

MAY 11 1978

Texas Commission for the Deaf

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Senator Andujar's Office

# DEAFOGRAM

MAY 1978

VOL. 1, NO. 2

## JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO THE DEAF

The Joint Advisory Committee on Educational Services to the Deaf (previously known as the H.B. 1880 Committee) is on the move. The members of the Committee are: Lt. Gov. W. P. Hobby as the Chairman, Speaker Bill Clayton as the Vice Chairman, Secretary of State Steve Oaks as the Secretary, Senator Chet Brooks, Representative Tim Von Dohlen, Mr. Larry Evans, Mr. Mack Harris, Mrs. Fran Herrington, Mr. James Houlihan, Mrs. Ann Phillips and Mr. Ralph White. The committee is divided into two subcommittees: namely the Subcommittee on Educational Programs chaired by Representative Tim Von Dohlen and the Subcommittee on Governmental Structure chaired by Senator Chet Brooks. As a newly hired Program Co-ordinator for the Committee, Ms. Kathy Williams will assist in all of the planning, research and organization of the Committee activities. On March 30, 1978 the Committee received testimonies from state agencies, departments and organizations providing educational services to the deaf, and then heard personal testimonies from many individuals, mostly from the Central Texas area in a 2-day session on April 20-21.

Future sessions will be held in various areas of Texas; tentative plans are:

- May - Dallas-Fort Worth
- June - Amarillo
- July - El Paso
- August - McAllen and Houston  
(2 meetings)

If time permits, more hearings will be scheduled in the summer, these are the opportunities for the deaf, parents of the deaf and professionals working with the deaf to testify on the Texas deaf education. All of the sessions will be open to the public. Interested persons are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible and present their testimonies on their experiences in the deaf education. The Texas Commission for the Deaf has been invited to assist in spreading the announcements to the Texas public, especially the deaf community.

The address and telephone numbers of the Committee are:

Joint Advisory Committee on  
Educational Services to the Deaf  
Reagan House Office Building, Room 117  
Austin, Texas 78711  
VOICE: 512-475-6053  
TTY: 512-475-6827



## DEAF AWARENESS WEEK May 1-7, 1978

Governor Dolph Briscoe has signed an official Proclamation designating May 1-7, 1978 as Texas Deaf Awareness Week. This was done because the Texas Deaf Community continues to "make significant and lasting contributions to the state government and local municipalities". Further, the Governor wanted to draw to the attention of all citizens of our state the specific needs and noteworthy contributions of the Texas Deaf Community. Finally, the proclamation is aimed toward public awareness of the service available to the Texas Deaf Citizenry during the week of May 1-7, 1978.

In conjunction with the statewide deaf awareness week, the Texas Commission for the Deaf will have a daily open house for all deaf citizens, local deaf leaders and dignitaries, state government officials, and the general public. The open house will be in the TCD office at 3724 Jefferson, Suite 213, Austin, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. during the week of May 1-5. There will be brochures and literature about TCD and deafness available for the public as well as an art gallery by Spectrum, Focus on Deaf Artists. The TCD staff will also demonstrate telecommunication equipment.

The TCD office has received notices of many deaf awareness activities occurring throughout 19 community-based service areas during this week. These community-based council outreach programs, such as Texarkana Area Services for the Hearing Impaired, Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired, East Texas Deaf & Hearing Association, Southeast Texas Council for the Hearing Impaired and Central Texas Council for the Deaf, will be having booths about deafness at shopping centers, lectures on deafness and deaf awareness banquets.

TCD is pleased and proud to be a part of the deaf awareness festivities and congratulates the 19 Councils for their active support of the Governor's proclamation. These events will prove to maintain a lasting effect throughout the year as all Texas citizens become more aware of their deaf neighbors.

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This Deafogram is published with a goal to help inform the Texas Deaf Communities and the general public of all the legislation and related activities in the State Government that may affect the lives of the hearing-impaired in Texas.



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### TYLER

The East Texas Deaf and Hearing Association, Inc. was instrumental in getting the city library for purchase books on deafness. As a result, the director of the library has become interested in deafness and spoke at a council meeting where she assisted people in getting library cards and explaining how to use them. Thanks go to the members of the East Texas Deaf and Hearing Association for hosting the March 18 TCD Board meeting.

### IRVING

The Mid-Cities Council for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. has moved offices. The new address is:

Janna Bearden, Chairperson  
Mid-Cities Council for the H.I., Inc.  
1711 W. Irving Blvd., Suite 309  
Irving, Texas 75061

### SHERMAN-DENISON

The Texoma Council for the Deaf, Inc. has their own rent-free office in Denison and is currently working with the State of Oklahoma to get interpreter services for their deaf friends across the border.

### CORPUS CHRISTI

The Corpus Christi Area Council for the Deaf, Inc. is actively working on local interpreter training workshops and on finding their own office. The TCD thanks the Corpus Christi Council and Mr. Weldon Hillis for giving a big Corpus Christi welcome during the January 28, 1978 Board meeting.

### MIDLAND-ODESSA

A big congratulation to Permian Basin Council for the Deaf, Inc. and a big thank-you to the Lions Club there for donating a large numbers of TTY machines to the deaf citizenry in the Midland-Odessa area.

### HOUSTON

The Gulf Coast Council for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. has expanded tremendously in the past few months. They recently worked on a project through United Fund and a local T.V. station to make a Public Service announcement advertising the Councils interpreter service program. Ms. Shirley Pacetti interpreted the PSA which also contains captioned of the 24-hour TTY #. Also they have developed posters advertising the interpreter services; and individual members are helping distribute the posters throughout the Houston area.

### DALLAS

The Dallas Council for the Deaf, Inc. helped sponsor the open house of the Deaf Action Center on April 15. This event was followed with a theatrical presentation by "Expressions Unlimited" (a local deaf drama group) at the Dallas Association of the Deaf that night.

### SAN ANTONIO

TCD congratulates the San Antonio Council for the Advancement of Services to the Deaf, Inc. for establishing a 24-hour TTY answering service in connection with their city's Hot-Line Center.

### WICHITA FALLS

The Silent Friends of Wichita Falls, Inc. has their own office and recently received a \$900 grant from the Knights of Columbus. Further, they applied for and received money for a CETA employee for the Council. Kitty Stone, a deaf woman, was hired for the job as of March 13, 1978. They have also received donations from businesses and private individuals. The Kiwanis Club donated projection equipment for the showing of captioned films. Finally, through the efforts of Silent Friends, Wichita Falls now offers a free Defensive Driving Course for deaf citizens.

### BEAUMONT

Through the efforts of members of the Southeast Texas Council for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. two MCM's were placed in the Park Place Hospital. These portable TTY units were purchased by the hospital's woman auxiliary club. By the way, the Southeast Council has changed the box number of their mailing address: Box 10472, Lamar Station, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

### EL PASO

Recently the TCD staff learned that a county commissioner for El Paso County has pledged an office downtown for the El Paso County Services for the Hearing Impaired, Inc. Further, no interest loans for TTY's have been made available for deaf persons through the Peyton Foundation. The Knights of Columbus will supply the El Paso area with 30 TTYs.

### WACO

The Central Texas Council for the Deaf, Inc. received their own office space in the American Red Cross Building, and recently got office furniture which was donated by a private citizen. The council sponsored an interpreter workshop on March 30 to develop a schedule of interpreters to assist in Council services in the Waco-Temple area. Georgia Malitz, Commission field consultant for interpreter services, assisted in the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Council Service Provider, Jean Cox.

### ELSEWHERE

Because of limited space here, news on other councils will be reported in the next Deafogram. Please send in news on the councils to the TCD office by July 1 for the next issue.





## SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY DEAF

Our services for the Elderly Deaf (SED) Program is off to a good start. In less than five months 17 Councils have employed an older deaf person to serve a part-time "Services for the Elderly Deaf Coordinators" (SEDCOs). The SEDCOs are now doing outreach work within their local deaf community as well as coordinating with Offices on Aging: the program is funded through the Governor's Committee on Aging. The SEDCOs and their representative councils are:

- Mr. Harold K. Andrews, Sr., Fort Worth  
Tarrant County Services for the  
Hearing Impaired, Inc.  
Rae Field, Irving  
Mid-Cities Council for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mrs. Lavern Harmon, Lubbock  
Lubbock County Services for the Deaf, Inc.  
Ms. Julia Karam, San Antonio  
San Antonio Council for the Advancement  
of Services to the Deaf, Inc.  
Mr. Erie Lacey, Texarkana  
Texarkana Area Services for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mr. Wallace Landry, Beaumont  
Southeast Texas Council for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mrs. Dorothy LaRue, Corpus Christi  
Corpus Christi Area Council for the  
Deaf, Inc.  
Mrs. Raymond Lewis (Feddie), Sherman  
Texoma Council for the Deaf, Inc.  
Mrs. Edith Malone, Wichita Falls  
Silent Friends of Wichita Falls,  
Texas, Inc.  
Mrs. Beulah Mayfield, Waco  
Central Texas Council for the Deaf, Inc.  
Mrs. Ruth Pace, El Paso  
El Paso County Services for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mr. Hubert Parmenter, Amarillo  
Panhandle Council for the Deaf, Inc.  
Mr. Wallis K. Schmidt, Midland  
Permian Basin Council for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mr. W. S. Smith, Houston  
Gulf Coast Council for the Hearing  
Impaired, Inc.  
Mr. Marvin L. Tidwell, Gilmer  
East Texas Deaf & Hearing Association, Inc.  
Mr. C. V. Trigg, Dallas  
Dallas Council for the Deaf, Inc.  
Mr. Donald Williams, Austin  
Travis County Council for the Deaf, Inc.

### TCD SPONSORS WORKSHOP ON ELDERLY DEAF IN DEL RIO

A workshop on "Improving Services to the Hearing-Impaired Elderly Persons" was held in Del Rio, Texas on March 23. The Middle Rio Grande Office on Aging sponsored the workshop for approximately fifty service providers to the elderly and senior citizens. By invitation of the Office on Aging, TCD Executive Director, Carl Roberts and staff members Carol Lacey and Rebecca Haber brought the program. A Spanish interpreter assisted in translating portions of the program for the benefit of Spanish speaking participants.

## 1978 Governor's Conference on Aging "MATURITY SPEAKS! LET'S LISTEN."

The Governor's Committee on Aging and the 28 Area Agencies on Aging are sponsoring a conference on June 26-27, 1978, in San Antonio. The conference will be held in the San Antonio Convention Center, and will begin at 1:30 p.m. on June 26.

Governor Briscoe has stated that this conference "is for the elderly, not about them." There will be presentations by Governor and Mrs. Briscoe, as well as many exhibits, presentations, discussions led by senior citizens, and entertainment.

Texas Commission for the Deaf will be coordinating interpreters for the conference. Rebecca Haber, Field Consultant for Services to the Elderly Deaf, will be contacting all the Coordinators of Services to the Elderly Deaf (SEDCOs) to encourage attendance at this important conference. Ms. Elizabeth Criswell, Director of the Deaf Action Center, Dallas, will serve as interpreter for Governor and Mrs. Briscoe's presentations.

### TCD IN ACTION

DCEPP: The Texas Commission for the Deaf was invited by Gallaudet College and the National Center for the Law and the Deaf to a workshop on "Deaf Consumer Education and Participation Pilot Project" in Overland, Kansas. As a representative of the TCD, Dr. Michael Moore participated in discussions on how deaf grassroots can be motivated to take up an active role in the community affairs and on how to encourage deaf persons to solve local consumer and other problems confronting them. In the near future, Dr. Moore will be setting up a small scale workshop in a Texas deaf community to put what he has learned into use. This will give the Commission an opportunity in gaining an experience in providing the local deaf people with the needed tools to become active and interested citizens.

ADARA: In the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association Conference in San Antonio, the Commission for the Deaf presented a paper on the overall structure and activities of the Commission. As a result, a meeting of interested deaf leaders from several states met with this Commission for more information on TCD's status as an independent state agency. Personal visits to our offices were made by deaf individuals from New York and Minnesota. The Commission was further contacted by several states, such as North Carolina, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Alabama.

HIGH SCHOOL VISITS: On March 14, 1978, a group of deaf high school from Corpus Christi visited our offices; the students learned about their Commission and State government. A brief lesson on how a bill becomes a law with some concrete examples was given. Mr. Don Kitson, the President of the Coastal Bend Council for the Deaf, Inc. and teacher of the class was responsible for arranging this visit.

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TELEPHONE RATES: On March 15, 1978, an informal discussion between two representatives of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Austin deaf community was held in the TCD office in an attempt to call to the attention of the PUC the problems deaf TDD (telecommunication devices for the deaf) users experience as customers of Texas telephone companies. On June 2, 1978, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. George Cowden, Chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission, will address the convention of the Parent Professional Section of Texas Association of the Deaf (PPS/TAD) which will be meeting at the Houston Astro Village in an effort to gain more insight on the telephone problems faced by persons who are deaf. With favorable legislation in Connecticut and California regarding the reduction of long distance telephone rates for the TDD users, we are hopeful that the Texas Public Utility Commission will recognize the problems of TDD users, and take similar action here in Texas.

INTERPRETING BILL: The Commission's Executive Director and Program Specialists met with Senator Lloyd Doggett who agreed to sponsor a new interpreting bill for the next Legislative Session. This new bill will be patterned after TSID's previously proposed interpreting bill and the new Virginia interpreting bill which was written with the assistance of the National Center for the Law and the Deaf. This bill will increase the protection of the deaf persons and interpreter rights.

Texas Commission for the Deaf  
P. O. Box 12904, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Texas Legislature set up an Interim Study Committee on Special Education to "make a thorough, comprehensive and analytical study of special education in Texas, including funding, policies, facilities, teacher-training, and certification and effectiveness". Senator W. E. Snelson of Midland is the Chairman. The Committee will conduct open hearings all over the state as follows:

May 5 & 6	Amarillo
May 8 & 9	Brownwood
May 15 & 16	Midland
May 22 & 23	San Antonio
May 25	Fort Worth
May 26 & 27	Dallas
June 1 & 2	Tyler
June 3	El Paso

For details regarding the time and place of these hearings, check your local newspaper, or call Senator Snelson's office (512)-475-3494. All persons interested in special education - including deaf education - are invited to make testimonies before the Committee.



The Hon. Senator  
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