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MHMR Directions Newsletter

July, 1986
Volume 12, Number 2

COME TO THE FLEA MARKET

The Angelina County MHMR Center will sponsor a flea market on Friday, August 1, 1986 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The open lot between Safeway and the Center will be the location for the big event.

All MHMR staff members are encouraged to save any usable items, that would otherwise be trashed, and donate them to the sale. If you are interested in contributing to the event, contact Nell Newton and she will arrange to have the goods picked up.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Angelina County Support Organization, Angelina County Association for Human Development.

TDMHMR MANAGEMENT AUDIT APPROACHES

The week of July 7, 1986 will be the date for the TDMHMR Management Audit, to be headquartered in the Ward R. Burke Community Room in the Central Administration building. The audit will be conducted by the office of Internal Audit at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Members of the audit team will be: Kathy Cornehl, Supervising Management Auditor and Team Leader, Tom Martinec, Princess Lindsey, Kimberlee Kingston, and Darrell Anderson.

In order to produce a short verbal report of their findings, the audit team will hold an exit conference at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 11. A full written report will be sent to Deep East Texas Regional MHMR several weeks following their return to Austin. A final report will be published and distributed to all MHMR Centers in Texas.

The last full management audit was held in 1977, but the Continuity of Care Program was audited in May, 1983.

COUNTY TO APPLY FOR MHMR GRANT

Angelina County commissioners authorized County Judge Dan Jones to file an application for a $300,000 grant that would allow Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services to build a new treatment center on South Medford.

The current facility, located at 403 S. Chestnut, has reached its full capacity.

The funds will be used to build a facility on 1.5 acres at the service's central administrative offices, 4101 South Medford. The proposed 10,000-square-foot center, still in the preliminary stages, would be used to replace the building currently under lease and allow room for expanded services.

If the grant is approved, the center would house a sheltered workshop for mentally ill patients as well as facilities for treating developmentally impaired infants. The center would also possibly expand its classes for infants whose development has been delayed by such medical conditions as prematureness, Down's syndrome, cerebal palsey or congenital heart defects.

RELOCATION OF THE DIAGNOSIS AND EVALUATION TEAM

The Diagnosis and Evaluation Team will relocate from the Central Administration building to the building left vacant by the Angelina Substance Abuse Program at 1915 Old Mill Road in Lufkin.

Members of the Diagnosis and Evaluation Staff are: Marsha Ford, Service Director, Jan Lamar, Jim Lane, Darlene Bacon and Diana Moore. This group will move to their new facility shortly after July 11.

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35 YEARS OF TEACHING DON'T GO UNNOTICED

DeIvory Sampson, wife of MHMR Board Member Perry Sampson, recently received a plaque commemorating her 35 years of teaching in the Center school system, presented to her by Superintendent Hank Halvorson. Perry Sampson is Director of Federal Programs and Transportation for C.I.S.D.

NEW DIRECTOR AT HARDIN SWS

Richard Mik has assumed additional duties as Director of the Hardin County Sheltered Workshop in Silsbee. Richard is also director of the Hardin County MHMR Center in Kountze. "We have great hopes to continue the legacy of excellent services to persons with mental retardation in Hardin County," Richard commented.

SHELBY FOLKS "PLOW UP THE GROUND"

Due to the kind efforts of some local businessmen, the Shelby County MHMR Center now has a beautiful, level back yard!

During the third week of May, Mrs. Vivian Menefee (Shelby County Auxiliary Member) and Jane Ducelle, (Shelby MHMR employee) took one last look at the uneven back lawn and decided it needed a facelift. As a result of their brainstorm, Mr. Richard Menefee and Mr. P.O. Sample of Sample Construction donated their machinery, employees and their time to level the ground for the center.

Thanks to their hard work, the center will now be able to provide picknick tables, volleyball nets, a basketball hoop and even a small garden for their clients and employees.

CLOSING OF ANGELINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

The Angelina Substance Abuse Program, which has been open since 1981, will close its doors as of Friday, July 11, 1986. Juanda Morgan, Service Director for the Program, states that she and her staff are glad to have had the opportunity to work with the community in the area of substance abuse. The staff also appreciates the cooperation they have received from the courts, law enforcement officials and various recovery groups.

Juanda has been with Deep East Texas MHMR since November, 1983, and will be going to work for the Juvenile Probation Department in Lufkin as a probation officer.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Graduating third in his class at Alto High School, Evan McCulloch, son of Sharon McCulloch (CA), was awarded a $200 annual scholarship by the Alto Thursday Study Club. He was also presented the University Interscholastic League Scholar Award for qualifying for state UIL science competition as well as a Certificate of Award for High Honors in Scholarship. Evan will attend Tyler Junior College in September before transferring to Texas A&M.

DETCOG TO CONDUCT SESSIONS IN JULY

The Deep East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be conducting summer In-Service sessions for area teachers entitled "Getting Comfortable with Alcohol/ Drug Education."

The three day workshop is designed to meet a need for teachers who are in the position to include in their lesson-plans alcohol and other drug education. Special curriculum designed to meet House Bill 72 requirements will be introduced.

For more information, please contact Dede Byars or David Youngblood at the Council offices in Nacogdoches (659-1445) or Lufkin (634-5753).

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SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM IN SEPTEMBER

The National Mental Health Association and the Mental Health Association of Houston and Harris County will sponsor "New Findings and Practical Applications of Mental Health Research-1986 Scientific Symposium," on Sept. 26-27.

Bertram S. Brown, M.D., president of Hahnemann University, Philadelphia, PA., is chair of the symposium.

The registration fee (continuing education credit fees extra) is $85 before Aug. 15 and $105 after that date.

For registration, call NMHA (703) 684-7722, Susan Landon, or MHA Houston, (713) 523-8963, Lynn Murray.

"SCORE" DONATES TO LOCAL PROJECTS

SCORE, the Safeway Community Out-Reach Effort, is an organization made up of Safeway employees who wish to do their part in supporting and helping their community.

Since SCORE'S organization in January, more than $26,000 has been pledged to the SCORE account fund by the employees in the 14 stores in District 1 which includes cities in Deep East Texas. The money, which is given voluntarily by the employees, is presented on a monthly basis to various non-profit organizations who are in need and request financial assistance.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all MHMR staff born in the month of July.

Darlene Bacon, Michael Cleary, Gale Culpepper, and Jon Hodge.

Elnora Johnson, Eileen Mason, Juanda Morgan, and Nell Newton.

Michael Ramsey, Dean Seiser, Colinda Stokley, and Linda Turner.

Sandy Vann, Linda Vaughn, Mary Williams, and Billie Willmon.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MODERN ERA

The Planning and Advocacy Seminar, "Community Mental Health in the Modern Era," is planned for Sept. 19-20, in Austin.

Bert Pepper, M.D., commissioner of mental health of Rockland County, N.Y., is to be the main presenter.

The statewide conference is jointly sponsored by the University of Texas-Austin School of Social Work and the Texas Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Social work CEU's will be provided by the Oaks Treatment Center of the Brown Schools.

For conference information, call (512) 327-4258.

NEW ALCOHOL PROGRAM HOPEFUL

MHMR staff are hopeful that funding will become available for a new rural alcohol and substance abuse residential treatment center.

Such a center will be located on land suitable for small scale truck farming and will emphasize work activities in a farm environment. Also provided by this center will be a comprehensive co-educational substance abuse treatment program for up to 48 persons in two separate but integrated treatment programs. This will include a 4-bed social detoxification component and a 44-bed substance abuse treatment program for 32 men and 12 women.

If approved, work on the construction project will begin after September 1, 1986.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

Good luck to the MHMR employees departing during the month of June:

Donna Alexander, Fries House; David Rainey, Nacogdoches SWS; Juanda Morgan, Angelina Substance Abuse; Robert Behannon, Kirbyville Group Home; and Betty McBride, Jasper MHMR.

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NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

Sanford Skelton, Rights Protection Officer, has been designated to coordinate efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap.

CLIENT RIGHTS

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, TX 75901

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

CRISIS LINE

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

During this Fourth of July holiday, spend a quiet moment reflecting on our nation's heritage. Admire the red, white and blue waving in the breeze. Recall the pledge of allegiance or a verse from the "Star Spangled Banner." And as you do that, remember what that torch symbolizes, held high by The Lady in New York Harbor. It'll do your heart good!

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services
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Lufkin, TX 75901

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