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DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION
SERVICES

An Equal Opportunity Employer Vol. 2 No. 5 January 8, 1976

"76" HAPPY NEW YEAR "76"

BOARD MEETING HELD IN LUFKIN

The Board of Trustees of the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services (DETRMHMRS) held its regular monthly meeting on December 18, 1975 at 7 p.m. at the Harvest Room of the Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Items on the agenda included: consideration of the audit report presented by the firm of Axley and Rode; hearing a report on the East Texas Consortium of MHMR Centers given by Board Trustee Dr. Jerry Self; approval of a procedure concerning the screening and referral of clients; discussion of the quarterly report of the Texas Pharmaceutical Education and Research Foundation; and discussion of the proposed lease agreement for Sunrise Manor, a halfway house for retarded males, to be located in Lufkin.



The Houston County Developmental Center received a Certificate of Service Award at the annual National Association for the Advancement of Colored People banquet held in Porter Springs on December 6. Accepting the award was Mrs. May Beth Hailey, Director of the Center. It was presented by the guest speaker, Mr. Nolan F. Ward, Administrative Assistant on the legal staff of Governor Dolph Briscoe.

SHELBY COUNTY CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL

A handsome float depicting George Washington cutting down the cherry tree and Betsy Ross sewing the original flag tied for third place in the Shelby County Bicentennial Parade held on December 13 in downtown Center. The float entered by the Shelby County Sheltered Workshop was constructed at the Workshop with the help of friends - Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Scherzer, Patty Watkins and Pearlene Johnson, shared the honors for third place with the Shelby County Special Education float.

DETRMHMRS ASSUMES DWI COURT CLASS PROGRAM

The Deep East Texas Mental Health Mental Retardation Services assumed the DWI Regional court Class Program on January 1. The Court Class Program, formerly under the direction of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments is headed by Paul Jackson of Nacogdoches. This program is provided for courts and probation departments in the Deep East Texas area; and deals mainly with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders.

During the last three years, over 1200 people have attended classes on alcohol, alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

The classes consist of three sessions of two and one-half hours each. At the present time there are eight established classes throughout the region. Mr. Jackson can be contacted by telephone at 713/569-0066 or by mail at 305 E. College, Nacogdoches 75961.

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ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT HAPPENINGS

Polk County Sheltered Workshop

The Polk County Sheltered Workshop in Livingston returned to full production following the completion of the recent renovation project. Everything was shipshape in time for a Christmas party on Friday, December 19, when the Polk County Advisory Council and other interested citizens sponsored the Workshop's holiday celebration.

Newton County Developmental Center

Christmas was made a warm occasion at Newton. Director of the Outpatient Clinic, Charlotte Wolfe and Newton County Health Unit Nurse, Carol Fowler, made Christmas stockings and crocheted each child at the Developmental Center, a pair of houseshoes. The various other offices in the Clinic building, such as the County Extension Agent, the Welfare Department and the County School Superintendent's office contributed candy to fill the stockings.

Trinity County Outpatient Clinic

A cooperative effort by the director, volunteers and one of the clients at Trinity County Outpatient Clinic resulted in a Christmas party for the clients there. A client donated the tree, Linda Cobb provided the decorations and the volunteers helped with the work and the fun.

Jasper County Developmental Center

The Center celebrated Christmas with two parties, one for the Adult Class and one for the Early Childhood Class. Temple Eastex donated a tree, which was decorated with lights and other items supplied by Father Drony of St. Michael's Catholic Church. The Adult Class made decorations for the tree and the building. The Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW donated bags of fruit and the Jasper Chamber of Commerce gave candy, nuts and toys. Parents put on the party for the Early Childhood Class, made more gay with gingerbread men from Cathyrn Hancock, one of the volunteer workers. Punch and cookies were served. Clients drew names and exvhanged presents. It all added up to a happy day in Jasper.

Shelbyville Developmental Center

Excitement and suspense built to an all-time high as packages began to pile up under the Christmas tree at Shelbyville Developmental Center. The climax came at the Christmas party for children and parents on Friday, December 19. After

(Cont.)

UNIT HAPPENINGS Cont.

a short program, packages were opened and then refreshments served. The Center Kiwanis Club donated stuffed animal toys and bags of fruit to make the celebration more merry.

Shelby County Sheltered Workshop

The Workshop's Christmas season was made merry by the kindness of Mrs. Vest and Mrs. Prince of the Young Women's Social League. They set a beautifully decorated table with cookies, sandwiches, punch, and fruit. Mrs. Jo Anderson showed a film and story about the birth of Christ. County School Superintendent Doyle Watson brought bags of fruit. Gifts were exchanged.

Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop

The clients of the Workshop enjoyed a Christmas party on Thursday, December 18. The Piney Woods Association for Retarded Citizens, headed by Mrs. Marian Goodrum, donated enough money to enable our staff to buy gifts for 25 clients. Refreshments were provided by Mrs. Willie Perkins, Mrs. Rose Ann Crouch, Mrs. W. W. Dossey, Mrs. Kenneth McElmurray, Mrs. Robert Arriola, Mrs. Joy Barton and Mrs. Mamie Abercrombie and Mrs. Tom Carr.

Tyler County Developmental Center

Christmas was a time of sharing at the Center. Instead of exchanging gifts, each of the clients brought money so fruit could be purchased for the patients at the Holiday Pines Rest Home. The clients went to the Home on December 18, and sang Christmas carols, to the delight of the patients. The next day the children went to Dairy Queen for lunch as a special treat and their neighbor at the Center, Mrs. J. W. Knight, contributed a cake and candy for all to share.

San Jacinto County Developmental Center

The San Jacinto Center has a new swing set, thanks to the citizens of the county. The effort was headed by Judge K. P. Bryant and many, many, individuals contributed. Thanks again!

Christmas at the Center was provided by the 4H Club and the G. A. Girls of the First Baptist Church in Shepherd. The G. A. Girls provided gifts for each student and the 4H Club provided gifts to be opened after Christmas. These gifts are to be used in the Center.

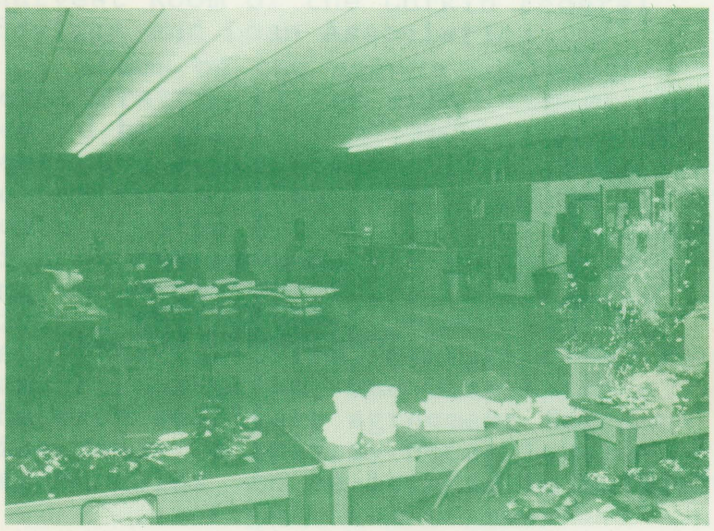
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POLK COUNTY WORKSHOP RENOVATION COMPLETED

Larry Welker, Director and Carol Willis, Trainer at Polk County Sheltered Workshop are very proud of the results of the renovations on the building located at 1215 South Washington on "cemetery hill" in Livingston. This organizational unit has returned to full production after roof repair and a suspended ceiling with new light fixtures was installed.

The workshop currently has 14 clients enrolled and expects to increase this number when transportation becomes available. Vocational training at the Workshop includes furniture refinishing and repair, manufacture of turtle pin cushions, assembly of cedar planters and packaging of various fishing supplies for a local tackle company.



VANCE ASSUMES NEW DUTIES

Robert E. Vance, counseling psychologist for DETRMHMRS, has recently been assigned additional supervisory duties. In addition to his general counseling duties, he is currently serving as coordinator for Psychological Testing, Therapy Coordinator and is Coordinator for the Employee Assistance Program.

Dr. Vance received a master's degree in psychology and guidance from Our Lady of The Lake College in San Antonio and a doctorate in counseling, with a minor in psychology from East Texas State University.

He was formerly employed in Social Service at the San Antonio State Hospital and did his Practicum and Internship at the Hunt County Opportunity Center at Greenville.

BOARD TO MEET IN LUFKIN

The regular January meeting of the Board of Trustees of DETRMHMRS will be held on Tuesday, January 27, at 7 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Association, Harvest Room. The public is cordially invited and urged to attend.

TEA SITE VISIT

An evaluation team from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Special Education Financial Allocations Division visited DETRMHMRS' developmental centers and workshops for the mentally retarded on December 9, 10 and 11. The team was composed of Charles Noe, Roland Ludtke and Paul Williams.

The purpose of the visit was to determine if DETRMHMRS' programs were in compliance with TEA guidelines. The team reported very few exceptions and stated that over all, the programs were in very good condition.

TYLER COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The Tyler County Advisory Council met at the Tyler County Outpatient Clinic on December 11, at 5 p.m.

Members present included Judge Tom Mann, Bob Boykin, Lou Nell Hayes, Irwin Mott and Brad Smith. DETRMHMRS staff present were JoAnn Fries, Eileen Mason, Betty Ecker and Si Morrison.

Treasurer Bob Boykin reported a November balance of $818.47. Other business included program reports by JoAnn Fries and Eileen Mason; and a report on new programs by Betty Ecker. A request for new curtains for the Clinic was approved.

NACOGDOCHES WORKSHOP BUILDS COUNTRY STORE

Another step has been made to refurbish the Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop. The token economy store has been camouflaged to look like a country store. An awning of wood shingles has been built, a sign entitled "General Store" has been hung, and antique washboards and barrels have been used for decoration. The store will be used to supply rewards for clients who earn tokens for good performance and behavior.

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