



LOCAL MH•MR

NOTES

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YARBOROUGH DISCUSSES LEGISLATION AT BEXAR COUNTY CENTER ANNIVERSARY

U.S. Senator Ralph W. Yarborough discussed pending health legislation at the first anniversary of Bexar County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services on January 24 in San Antonio.

The Bexar County MH/MR Board of Trustees was host for the events which included a luncheon for state and local government officials and health agency representatives; a breakfast meeting at the new Bexar County Hospital; a tour of the San Antonio Association for Retarded Children; and a reception at Inman Christian Center.

Yarborough, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on health, discussed a bill calling for federal support for construction and operation of mental health centers throughout the county during the next ten years. At least 75 such centers are needed in Texas, he said. The bill would also provide more services for children, adolescents, and the economically deprived.

The bill passed by the Senate covers three years and authorizes a total of \$198 million in 1971, rising to \$270 million by 1973 to build and operate centers. A major change from present legislation would provide federal support for operating costs for ten years.

Yarborough also reviewed legislation he and Senator Edward Kennedy recently introduced to expand the Mental Retardation Facilities Construction Act providing diagnosis, care, and training for retardates in their home communities. The new five-year bill would authorize \$100 million in 1970, rising to \$250 million by 1975 to finance facilities, pay operating cost and train center personnel. ■

WATKINS IS NEW TAMH PRESIDENT-ELECT

Thomas H. Watkins, an Austin attorney, is the new president-elect and treasurer of the Texas Association for Mental Health (TAMH).

Association directors—at a recent meeting—also reaffirmed Robert S. Tate, Jr., D.D., pastor of First United Methodist Church in Austin as a member-at-large of the association's executive committee.

The TAMH is a citizens' volunteer organization dedicated to helping the mentally ill and fostering positive programs of mental health.

The association named Ronald Bishop, a youth worker, as director-at-large. Bishop, 22, is director of drug education programs for the Austin-based Texas Law Enforcement and Youth Development Foundation.

In other action, the Austin Mental Health Association has named Mrs. Stuart Fisher of Austin as a delegate director to the association's state board. ■

HILL IS TDMHMR REGIONAL COORDINATOR; HENDRIX DIRECTS ALCOHOLISM PROGRAMS

J. Lyle Hill, executive director of the Nueces County MH/MR Community Center in Corpus Christi, has resigned to return to San Antonio and his former position as TDMHMR regional coordinator for Southwest Texas.

Robert E. Hendrix, Jr., who succeeded Hill as regional coordinator seven months ago, has assumed new duties with the TDMHMR central office in Austin as director of alcoholism programs.

Before joining TDMHMR, Hill directed the San Antonio Catholic Archdiocese's Neighborhood Youth Corps and Head Start Programs. Previously he spent 20 years as an educator in schools at Kendey, Refugio, McAllen, and Port Lavaca.

Hendrix, a former education director of the Texas Commission on Alcoholism, is a former assistant director of health planning for the Alamo Area Council of Governments in San Antonio. ■

NEW MH/MR BOARD CHAIRMEN ELECTED

New chairmen of boards of trustees for several community centers have been announced following recent elections. Among the new chairmen are:

William Rector, M.D., Wichita Falls Community Center for MH/MR Services;

Lucian Morrison, Nueces County Community Center for MH/MR, Corpus Christi;

Mrs. W.E. Keith, Northeast Texas MH/MR Board, Texarkana;

Gen. Ephriam Graham, Bell County MH/MR Center, Belton; and

Lee T. Bivins, Amarillo MH/MR Regional Center. ■

NEW CENTER AREA CREATED BY HARRIS COUNTY MH/MR TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Harris County MH/MR Center has created a new mental health and mental retardation center area to coincide with the Model Cities program area in Houston.

The boundary of the new area includes parts of present center areas I, VII, and VIII, but excludes the Model Cities area within center area X which is already being served by the Mid-Houston Community Mental Health Center.

A sub-committee appointed to develop proposals for MH/MR services is giving special attention to Model Cities planning as part of a cooperative effort. It is hoped that MH/MR proposals will be adopted by Model Cities as part of its overall plan for the Houston area. ■

MH/MR LAW STUDY COMMITTEE INCLUDES THREE STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Texas House Speaker **Gus Mutscher** has appointed three members of the House of Representatives to a joint interim legislative committee to study mental health and mental retardation legislation.

They are Reps. **W.S. (Bill) Heatly** of Paducah, **Hudson Moyer** of Amarillo, and **Harold Davis** of Austin.

John Kinross-Wright, M.D., Commissioner, TDMHMR, is an ex-officio member of the committee.

Mutscher said a large number of miscellaneous statutes have been passed relating to mental health and mental retardation. A "uniform act" providing the much needed services in the areas of mental health and mental retardation would benefit all Texans, he said.

Gov. Preston Smith's appointments to the committee include **Judge C.L. Abernethy** of Plainview, **Don Wooten** of Snyder, and **Mrs. Helen Jane Farabee** of Wichita Falls.

Three senators, to be appointed by **Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes**, will also serve on the committee. ■

AMARILLO "DRUG ALERT" PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AT SP-CI CENTER

During the first 24 hours of "Operation Drug Alert" in Amarillo, 68 telephone calls were received at the Suicide Prevention-Crisis Intervention Center.

Three youths were rushed to a hospital emergency room for treatment; numerous callers sought drug information; and several worried parents called to discuss drug abuse.

Volunteers manning the SP-CI center on a 24-hour basis received intensive training in drug abuse problems before the "Drug Alert" telephone service was announced by Amarillo news media. One portion of their training was conducted by police undercover agents and included interviews with former and current drug users.

Persons calling the center are guaranteed anonymity if they request it. Persons seeking help in overcoming a drug habit or who are suffering a psychotic or painful physical reaction to drugs are not reported to police. Nor is information received either in person or by telephone passed on to police.—**Louise Evans** ■

HARRIS COUNTY CENTER EXPANDS PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS

The Harris County MH/MR Center is expanding its information programs to increase public awareness of community mental health needs and to bring attention to programs and services.

The Center recently compiled and published a listing of principal sources for MH/MR services in Harris County. The publication is being circulated to various groups and individuals in Harris County as a resource material.

A new monthly newsletter "MH/MR Topics," is being published and distributed to groups and individuals in Harris County, as well as to staff members and MH/MR board members. ■

GULF BEND BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

The Calhoun County Commissioners Court has named **Mrs. John Griffin** and **Mrs. Curtis Nelson** of Port Lavaca to the Board of Trustees of the six-county Gulf Bend MH/MR Center.

Mrs. Griffin also has been named president of the board for the Calhoun County Center for Children and Youth.

Other new officers of the Calhoun County Center for Children and Youth are **Eddie Logan**, vice-president; **W.B. Harris**, secretary; and **Lawrence A. Dio**, treasurer. ■

WACO CHILD CARE CENTER PROGRAMS EMPHASIZED DURING OPEN HOUSE

The Waco-McLennan County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center held open house Jan. 25 for its Child Care Center at the McLennan County Rehabilitation Center in Waco.

Twenty-two children who are mentally retarded or who are functioning at a retarded level are receiving treatment and training in the program. The enrollees range from 2 to 10 years of age.

The Child Care Center has six staff members. **Mrs. Dona Ronk** is director.

Ed Yarmac, director of mental retardation services for the Waco MH/MR center, describes the child care program as "outstanding."

"This Child Care program . . . is one of the prime explanations of why the Mental Retardation and Model Cities program (of the Waco center) has been chosen as one of the top ten in the country by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare," Yarmac said.—**Donna Wiese** ■

ABILENE MH ASSOCIATION ELECTS OFFICERS

Harry Walker, a certified public accountant, is the new president of the Abilene Mental Health Association's board of directors for 1970. He succeeds **Cleve Cullars**.

Other new officers are the **Rev. John DeFoore**, pastor of the University Baptist Church, vice president and president-elect; **Mrs. Malcolm Schulz**, vice president for public information; **Mrs. Morey Millerman**, vice president for development; **Mrs. Bob Hanna**, secretary, and **John Grist**, treasurer. ■

DAY SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN IS NEW SERVICE IN HARRIS COUNTY

A day care center for mentally retarded children of working mothers has opened in Houston.

Operated by the Harris County Center for the Retarded, the day care center occupies the former Harris County Children's Home at 8111 Lawn in the Acre Homes addition.

The new center has a staff of 17 workers who provide meals, supervision, and training for retarded children. Up to 60 children can be cared for by the center's staff.

The center is financed through funds from the Harris County Center for the Retarded, the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, and a federal staffing grant of \$53,544 from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. —**Sarah Cartsonas** ■

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION SCHEDULES ANNUAL MEETING IN AUSTIN

The Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) will hold its 45th annual meeting, Feb. 22-25, at the Commodore Perry and Stephen F. Austin hotels in Austin.

U.S. Senator **Ralph W. Yarborough** will discuss "Prospective Legislation in the Health Field in 1970," at the first general assembly Feb. 23.

The meeting's three general assemblies will be devoted to a variety of health topics including health planning, vaccination programs, and drug addiction control. ■

QUARTERLY MEETINGS SET FOR DIRECTORS, STAFF MEMBERS OF WEST TEXAS CENTERS

Programs for volunteer services and public information will be discussed at the April 13 quarterly meeting of West Texas Area Community MH/MR Center directors and staff. The meeting will be held at the El Paso Center for MH/MR Services.

The program on volunteer services is being directed by Mrs. Mary Cochran, director of volunteer services for Big Spring State Hospital, and Mrs. Florence Reilly, director of volunteer services for the San Angelo Center.

Gayle McNutt, assistant director of communications for TDMHMR, will discuss methods of increasing public awareness of community center programs and ways to improve a center's public relations program.

Twenty-eight persons attended the last quarterly workshop held in January at the Midland Community Center for MH/MR.

Workshop programs included presentations by Daniel M. Sheehan, Ph.D., director of program analysis and statistical research for TDMHMR, and Joel Levy, Ph.D., a member of the program analysis staff.

Sheehan and Levy discussed use of new patient data forms, and outlined services available and long range goals of the programs analysis division. Workshop sessions for clerical and bookkeeping personnel included discussions on patient intake, client accounting and statistics, and accession registers.—Larry Mildren ■

WACO MH/MR CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FOR TRAINING OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The Cooper Foundation of Waco has awarded a \$4,281 grant to the Waco-McLennan County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center.

The grant will finance the first year of a program to train graduate social work students from the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin.

Two graduate students will do field work each semester as part of their requirements for a masters degree.

The first two students, Alan Calkins and Mrs. Betty A. Banner, are already on duty at the center and will continue working through May under the supervision of Joe Long, the center's director of social work.

The Cooper Foundation grant is an outgrowth of the foundation's scholarship program to encourage professional social workers to fill positions in the Waco area.—Donna Wiese ■

MRS. MARRS DIRECTS SAN ANTONIO MH/MR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mrs. Frank L. Marrs is the new supervisor of the mental health and mental retardation program for the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.

Working with the Bexar County MH/MR board of trustees, Mrs. Marrs will develop and operate a year-round recreation program for mentally retarded residents of San Antonio and will provide specialized training for the recreation division staff.

Mrs. Marrs, formerly of Michigan, was the recipient of the 1969 Ernest V. Blohm Award for outstanding service in therapeutic recreation. ■

CENTERS ANNOUNCE STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Recent appointments to the staffs of community MH/MR centers include:

John Richards, director, Gulf Bend MH/MR Center, Victoria;

Ronald Moen, director, Bell County MH/MR Center, Belton;

William J. Dees, chief social worker, Texarkana Regional MH/MR Center. ■

EDINBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES NEW TRAINING FACILITY FOR RETARDATES

Ground was broken Jan. 16 at Edinburg for a \$3.5 million public school for 1,500 trainable mental retardates. It is expected to be completed in 1973.

The school is being built by the only independent school district in Texas formed specifically to train the mentally retarded.

First phase construction is expected to be completed in one year, at a cost of \$844,000, said L.X. Magnifico, Ph.D., school district superintendent.

The school district, formed in 1964 by the Texas Legislature, now operates two schools for the mentally retarded—the Tip of Texas School and Training Center in Harlingen, and the South Texas Habilitation Center in Edinburg. The schools have a total of 308 day students enrolled.

The first phase of the new school will serve 500 students from 14 to 21 years old, who are capable of acquiring employable skills.

The school district is supported by a valuation tax. The new school will be funded with a combination of local and federal funds, Dr. Magnifico said. ■

FORMER TB HOSPITAL TO BE SITE OF CORPUS CHRISTI MH CENTER

The former Hilltop TB Hospital in Corpus Christi is the planned site of a community mental health center.

The site selection was announced by the board of directors of the Nueces County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Community Center.

A lease for use of the former TB hospital was approved recently by the Nueces County Hospital District.

Lucian Morrison, chairman of the MH/MR board of trustees, outlined short-range goals for use of the former hospital.

"By September, we hope to have it in operation as a mental health outpatient clinic and day-care center, subject to hiring a psychiatrist-director," Morrison said. "The administration offices and proposed educational and consultation services will be based here, plus some of the mental retardation programs. We haven't decided which of the MR programs could best be handled there and the move will be made only in coordination with the Coastal Bend Opportunity Center."

The Coastal Bend Opportunity Center provides most of the services for the mentally retarded which are funded by the county MH/MR center.

A long-range goal for the Hilltop Hospital is in-patient care of the mentally ill, but no timetable has been set for providing the services. ■

J.B. STOREY IS TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF NEW MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

J. Benton Storey of College Station is temporary chairman of the new Brazos Valley Association for Mental Health.

The organization was formed recently by a group which voted to invite interested persons in Grimes, Washington, Burleson, Robertson, Leon, and Madison counties to join them.

The primary purpose of the association, Storey said, is to give citizens an opportunity to provide guidance for the mental health organizations already established in the area.

Storey said a nominating committee of persons representing the seven counties will nominate a panel of officers to be voted on Feb. 16. ■

CORPUS CHRISTI ARC INSTALLS OFFICERS

New officers for the Corpus Christi Association for Retarded Children were installed Jan. 27 in ceremonies at the Coastal Bend Opportunity Center.

The new president is Billy C. Stephens.

Other officers include: Jack E. Walton, first vice president; Mrs. Virginia Wilson, treasurer; and Mrs. Irene Kollaja, recording secretary. ■

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED FOR GREGG-HARRISON CENTER

A nine-member board of trustees for the Gregg-Harrison County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center has been appointed by the two County Commissioners Courts.

Harrison County members for the two-county center are Oscar Berglund, Waller M. Ethridge, Mrs. Luther Anderson, and Mrs. Ray Kirkpatrick. The Gregg County representatives are the Rev. Warrin Fry, C.C. Cassidy, Frank Jackson, Mrs. Henry Foster, Jr., and Dayton Walkup.

Hal Hart, TDMHMR regional coordinator for East Texas, met with the board to discuss the operation of the new center.

Each county now has a family counseling service partially financed through contracts with TDMHMR. Planning for comprehensive MH/MR services is expected to begin within the next month. ■

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STUDENTS WORK AT TAYLOR MH CLINIC

Several students majoring in social work at Abilene Christian College are serving as part-time staff assistants at the Taylor County Mental Health Clinic.

Supervised by staff members from Big Spring State Hospital, the students work at the clinic six hours per week, to gain experience and background in the mental health field. ■

"LOCAL MH/MR NOTES" CORRESPONDENTS

Paul Southern, Th.D., Abilene Area Center for MH/MR; Louise Evans, Amarillo MH/MR Regional Center; John B. Spragens, MH/MR Center of Austin-Travis County; Mrs. Linda Chupik, Bell County MH/MR Center, Belton; James F. Bailey, Bexar County MH/MR Services, San Antonio; Mrs. Judy W. Bybee, Central Texas MH/MR Center, Brownwood; Mrs. Elizabeth Woodley, Central Plains Comprehensive Community MH/MR Center, Plainview; Robert H. Dovenmuehle, M.D., Dallas County MH/MR Center; Mrs. I.W. Gillett, El Paso Center for MH/MR Services; Mrs. Mary N. MacKay, Galveston County MH/MR Center; Mrs. Leon Polzin, Gulf Bend MH/MR Center, Victoria.

Sarah N. Cartsonas, Harris County MH/MR Services, Houston; Marion Shirah, Hidalgo County MH/MR Services, Edinburg; Vergia Mae Musselwhite, Jefferson County Community Center for MH, Beaumont; Clayton Mallett, Lubbock MH/MR Center; Carol Ann Story, Midland Community Center for MH/MR; Mrs. J.G. Bryson, Nueces County Community Center for MH/MR, Corpus Christi; Gary K. Smith, Smith-Wood County Center for MH/MR Services, Tyler; G. Clark Anderson, Tarrant County MH/MR Center, Fort Worth; William J. Dees, Texarkana Regional MH/MR Center; Mrs. Donna Wiese, Waco-McLennan County MH/MR Center; James M. Young, MH/MR Center for Greater West Texas, San Angelo; Mrs. Charles Russell, Wichita Falls Community Center for MH/MR Services.

Regional Coordinators: Larry J. Mildren, West Central Texas, Abilene; Weldon F. Newton, North Texas (West), Fort Worth; Bascom L. Hodges, Capitol Region, Austin; Richard M. Bruner, South Texas, Harlingen; James R. Sones, Gulf Coast, Houston; Hal I. Hart, East Texas, Tyler; Clyde R. McLean, West Texas, Midland; Gordon A. Cizon, North Texas (East), Fort Worth.

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