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DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
SERVICES

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"MHMR SERVICES LAUDED"

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services' (DETRMHMRS) Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, October 29, in Lufkin. The main item on the agenda was the report of the annual Site Visit Team headed by Mr. Hartley Sappington, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Community Services, Texas Department of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The Site Visit Team composed of Mr. Sappington, a psychiatrist, an accountant, mental retardation specialist, mental health director, personnel specialist, and members of the Legislative Budget Board had spent three days examining the various programs of DETRMHMRS. The Site Visit procedure is an annual event which is used by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to assess the program effectiveness of all Community MHMR Centers.

Mr. Sappington reported that every aspect of DETRMHMR programs was evaluated including the administration, medical programs, mental health and mental retardation programs. The team evaluated all services using the standards prepared by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

The team reported that the fiscal management of DETRMHMRS was very sound and was conducted in a businesslike fashion with all funds being accounted for appropriately. The Team reported that the internal management of the agency as well as the governing authority (Board of Trustees) was functioning very smoothly and efficiently.

Dr. Bob Taylor, Psychiatrist, reported that DETRMHMRS was very fortunate to have the services of Dr. Felix Peebles, Jr. as Clinical Director. He reported that Dr. Peebles has an exceptional background in the area of community mental health, and that he was making appropriate utilization of existing regional health resources.

"MHMR SERVICES LAUDED" (Cont.)

Mr. Sappington stated that DETRMRS was in the position to be a "pioneer" in the field of rural mental health and mental retardation centers; and that if the DETRMHMRS program efforts continued, it could "write the book: on rural mental health".

The Board and staff would like to once again thank all individuals and groups who have been helpful in serving our clients.

SEMINAR IS HELD IN CROCKETT

A large number of people attended the Houston County Mental Health and Mental Retardation seminar held October 15 in the Crockett Public Library.

The one-day event was sponsored by the Davy Crockett Pilot Club and the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services.

A number of outstanding speakers presented various topics to the large group present. Activity started with registration at 1:15 p.m. in the library.

Mrs. Jessie E. Sheppard, president of the Davy Crockett Pilot Club, gave the welcome.

Others who spoke during the welcoming ceremonies were J. B. Lively, County Judge; W. J. Gentry, Vice Chairman of the DETRMHMRS Board of Trustees; and J. T. Hicks, Chairman of the Houston County Advisory Council.

An overview of DETRMHMRS was presented by Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director of the organization.

Dr. Felix Peebles, Jr., Clinical Director, discussed the mental health services.

The mental retardation services were discussed by Russ Burbank, Director of the Services. Chemical Dependency was discussed by Jon Ed Smith, drug and alcohol counselor.

The closing remarks were presented by Mrs. Sheppard.

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BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 29

The Board of Trustees held its October meeting in Lufkin with the following action being taken:

-Heard report from TDMHMR Site Visit Team (see article in this issue of DIRECTIONS).

-Approved grant requests for a Sunrise Manor which will be a group home for the mentally retarded in Lufkin.

-Approved a grant request for a mobile diagnostic and evaluation unit.

-Approved an allocation of $300 for consultant services for a ministerial seminar.

-Approved a revised fee schedule.

-Accepted a donation from the Kirbyville Volunteer fire Department.

-Approved minor revisions in personnel and Board policies.

POLK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The Polk County Advisory Council met at the offices of Diversified Services in Livingston on November 10, at 3:30 p.m. Members present included Chairman Peyton Walters, Vice Chairman Marilyn Elliott, Secretary Treasurer Ike Cox, and Arverta Mosley and the newest member, Cloyce Reinhardt of Corrigan. Others present included Jack Calhoun and Don Braun. Betty Ecker of the DETRMHMRS staff introduced David Smith, the new Drug and Alcohol counselor for the area. Other business included preparation for a public seminar to be held in Livingston in December. The seminar will be co-sponsored by the Livingston Pilot Club, Mrs. Nell Smith, President. Si Morrison of the DETRMHMRS staff described the success of a seminar held in October in Houston County and recommended that the Polk County seminar should follow a similar plan.

NEWTON COUNTY HOMECOMING

The Newton County Outpatient Clinic participated in the outstanding Homecoming Parade in Newton in October. A convertible, with Newton County Outpatient Clinic and DETRMHMRS on it, was our contribution to the parade. The convertible was driven by Mr. George Gee, Newton County Board member.

NEWTON COUNTY HOMECOMING (cont.)

Riding in the car were Mrs. Agnes Martin, representing the Newton County Advisory Council, and Mrs. Charlotte Wolfe, Director of the Newton Clinic.



NEWTON COUNTY HOMECOMING

BOARD TO MEET IN LUFKIN

The regular November meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 1975. The meeting will be held at the Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Association, Harvest Room. It will begin at 7 p.m. The public is cordially invited and urged to attend.

LUFKIN WORKSHOP SELLS CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Lufkin Workshop and Developmental Center is offering Christmas cards for sale. The cards were designed by Lufkin clients and have been beautifully reproduced. They are for sale at $1.75 per dozen, envelopes included. Why don't you try them? Call 713/632-5577, or write P. O. Box 1237, Lufkin, 75901.

MINI BUS DRIVERS TRAINING

Extensive training for personnel that will be receiving mini-busses in the near future is currently underway.

Staff members from Crockett, Livingston, Center, Woodville and Coldspring are already studying to obtain chauffeurs licenses. A 4 hour course on Vehicle Procedures and Maintenance and Traffic Laws and Regulations will be conducted by Mr. Hall Stewart and DETRMHMRS staff members.

On November 21, this group will attend a Defensive Driving Course sponsored by Angelina College.

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DETRMHMRS RECEIVES TITLE I GRANT

DETRMHMRS recently received notification of a Title I Special Education grant in the amount of $43,435.00. This grant will provide funds necessary for additional supplies, equipment and supervision for developmental centers and sheltered workshops. A portion of the funds will go toward the purchase of video equipment that will be used for client and staff training.

DETRMHMRS currently sponsors 12 Developmental Centers and 4 Sheltered Workshops for the mentally retarded, with a total enrollment in excess of 450 Clients.

NEW COUNSELOR JOINS DETRMHMRS STAFF

DETRMHMRS has announced the employment of Mr. David Smith as the new alcoholism and drug abuse counselor at the Polk County Community Counseling Center. In addition to serving Polk County, Mr. Smith will visit San Jacinto and Trinity counties on a regularly scheduled basis.

Smith, a 1968 graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University has done graduate work in alcoholism treatment and rehabilitation at the University of Houston. His experience includes the management of the Unity Halfway House for alcoholics in Beaumont, and he also served as a counselor for the Jefferson County Council on Alcoholism. His most recent position was that of counselor for the Harris County Community Action Program.

Mr. Smith's office is located at 108 West Church Street in Livingston, telephone number 713/327-4197.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The second meeting of the regional DETRMHMRS Medical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 21, 1975.

Although attendance at the meeting was not what was hoped, many valuable discussions transpired.

The DETRMHMRS transparency series were viewed and discussed, and numerous medical and psychiatric issues, affecting the regional mental programs were reviewed.

PASTORAL SEMINAR CONSIDERED SUCCESS

The Angelina County Ministerial Alliance in conjunction with the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, held a one day seminar on Pastoral Counseling on November 10.

Forty area ministers representing 10 East Texas counties, attended the meeting held at the First Church of the Nazarene in Lufkin.

Reverend Jerry Self, Pastor of Austin Heights Baptist Church, and DETRMHMRS' Nacogdoches County Board Member, served as Moderator.

Reverend Ron Sunderland, Director of Continuing Education, Institute of Religion and Human Development, Texas Medical Center, and Kelton Ro-Trock, Dr. P.H., Director, Department of Pastoral Counseling and Education, Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences, Houston, served as consultants for the seminar.

Discussion topics were directed toward pastoral counseling in the local church.

The noon meal was provided by the Lufkin Kiwanis Club and the Nacogdoches Kiwanis Club.

TITLE XX PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS

DETRMHMRS has been notified by the State Department of Public Welfare, that certain services provided our clients are eligible for reimbursement under Title XX, a federally funded program administered in Texas through the Department of Public Welfare. Those eligible for this reimbursement under Titles IV-A and VI as of September 30, 1975, are automatically eligible for Title XX.

The administrative staff of DETRMHMRS feels this can be an important source of funds and in fact, will be important in maintaining quality programs.

DIRECTIONS FAME SPREADS

The Legislative Reference Library, located in the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin, has asked to be put on the DIRECTIONS mailing list.

DIRECTIONS is now being circulated to almost 1,000 readers, mainly in the Deep East Texas region.

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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.