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DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
SERVICES

An Equal Opportunity Employer Vol. 2 No. 2 October 16, 1975

1975 REFLECTIONS And 1976 FORECASTS

Reflecting on the last thirteen months of operation of DETRMHMRS, the author would like to review some of the major areas of progress and problems we have encountered in this time.

During our first year of existence the Board of Trustees adopted a policy of decentralization of services. The staff therefore attempted to implement direct care services in all counties that chose to provide their pro-rata share of DETRMHMRS local match requirments (i.e. 10 of 13 counties). As the reader can tell from reviewing the program listing, contained in this issue of DIRECTIONS, we now have a total of 1,208 clients.

The success that has been enjoyed during this past year is due to the efforts of many people. It is impossible to list all persons responsible in this article, but I will attempt to mention a few, realizing there are many more persons or parties responsible for the development of the programs. However, some of these include the County Commissioners, County Judges, the Board of Trustees members, the County Advisory Council members, the Regional Advisory members, referral sources such as private physicians, ministers, school personnel, probation officers, Dept. of Public Welfare workers, Texas Rehabilitation Commission counselors and many more. I would like to express our appreciation to each person in our region who has been involved in the planning and operation of our programs this past year.

Looking ahead to our second year, the Board of Trustees has adopted a policy of upgrading the quality of all DETRMHMRS' programs and striving to meet standards established by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

We will attempt to serve approximately 2500 clients this year (ending August 31, 1976) and will attempt to continue to improve our service delivery system.

DETRMHMRS LOCALLY OPERATED AND CONTROLLED PROGRAMS

As with any relatively new human service agency there are some questions that are commonly asked about DETRMHMRS. Some of these questions and a brief answer are listed below.

Q. Is DETRMHMRS a federal program?
A. No - DETRMHMRS is a regional program funded jointly by the 13 counties in our region and the State of Texas (through TDMHMR).

Q. Is DETRMHMRS a part of the Council of Governments (DETCOG)?
A. No - DETRMHMRS is administratively and fiscally independent of the Council of Governments. Both bodies work together in planning future programs, but are not directly connected.

Q. Who operates DETRMHMRS?
A. A nine (9) member Board of Trustees representing the 13 counties. These nine people, who are appointed by the 13 County Judges, are all local people and report back to the County Judges about the status of DETRMHMRS' program.

Q. What is the main purpose of DETRMHMRS?
A. Our main purpose is to help mentally ill, mentally retarded, alcoholic and drug abuse individuals and their families cope with their problem in their home community <u>whenever possible</u>. We do <u>not</u> strive to keep all people out of State institutions, as some people need this type of care, and we work closely with the State Schools and State Hospitals.

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<u>Challenge</u>

We dare you to pioneer -- to focus upon ways to do things rather than upon reasons why things can't be done.
Robert Farrald

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SAN JACINTO COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The San Jacinto County Advisory Council met at the Nurse's Clinic in Coldspring at 5:30 p.m. on August 8.

Members present for the meeting included Charlotte O'Quinn, Chairperson; Marcelene Williams, Secretary; and members Minnie Thomas, Bessie Sanders and Betsy Jackson.

The Council agreed to meet every other month, with the next meeting to be held on November 6, 1975.

DETRMHMRS staff members attending the meeting were Russ Burbank, Director of the Mental Retardation programs; and Juanita Hoot, San Jacinto County Developmental Center Aide.

JASPER COUNTY CENTER AT FAIR

With the opening of public school in Jasper recently, the Jasper County Developmental Center also acquired some new pupils. Four new adult clients and two children registered at the Center.

The adult clients have been helping with the can job and have been engaged in cleaning furniture. Other jobs they have done are lawn mowing and ironing clothes.

The Developmental Center had a booth at the Jasper County Fair on September 27 and 28, selling articles made at the Polk and Shelby County Sheltered Workshops.

"INFLATION" HITS PLAY STORE AT SHELBYVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

Three and four year old youngsters at Shelbyville Developmental Center have been busy learning the names of grocery items. They have set up their very own grocery store and stocked the shelves. One child acts as clerk, while several others play the role of customers, buying what they like and paying for it with play money.

Director Marye Danley says inflation sometimes rises very high when someone pays "$10.00" for a carton of milk. But it is all fun and a part of the learning experience.

Students are also learning to develop their sensory perception by holding a party where everyone identified fruits and vegetables by smell or taste. Then the children ate everything after they finished the experiment.

Ms. Danley predicted a very good year for Shelbyville Developmental Center, with many new experiences to come.

"FEEDBACK" PROGRAM EXPLAINS DRUG SITUATION

Drug use and abuse in the Deep East Texas region was discussed on a recent "Feedback" presentation televised over KTRE-TV, with Jon Ed Smith, Counselor at Nacogdoches County Community Counseling Center as one of the participants. Other panel members were Dr. C. H. Mc Clure, Lufkin physician; Paula Williams, DETCOG; Jim McDermott, Angelina College; and David Askins, Lufkin Police Department.

This activity was preliminary to conducting a Drug Workshop at Angelina College as part of a Community Awareness Program.

This particular "Feedback" panel discussion dealt with the medical and legal aspects of the drug scene and the treatment programs available through DETRMHMRS and other agencies in the community.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK IN KIRBYVILLE

Needed improvements at the Kirbyville Developmental Center are being made possible through the generosity of the Kirbyville Volunteer Fire Department.

Dr. Lester Willis, President of the Kirbyville Mental Health Association recently accepted in behalf of the Center, a check in the amount of $1,005.00, presented by Fire Chief Doug Hughes. A chain link fence has been purchased with some of the funds.

The Developmental Center also raised some additional funds by holding a Garage Sale on October 8 and 9 at the West Kirbyville School.

TYLER COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER HOLDS ALL DAY PICNIC

An all day picnic provided some fun for the clients of the Tyler County Developmental Center during the month of September, with the event taking place at the Thomas T. Mason home in Woodville.

Activities included bottle feeding calves, log walking, basketball, climbing trees and a picnic lunch.

Hot lunches for the month of September were provided through the generosity of Marie Stacey, Marge Esler, Eileen Mason and Debbie Henry. Other donations, such as the September supply of milk from Motts Barber Shop; and a case of soup, from the Martha Sunday School Class of the First Baptist Church were gratefully received.

Thanks to the Advisory Council Members and all other volunteers of Tyler County for a great job!

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS IN LUFKIN

The regular monthly board meeting for September was held on Tuesday, September 23rd, at the Overland Express Restaurant in Lufkin.

Major items discussed included: Acceptance of donation from the First United Methodist Church, Lufkin, Texas; discussion of Texas Health Facilities Commission; approval of Developmental Disabilities grant application; authored annual agreement for purchase of office supplies; presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to KEEE/KJCS Radio, Nacogdoches; and report on programs progress for FY 1975.

DETRMHMRS SITE VISIT SCHEDULED

The annual site visit for DETRMHMRS which is conducted by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) is scheduled for October 27-29th.

This site visit will include an inspection of numerous DETRMHMRS programs by professionals from TDMHMR, as well as other Community MHMR Centers from around the State. The site visit team will examine the programs, talk with personnel and clients, evaluate records and procedures, etc. and report back to the staff and Board of Trustees the findings, at the Board Meeting on October 29, in Lufkin.

SAN JACINTO DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER HAS NEW DIRECTOR

Mrs. Stevie Oldham, a resident of San Jacinto County for 15 years, is the new Director of the San Jacinto Developmental Center. She has a background of experience in teaching in Adult Education and a sincere desire to work with mentally retarded children.

Mrs. Oldham enjoys having visitors come to the Center and looks forward to making the work and learning activity more exciting. She loves to teach, and having a retarded son, she knows the value of a good Developmental Center for those who need it.

Mrs. Oldham has four children. Her husband operates Oldham's Wrecking Yard in Shepherd.

PILOT CLUB CONDUCTS SEMINAR

The Pilot Club of Crockett organized and conducted a seminar on mental health, mental retardation, and chemical dependency on Wednesday, October 15th, in Crockett.

The seminar, which was well attended by citizens from Crockett and other parts of Houston County, was an effort on the part of the Pilot Club and the DETRMHMRS to inform the citizens of Houston County about mental health, mental retardation, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

The seminar was opened by County Judge J. B. Lively and lasted throughout the afternoon.

Congratulations to Mrs. Jessie E. Sheppard and the Pilot Club for their concern, interest and involvement.

BOARD MEMBERS RENOMINATED

The members of the Board of Trustees of DETRMHMRS are appointed by the County Judges and serve staggered two year terms under the Articles of House Bill 3, as passed by the 59th State Legislature. The first staggered terms for the following three Board members expired in September:

Name	Representing
Judge T. D. Mann	Tyler County
Rev. Jerry Self	Nacogdoches County
Mr. V. B. Woods	Trinity County

The County Judges of all three of the above counties chose to reappoint these individuals to serve additional two year terms of office.

The Board and staff of DETRMHMRS would like to express appreciation to these Commissioners Courts and County Judges for these renominations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MEET

The October meeting of the DETRMHMRS Board of Trustees is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29th, at the Community Room of Home Savings and Loan, located at 606 E. Lufkin Avenue, Lufkin, Texas. As always, the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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Please address correspondence to: **DIRECTIONS, Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, 303 Angelina Bldg., 106 N. First St., 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.