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MHMR



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Association for Retarded Citizens of Fort Worth

news

September 1979

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES SUBJECT OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Early this summer the ARC was requested by Volunteers of America (V.O.A.) to act as advocate for the mentally retarded clients in its group home since the home will be closed this month. The Fort Worth State School has, for several years, provided the funds for V.O.A.'s program and remains administratively responsible for those clients. An ARC Factfinding Committee met with State School staff to assure program continuity for the V.O.A. clients. More than half of the group home clients will be transferred to other existing facilities and a new group home will be opened to house the remaining eight men and women.

Closing of the V.O.A. home stimulated ARC/FW's Board of Directors to explore the whole issue of community-based residential services in Fort Worth.

Many retarded adults in Fort Worth continue to live with their parents or relatives. While this may be a satisfactory arrangement right now, it will not always be so. There, inevitably, comes a time when parents are no longer able to provide supervision and care for their retarded son or daughter.

The ARC is strongly committed to the principle that retarded individuals and their families should be able to count on having alternative residential services available when they need them. Parents have a right

to know that their handicapped family member will have a safe and secure home when parents are no longer able to provide care and supervision.

The ARC can and will serve as an advocacy organization to provide the ongoing supervision of every retarded person who does not have parents or family members to look after his or her interests. The ARC will work closely with other agencies such as Fort Worth State School and Trinity Valley Mental Health-Mental Retardation Authority to develop and operate new community-based residential programs. A factfinding committee has already met with staff from both the state school and Trinity Valley MH-MR to explore strategies for getting some new homes started. Both agencies have offered their assistance in accomplishing this goal.

We must now identify those individuals who need a residential program. We need to know who they are and what type of program they will require. All families who feel that their son or daughter will need some type of supervised residential program within the next five years should call or write the ARC/FW.

The September 11, 1979 membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Child Study Center, will be devoted to a discussion of residential services in Tarrant County. We will be exploring how to get these services started. Please join us for this important meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 11th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Child Study Center, 1300 West Lancaster

GROUP HOMES IN FORT WORTH

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q: I've heard that lead poisoning among children is becoming widespread and that even small amounts of the metal can cause mental retardation. Is this true?
- A: Medical screening programs during the early 1970's found 25 to 40 percent of urban children to have high levels of lead in their blood. Data from the National Environmental Health Services Center show that from 1973 through 1978, well over 162,000 children suffered lead poisoning. Since mass screening began, severe lead poisoning in children has decreased markedly, but "asymptomatic" lead poisoning remains high. Some cities still report the condition in 15% or more of the children tested. An even more disturbing study was reported in the March 29, 1979 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. The long term effects of low levels of lead in blood (low enough that the children did not show signs of acute lead poisoning illness) appear to impair the children's ability to learn and also causes a variety of nervous system disorders, including hyperactive behavior.

In view of the hazards of lead poisoning, many medical scientists have expressed growing alarm about the steady increase of lead contamination in dust, food stuffs and in the air we breathe. For example, about 240,000 tons of lead is released in the atmosphere by gasoline engines.

Much of this lead is absorbed through the lungs and additional amounts are ingested through contaminated dust and food. We don't know yet what the long term consequences will be for our children's intellectual development but it is a problem worthy of our active concern.

CONGRATULATIONS, OLYMPIC WINNERS!

This year's International Summer Special Olympics took place in Brockport, New York. Participants competed in bowling, field track, gymnastics, wheelchair races, softball throw, swimming and diving.

Of the 89 medals won by the Texas delegation, 13 were presented to Tarrant and Denton County participants. Winners included Melinda Kuykendall of Fort Worth who won two gold medals and a silver one in swimming and diving, John Devenport of Fort Worth who won a silver medal in swimming, Lisa Starrell of Denton who won a gold medal in gymnastics and Lela Boyd of Euless, winner of a gold medal in the 50 meter dash and a silver one in the softball throw. Ralphia Willingham of Fort Worth won a gold medal in the 30 meter slalom and a silver one in the wheelchair race, and James Ingram of Fort Worth was the winner in the pentathlon, a five-event contest. In the bowling competition, winners included Kristi Farrar of Fort Worth, Gordon Tatum of Burleson, winner of a gold medal, and Anita Walker, who won a silver medal. Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Special Olympics.

ARC NEWS is a monthly publication of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Fort Worth, a local unit of the Texas Association for Retarded Citizens and the National Association for Retarded Citizens. ARC of Fort Worth is a United Way agency serving children and adults with mental retardation in the greater Fort Worth area.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

STATE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Fort Worth is working to assure that our community has an adequate number of community-based residential services for those persons who need such a program. As we explore the options available to us for developing new programs it is helpful to understand how the state currently budgets for residential services and how local communities have influenced that process. The following discussion is extracted from a report by David Ferleger to the Texas ARC Board of Directors.

SERVICES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS IN TEXAS

Over the past five years from 1974 to 1979, bed capacity in Texas institutions for the retarded has declined from 13,732 to 11,791; during that period, additional state schools have been opened. Participation in the federal Title XIX Intermediate Care Facilities for the mentally Retarded program provides Texas with reimbursement of about 60% of the expenditures for eligible residents served in facilities found to meet standards, a \$43,432,109 reimbursement for fiscal year 1978. Texas community mental health and retardation centers receive support from state general revenue funds (50% of 1978 budgeted funds), federal funds (23%), local funds (24%) and other state funds (3%).

For Texas' twelve state schools for the retarded, \$140,038,189 was expended in 1978; about \$146,000,000 was budgeted for 1979. For community mental health centers, about \$42,000,000 was budgeted for 1979, with the amount supporting the retarded not specified.

Institutions for the retarded in Texas devote portions of their budgets to community residential services (with the exception of one facility). Wide variations exist from state school to state school, with no uniformity or rationale apparent from the figures. Per diem costs also differ from facility to facility.

Fort Worth has fewer residents than Lubbock but a budget larger than Lubbock's by almost \$1.7 million dollars. Corpus Christi, with slightly more residents than Brenham and a higher budget, spends about one-eighth (1/8) the amount of money on community residential services. Proportionately, Fort Worth spends on community services 38 times the percentage spent by Abilene, 31 times that spent by Corpus Christi, 25 times that spent by Mexia, and 63 times that spent by Travis. The Travis and Austin budgets, nearly the same in dollars, show Travis spending only a twelfth (1/12) the percentage spent by Austin for community-based residential services.

The per diem cost per resident is nearly \$50 at Austin State School and ranges down to only \$33 at San Angelo. A large per diem does not necessarily indicate greater attention to community services, as the figure for Travis and Brenham indicate. Variations in local and contracted services do not account for the large discrepancies found in these figures. It is simply not the case that Austin has residents who require a lesser investment in community services than Denton or that San Angelo (which requested funds for a group home) has no residents who would benefit from community services.

Two relevant characteristics of Texas institutional residents should be noted. First, a very large proportion are among the least disabled of the retarded. For example, at Denton State School which housed about 1,150 at the time the following data were compiled, 120 people were mildly retarded and 210 moderately retarded. At Fort Worth, with about 430 residents at the time, 2 were mildly retarded and 43 moderately retarded. The institutional authorities appear to recognize these factors and permit mildly and moderately retarded persons less restrictive living conditions in some cases, including--at Austin State School, for example--separate modern homelike residences.

The second characteristic is the relative youth of institutional residents. At Austin State School, the average age is about 18 years. At Denton, it is 24 years. All young people, if living in the community, receive an appropriate public education. Young people living in Texas institutions for the retarded are under a whimsical system whereby the institution is its own toothless "school district" (it has no taxing authority or school board) and only some children are provided a classroom education and some of those children's classrooms are a corner of the residential ward.

Community living arrangements for the retarded in Texas are simultaneously heartening and discouraging. Group homes, independent living units and training residences all exist on a small scale and many people have left institutions for such less restrictive care. However, the community programs exist primarily for moderately and mildly retarded persons and very few for severely and profoundly retarded persons.

Expansion of community services and reduction of the institutional population does appear to be a concern of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation which devotes increasing funds to the community; funds for new institutional construction were recently vetoed by the Governor. What is being done, however, is not enough to satisfy parents and other concerned citizens of Texas, there remains a critical need for improved quality of service and an expansion in the number of group homes and apartments within the community.

STATE SCHOOL STATISTICS REGARDING BUDGET, COMMUNITY RESIDENCES, SIZE AND PER DIEM COST 1980						
	Total Institutional Budget	Budget for Community Residential Care*	Percentage of Budget for Community Care**	Bed Capacity	Average Daily Population+	Per Diem Cost+
Abilene	\$18,800,377	\$ 53,424	.28%	1,415	1,316	\$38.75
Austin	\$17,514,586	\$ 364,441	2.08%	1,005	935	\$49.47
Brenham	\$ 7,215,386	\$ 220,471	3.06%	509	473	\$38.88
Corpus Christi	\$ 8,215,900	\$ 27,560	.34%	578	538	\$36.96
Denton	\$19,879,172	\$2,055,405	10.34%	1,060	986	\$47.29
Fort Worth	\$ 9,816,802	\$1,044,907	10.64%	472	439	\$47.68
Mexia	\$20,662,542	\$ 86,576	.42%	1,598	1,486	\$37.33
Lubbock	\$ 8,132,109	\$ 98,502	1.21%	522	513	\$41.74
Lufkin	\$ 9,765,399	\$ 42,946	.44%	746	694	\$38.22
Richmond	\$13,352,234	\$ 160,491	1.20%	1,088	1,012	\$35.03
San Angelo	\$ 9,096,354	\$ 0	0	791	736	\$33.18
Travis	\$18,090,294	\$ 31,472	.17%	1,222	1,137	\$42.07

* These figures are from the actual budget for 1980 approved by the Legislature.

** This percentage is calculated from the first two columns.

+ These figures are from the Legislative Budget Estimates, recommended for 1980.

YOUR DISCARDS ARE VALUABLE TO THE ARC

If you are planning to clean out your closets or garage in the near future, please remember to contact Thrift Town for picking up your unwanted clothing, furniture, small appliances and miscellaneous items that might be repaired and sold as usable.

Not everyone is familiar with Thrift Town since it does not have the budget to advertise. The Texas ARC arranges for trucks to pick up useable goods anywhere in Tarrant County. These items are then sold to the Thrift Town store for repair and resale. ARC's in Tarrant County receive the money from TARC's sale of the items they pick up. Money raised through the Thrift Town program has been especially helpful in permitting the ARC/FW to continue its advocacy activities. In fact, the ARC/FW would have difficulty surviving without this source of money.

So, don't forget, whether you're planning a major housecleaning or you have a single item for donation, please call 624-7001 for a truck to pick up your donations. You will also receive a receipt for the estimated value of your items, which is tax deductible as a charitable donation.

ESPECIALLY FOR ARC CLIENTS,
YOU'RE INVITED!

The Welcome to My World parties and the Saturday bowling leagues are two favorite activities which will continue to be enjoyed by ARC clients this fall. The Welcome to My World party, Friday, September 21st, will be sponsored by Ms. Mary Johnston. Mary has been our Youth Activities Coordinator since last October; however, Mary is resigning her position with the ARC but hopes to remain in contact with all the friends she has made by being an active volunteer through the Welcome to My World parties and the Saturday bowling leagues. Mary will be missed by all of us but we look forward to seeing her at various activities over the coming year. This will be a very special Welcome to My World party and we hope you will all plan to attend.

The fall bowling leagues at Brunswick bowling alleys will begin on Saturday, September 8th. The eastside leagues will meet at 9:30 a.m., and the westside league will meet at 1:00 p.m. The summer leagues ended on Saturday, August 18th, with a presentation of awards. If you enjoyed bowling this past season, it should be even more fun this fall. Don Chapin, Director of Special Ministries for First Baptist Church of Hurst, will be bringing a group to join us this fall. We are anticipating having 16 teams at both bowling alleys this fall. The leagues are already forming, sign up now by calling Bobbie Dollar, eastside, Brunswick Bowlerland - 451-4713, or westside bowling at Ridglea Brunswick Bowl 244-5055.

ADD YOUR PERSONAL TOUCH TO THE ARC ANNUAL DINNER

It's time to start making plans for the annual dinner which is held each November for the installation of new officers and the presentation of various awards. Last year, the annual dinner was held at Woodhaven Country Club with dinner being prepared by the club. Dr. Phil Roos, Executive Director of the National Association for Retarded Citizens, was our guest speaker for the evening.

The ARC invites you to work with us in the planning of this year's annual dinner. As a member of the ARC of Fort Worth, you should find the dinner enjoyable and beneficial. Within the next couple of weeks, reservations need to be made for a location, all suggestions will be considered and appreciated. We would also like suggestions concerning the selection of a guest speaker. Committees can be formed for additional planning including table decorations, program format, menu and catering selections and the lay out of the invitations and programs. If you would like to form a committee or would like to work on a committee to help with any or all of these planning aspects, please call Janci Covington at 336-8611, ext. 32.

A BREAKTHROUGH IN LIFE INSURANCE FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

New, low cost group plan now available to all sheltered workshops.

The ARC Insurance Committee has made arrangements with one of the country's largest group insurers, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, to offer low-cost group life insurance both to clients and staff members of sheltered workshops.

The need for life insurance reaches to everyone. Quite often a person leaves behind debts and expenses at death, whether it is unexpected or follows a lingering illness.

Unfortunately, the very people who most need insurance are often the ones who have the most problems obtaining it. Many local ARC groups have previously attempted to obtain life coverage on a group basis and failed. Few insurance companies are willing to discuss a program for retarded citizens who are workshop clients.

The new Sheltered Workshop Plan represents a breakthrough. It not only fills a vital need ARC parents have come to recognize as being very important, it also provides the service on the same basis as others in the national work force.

No Health Questionnaires Required

The new ARC plan is unique. Most plans either do not accept any retarded people, or screen them very rigidly before deciding whom to insure. However, under this plan, all participants of sheltered workshops are automatically guaranteed coverage. There are no health questionnaires to be answered and no one can be turned down if the workshop gets adequate participation of those eligible.

We're also fortunate from a cost standpoint. Since this is a group plan, Metropolitan Life is able to offer this life insurance at very reasonable rates. And each person in a given workshop will pay the same rates, regardless of any individual health problems.

Coverage for 30¢

It is anticipated that the participant and the workshop will share the cost of the insurance. While actual rates will vary slightly from group to group, the participant will pay a maximum of 30¢ monthly for each \$1,000 of coverage.

How to get additional information

Information is available to anyone who is interested. It explains in detail how the plan works, the amount of insurance available and has answers to most of your questions. To receive this free information, call Plan Services toll free number at 800-237-7767 and ask for "Madge".

HOLIDAY CARD DESIGNED BY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Each year, NARC conducts a nationwide Art Design Contest to find new Christmas cards and calendar designs. This year, over 7,000 entries were received in the contest. An assortment of "Everyday Note and Card" designs also are selected from the many entries. Winning artists are featured in various publications and receive United States Savings Bonds as recognition of their abilities.

Seven new Christmas card illustrations, the unique ARC dove card, four new Christmas postcards, and the 1980 Appointment Calendar make up NARC's 1979 exclusive selection designed by mentally retarded artists. An attractive group of professionally designed cards completes the 1979 Christmas catalogue. This year's prices range from \$2.75 for a package of 25 postcards to \$5.50 to \$7.50 per box of 25 cards and envelopes. Personalized imprinting is also available on Christmas cards.

Contact the ARC/FW office to arrange for ordering your cards this Christmas. The ARC receives half of all money raised through the sale of cards and calendars. Every member is urged to purchase and send at least one box of Christmas cards. THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE HOPE.

DAY OF CHAMPIONS MARKS THE CONCLUSION OF A SUPER SUMMER FOR OUR SUPER KIDS

Summer Day Camp has been a wonderful experience for a group of about 60 area children, ages 4 and older. A very special occasion marks the ending of camp each summer, the Day of Champions, a fun-filled day of competitive festivities and awards presentations.

Friday, August 10th, was the Day of Champions for the ARC of Fort Worth/Fort Worth State School sponsored day camp. The children participated in wheel chair races, sack races, broad jump and softball throw competition, obstacle courses and relays. The children were awarded ribbons afterwards for their fine competitive efforts. Allen Stone, Channel 4 sportscaster, and Dr. Vearl McDaniel presented the ribbons as the Channel 4 News filmed the day's events. Dr. McDaniel, past Superintendent of Fort Worth State School, has been extremely instrumental in the development and success of summer camp and returned to Fort Worth especially for this event.

Special presentations were awarded to the Carswell Air Force Base Honor Guard and Dr. McDaniel for their continuing support and concern for the mentally retarded youngsters of our area and the success of the summer day camp program.

Day of Champions was also attended by several persons on the Administrative staff of Fort Worth State School, including Weldon Newton, Acting Superintendent; Ron Cookston, Assistant Superintendent; Joe Mirisciotti, Director of Program Services, and several other members of staff in departments related to summer camp programming. Doug Harris, Principal of Jo Kelly School, and Zada Bruce, Principal of Bonnie Bray, also attended. The ARC of Fort Worth was represented by Jim Patton, President; Gene Patterson, Executive director, his wife, Carol; and members of ARC staff.

The ARC of Fort Worth deeply appreciates the devotion and hard work of Mrs. Sammie Irvin, Director of ARC of Fort Worth/Fort Worth State School Summer Day Camp. Mrs. Irvin provided a well organized, instructional and entertaining summer for all who attended by continuing to coordinate the camp staff and activities with the exceptional expertise she has repeatedly demonstrated in directing the previous summers' day camps.

A very special "thanks" is extended to Rev. Homer Richie, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, and Mr. Jack Taggart, who worked so closely with our summer day camp and so graciously provided us with the use of the Tandy Elementary building for our camp facility. The Tandy Elementary building is leased by the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth for extension Sunday School programs, the church allowed us to use the building free of charge for the entire 17 weeks of summer camp.

Plans for next year's summer camp are already underway and the ARC is seeking the input of all interested parents concerning ideas and suggestions for an even bigger and better camp next year. Please contact Janci Covington, through the ARC office if you have any ideas or suggestions concerning format, location, staffing, location, etc. for next summer's camp. All suggestions will be helpful to the success of camp and will be greatly appreciated.

**WHEN YOU GIVE HELP
YOU GIVE HOPE.**

ARC/FW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Aug 31 UNITED WAY KICK OFF LUNCHEON, South Bay Tarrant County Convention Center, 12 noon
- Sept 4 TRINITY VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION BOARD MEETING, 7 p.m., 1319 Summit, 3rd floor.
- Sept 5 FORT WORTH STATE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, 1:15 p.m., 5000 Campus Drive, meet at the Administration Building.
- Sept 6 ARC/FW BOARD MEETING, 7-9p.m., Child Study Center, 1300 West Lancaster.
- Sept 8 BEGINNING OF FALL BOWLING LEAGUES, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Brunswick Bowlerland, 5601 East Lancaster, and 1-3 p.m., Brunswick Ridglea Bowl, 3600 Highway 377. Contact Bobbie Dollar at 451-4713 for any questions.
- Sept 11 ARC/FW MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 7-9 p.m., Child Study Center. Discussion of Residential Services in Tarrant County.
- Sept 21 WELCOME TO MY WORLD PARTY, Child Study Center Auditorium, 7-9 p.m.
- Sept 22 RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES TO THE RETARDED WORKSHOP, Fort Worth State School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., call Keith Blakely to register at 534-4831.

ARC UNIT _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: Home _____ Business _____

I AM A NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL MEMBER _____

I AM A PARENT _____ PROFESSIONAL _____ FRIEND OF THE RETARDED _____

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ALL ARC PUBLICATIONS Yes _____ No _____

Date: _____

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