacogdoches.

During the interview numerous DETRMHMRS programs were discussed, including the Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop.

Reverend Self and Mr. Morrison expressed appreciation for the support of local citizens' groups such as the Piney Woods Association for Retarded Citizens, as well as the Nacogdoches County Commissioners Court.

NEW EMPLOYEES WELCOMED

During the months of February and March the following new employees joined the DETRMHMR Service staff: they are Mrs. Lillian Newborn, Secretary; and Mrs. Charlotte Wolfe, Clinic Director.

CAREERS IN DETRMHMR SERVICES

DETRMHMR Services participated in Career Day observance last Friday at Angelina College. Members of the staff were present to answer questions about Mental Health and Mental Retardation careers and a variety of materials illustrating the aims and scope of the thirteen county program were handed out.

WE WANT TO HELP!!

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC OPENS IN NEWTON

The Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services announces the opening of a Mental Health Clinic in Newton. The Newton County Out-Patient Clinic opened Monday, March 10, 1975 and is located in the Old Hospital Building. The Clinic will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. , Monday through Friday.

This Clinic will serve residents of Jasper, Newton, Sabine, and San Augustine Counties.

The Clinic will provide a full range of psychiatric and counseling services, including marriage, personal problems, family, alcohol and drug abuse counseling, as well as follow-up care for persons discharged from Rusk State Hospital. Psychological testing and chemotherapy will also be available. The staff hopes to work closely with local agencies and school systems in helping prevent serious emotional and/or behavior problems.

Mrs. Charlotte Wolfe is the full-time Clinic Director. Professional staff who will be at the Clinic on a regular basis include Dr. Felix Peebles, Psychiatrist; Mr. Bob West, Psychologist; Miss Judy Gibson, Caseworker; and Mr. Jolyon Bowman, Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counselor.

This Clinic is funded by state and local monies, with the local funds being provided by the Newton County Commissioner's Court. The Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services operates under the direction of a nine-man Board of Trustees. Mr. George Gee, Jasper Pharmacist, is a very dedicated member of this Board, and represents both Newton and Jasper Counties on the Board. The entire Board and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Newton County Commissioner's Court as well.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES EXPLAINED IN NEWTON

On March 13, staff members representing DETRMHMRS presented a program in Newton to a group of junior high and elementary school teachers, counselors, probation and welfare department representatives, and other interested citizens.

Dr. Felix Peebles, Jr., Director of Psychiatric Services and Mr. Randy Godsey, Psychological Assistant spoke on the subject of "Behavior Modification Techniques in the Classroom".

This program was intended to inform the Newton County schools of the types of services available; and it was pointed out that by contacting the nearest Mental Health Clinic, information could be obtained that would be helpful in making a systematic approach to handling behavior problems among young people.

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DRUG ABUSE ESTIMATED

The problem of drug abuse that has been plaguing the Nation for several years has become significant as a problem in the Deep East Texas Region. In several counties the citizenry have become concerned about the problem to the point that the issue has been a major topic of discussion at meetings of such groups as the Parent Teachers Association, civic groups, the Deep East Texas Council of Governments committee, the Ministerial Alliance, etc. The one major conclusion of all these groups is that more and better quality services need to be developed in the region to combat this pressing problem.

A survey on drug usage was recently conducted (i.e., November, 1973) in area public schools. A total number of two hundred students were surveyed, and the data revealed the following facts about the sample:

1. 24% had smoked marijuana
2. Over 10% had smoked marijuana repeatedly
3. 6% smoked marijuana monthly or more frequently
4. 5% had used psychedelics
5. 10% had used stimulants repeatedly
6. 9% had used barbiturates
7. 14% had used solvents to "get high"
8. 31% had used alcohol repeatedly
9. 59% had used alcohol
10. 34% felt that drug abuse had increased significantly since last year.

Community leaders anticipate drug abuse in the Deep East Texas Region to peak in about five years. Therefore, this Region should begin now to plan projects which will meet the problems as they arise, not after they have become uncontrollable.

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Prescription for Spring...

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED !!!!!

TRINITY OUTPATIENT CLINIC SUCCESS

The Trinity County Outpatient Clinic, serving the residents of Houston, Polk, San Jacinto and Trinity counties, since its opening about four months ago, has been a constantly growing establishment with a history of successful progress.

Response among community residents has been great. Items to furnish and help the operation of the clinic have been donated;such as a chair and ashtrays from Mrs. Betty Bock, a coffee pot from Mrs. Janet Thomas, ashtrays and a Christmas tree and stand from Mrs. Fannie Walton, a sign board and paint donated by Freeman Hardware, a couch and seven chairs donated from The Trinity County Commissioner's Court and a table lamp from Mrs. Ann Pfleger. A typewriter has been promised by the Groveton Ladies Auxiliary, after they conduct a fund raising program.

The Groveton Nursing Home Administration and staff have given support by loaning many needed items for use in these early days of the clinic.

The growing success of the Trinity County Outpatient Clinic is a tribute to all these generous individuals and organizations.

To date, the Clinic has served clients with a wide range of mental health problems, alcoholism and drug abuse. Psychological testing is being done. School officials are being assisted in helping students with learning difficulties and discipline problems.

Referrals from the state hospitals, ministerial alliances, private physicians, agencies, organizations, and schools are keeping the clinic busy, as well as calls from friends of those in need.

"The clinic has shown tremendous client progression and from that has become a valuable and hard working community facility serving those in need near their own homes. It is great, and I am happy to be a part of it," says Mrs. Linda Cobb, Director of the Trinity County Outpatient Clinic.

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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.