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Directions Newsletter

Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services

Volume 10 | Special Anniversary Edition | Nos. 1 and 2

MHMR celebrates ten years of service

by Jim McDermott

In the spring, 1984, the Board of Trustees of the Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

A great deal of water has flowed under the bridge in the past ten years. Wayne Lawrence was hired on April 8, 1974, as the Planner-Executive Director, and the first client services were initiated in September, 1974, with a staff of 15 people and a budget of $623,275.

The Center has grown to a current staff of 125 people with a budget of $3,996,089 and provides services in 26 locations in the 13-county area. We were the first Center to be organized on a regional basis, with the service area covering 11,000 square miles and serving a population of 320,098.

The Center is fortunate to have an active and supportive Board of Trustees. Three of the nine members have been with the Board since its beginning: Mr. Ward Burke, Mr. George Gee, and Mr. V.B. Woods. Under the Board's direction and guidance the Center has continually improved and expanded its services to the people in Deep East Texas.

Much gratitude is due the Board, staff, and Dr. Lawrence for their leadership and thanks are in order to the counties who help support Center services through their contributions.

The past ten years can truly be viewed as a period of development, growth, and accomplishment. As the new Executive Director, I look to continue the tradition of excellence into the Center's second decade by dedicating and focusing our energy and financial resources on the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to the people of Deep East Texas.

Many people feel frustrated and even pessimistic about the future of MHMR centers due to the tremendous increase in the demand for

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Executive Director Jim McDermott



C. GAFFNEY PHILLIPS 'Appointed to MHMR Board'

Phillips joins MHMR board

C. Gaffney Phillips, a Livingston attorney, has been appointed to represent Polk and San Jacinto Counties on the Board of Trustees of Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services (MHMR).

She succeeds R. Ben Hille who moved to Bryan-College Station in January to become district manager with the Farmers Insurance group of companies. Mr. Hille was one of the founding board members at MHMR when the community service agency was formed in 1974.

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Hille resigns after 10 years

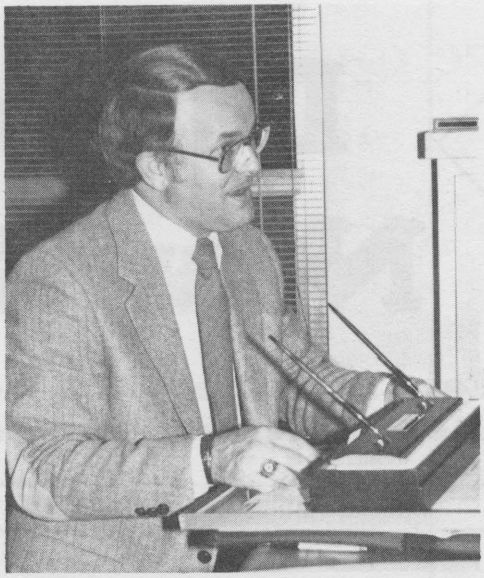
Livingston insurance executive, R. Ben Hille, has resigned as a member of the Board of Trustees of Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services (MHMR).

Mr. Hille has moved to Bryan-College Station to become district manager with the Farmers Insurance group of companies. He was one of the founding board members at MHMR when the community service agency was created in 1974.

"It has been a privilege for me to have served on this board since its inception," Mr. Hille said in his resignation. "The friendship and association with the members of the board and the many fine staff of this organization is indeed one of the important highlights of my life."

Mr. Hille is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, and a graduate of Lamar University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He was appointed to the board in February, 1974, and was elected vice chairman in August, 1983. He represented Polk and San Jacinto Counties on the MHMR board.



SPECIAL GIFT — One of the original, founding board members for Deep East Texas MHMR, R. Ben Hille, was honored recently by his fellow board members with the gift of an engraved pen and pencil set. Mr. Hille resigned from the board when he moved to Bryan-College Station to become district manager with the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies.



RESOLUTION of appreciation was presented to R. Ben Hille, left, by MHMR board member V.B. Woods in recognition of the many years of service on the board of Deep East Texas MHMR. Mr. Hille was a member of the founding MHMR board organized in 1974. Lower right is the Hon. Allen Sturrock, Judge of Tyler County, and current board chairman.

Phillips brings extensive background

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Mrs. Phillips moved to Livingston in June, 1981, where she and her husband, Stephen, established their law firm, Phillips and Phillips. Mr. Phillips is the county attorney in Polk County.

Active in civic affairs, Mrs. Phillips is a member of the Livingston Pilot Club and is president of the Polk County Child Welfare Board, a community advisory group for the Texas Department of Human Resources. She is also a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Livingston.

Mrs. Phillips is a 1978 graduate of the University of Houston School of Law with the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence. She is also a 1973 graduate of Rice University. She was licensed to practice law in May, 1979.

She is the daughter of retired U.S. Congressman John Young who represented the Fourteenth Congressional District of Texas for 20 years.

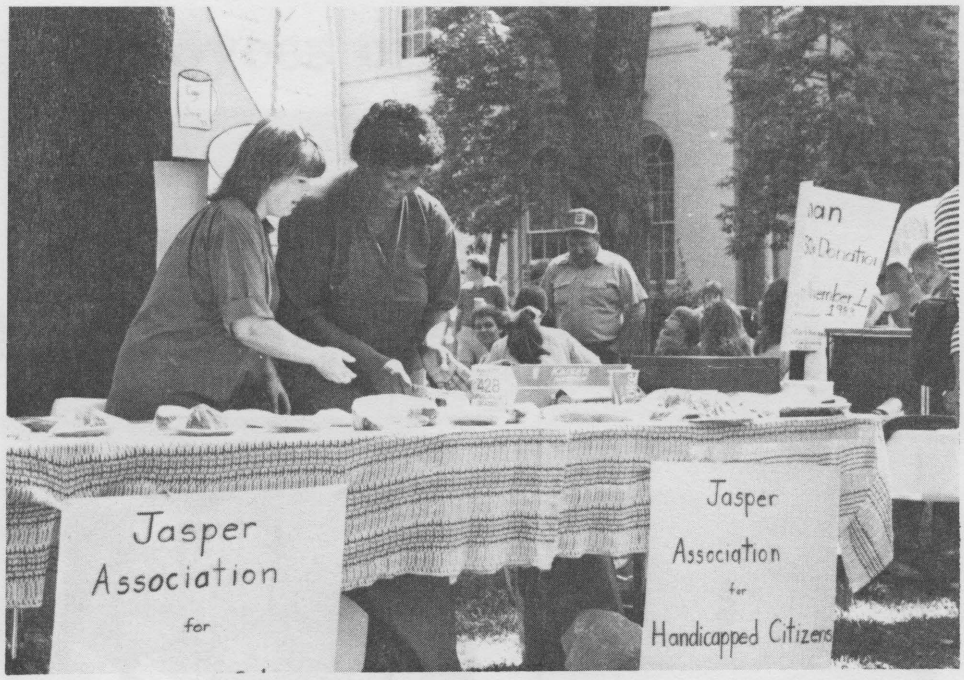
Director sees challenges

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community-based services, which has not been accompanied by a similar increase in financial resources to support the comprehensive array of community-based services needed to meet the increased demands.

However, we must view this potentially negative set of circumstances as a unique opportunity and challenge for the Board, staff, and the community to develop and apply creative solutions to these problems. I am confident that if we all work together as a team toward the goal of providing quality services, that the grand tradition of Deep East Texas MHMR Services shall move forward with a reputation as a leader in the delivery of quality client care through community-based mental health and mental retardation services.

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FUND RAISING — One of the local support organizations for MHMR services in Jasper County, the Jasper Association for Handicapped Citizens, sponsored a food booth at the Indian Springs Festival on the Jasper County Courthouse Square this fall. Working at the booth are Marty Walker and Kathy Lockhart. They raised $300 for MHMR services in Jasper County at the booth.



WOODY'S DONATE — Woody's Toys, headquartered in Lufkin, made a sizeable donation of toys, books, clothing, and games to Deep East Texas MHMR for the benefit of clients in this region, largely through the initiative of infant training supervisor Shirley Stubblefield, far right. With her at the Woody's Toys warehouse are, from left, MHMR infant training worker Willie Johnson, Woody's toys warehouse worker Mary Powers, and warehouse supervisor Cozetta Watson.

Donations are encouraged at MHMR

Recent donations to Deep East Texas MHMR have totaled almost $5,000, the largest share coming from Woody's Toys of Lufkin who donated $3,800 in toys, books, games, and clothing for use by MHMR clients.

Chaparral Industries, Firstex Sales, and Fastener Speciality, Inc., each donated $335, for a total of $1,005. This money is to be used for recreation and field trips for the clients of the Nacogdoches Sheltered Workshop and Halfway House.

The Association for Handicapped Persons, Inc., of Crockett, donated $250 to the Houston County Infant Training Program to be used for a physical therapy program for children. The Association also donated a trailer for use by the Houston County Sheltered Workshop valued at $1,200.

The Newton Lions Club has adopted a project of supplying $100 each month to pay transportation costs for Newton County clients attending the Jasper-Newton Sheltered Workshop in Jasper.

Committee protects client rights, welfare

Deep East Texas MHMR Services is responsible for the care, treatment, rehabilitation, and habilitation of many Texas citizens. Personnel of this center are committed to providing these services in a manner which preserves the dignity and the basic human rights of every citizen under its jurisdiction.

Any client, relative of a client, or representative of a client who has a complaint, comment, or suggestion regarding the health, safety, welfare, or legal and human rights of a patient or client of this center is invited and urged to submit them in writing to:

Chairperson
Public Responsibility Committee
P.O. Box 935
Lufkin, Texas 75901

The Public Responsibility Committee is an independent, impartial body. None of its members are employees of this center.

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ARCO DONATION — Bobby Davis, ARCO gas plant supervisor of Silsbee, presented Winnie Jones, president of the Silsbee Association for Retarded Children, with a $2,500 donation from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation. Frances Cobble, left, is treasurer of the Association, and Jo Ann Fries, right, is director of the Hardin County Sheltered Workshop and Halfway House. The money is being used to train staff members of the Hardin Workshop and Halfway House.



WINNIE JONES, left, president of the Silsbee Association for Retarded Citizens, MHMR advisory council member, and longtime volunteer and supporter of MHMR services in Hardin County, was presented a Resolution of Appreciation at the FY 1984 Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Lufkin. The resolution was presented by Jo Ann Fries, director of the Hardin County Sheltered Workshop and Halfway House on behalf of the MHMR Board of Trustees.

Citizen involvement and fund raising recognized in Hardin County

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Employees of the quarter...



Employees are recognized for special achievement

GREAT OPPORTUNITY — Toni Smith, left, was awarded Employee of the Quarter at MHMR for the first quarter of FY 1984. She has been a clerk in the business division since October, 1981. She was originally an accounting clerk but switched to payroll clerk in January, 1982. She is a graduate of Boerne High School near San Antonio and is currently working toward a bachelor of business administration at Stephen F. Austin State University. She is married to Brad Smith, and they make their home in Nacogdoches. He is a pilot for Billingsley Aviation. "I'm proud to work for MHMR," Toni said. "I think MHMR provides a great opportunity." With Toni is Franklin Avant, MHMR business manager.

In an emergency call the MHMR Crisis Line 1-800-392-8343



REWARDING WORK — Gale Culpepper, center, was awarded Employee of the Quarter at MHMR for the second quarter of FY 1984. She has been a caseworker in the partial hospitalization program in Angelina County since July, 1981. She is a 1975 graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University with a bachelor of science degree in social work. Presently she is working toward a bachelor of social work degree at SFA. Gale's husband is Walter Culpepper, and they have one child, Twana, eight years old. "I enjoy my work at MHMR," Gale said. "It's rewarding to know you can help somebody." Left and right are MHMR Executive Director Jim McDermott and Nell Newton, director of the Angelina Partial Hospitalization Program.

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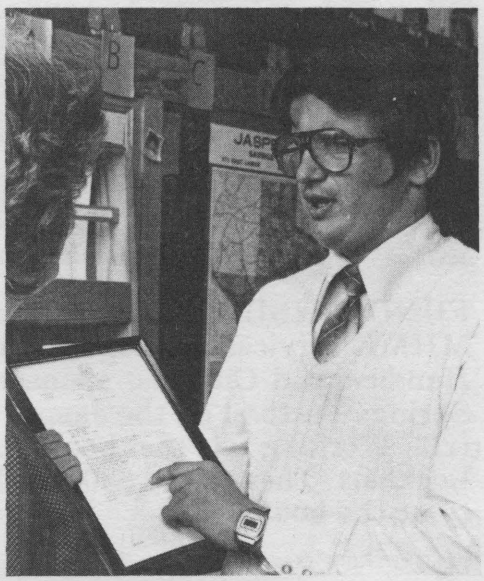
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SPECIAL GUEST — Louis Woeltje, far left, one of the first clients of the Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop, brought his paintings to a recent meeting of the MHMR Board of Trustees. With Louis are, from left, Executive Director Jim McDermott, Workshop Director Nancy Jones, Louis' mother Roseann Couch, Louis' art teacher Wanda Barr, and, seated, MHMR board member Nancy Speck, representing Nacogdoches County.

Clients take the spotlight



CURTIS WHITE shows workshop director Marty Walker his letter received from the office of Gov. Mark White.

Governor says thank you

Client Curtis White's interest in gathering literature on alcohol and drug abuse has drawn an expression of thanks from the office of Gov. Mark White.

Curtis has become the expert among his fellow clients at the Jasper/Newton Sheltered Workshop. He writes to many different informational sources for literature on alcohol and drug abuse. He then shares this information with his fellow clients at the Workshop by giving reports to them. This is considered part of his work experience training.

In his letter, the governor especially urged Curtis and others to support current legislation to rid Texas highways of DWI offenders.