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the fort worth
association for retarded citizens
NEWS letter

Volume Two Number Eight October 1977

DAY CARE SERVICES IN TARRANT COUNTY-

AN EXAMINATION OF WELFARE MINIMUM STANDARDS*

The September issue of the NEWSletter reported on day care services available to the parents of mentally retarded children in Tarrant County. In the survey taken as the basis for that report, approximately one-quarter of the 30 day care center directors who responded to questioning made reference to public welfare regulations which would prohibit them from admitting a retarded child to their centers.

An examination of the Minimum Standards for Day Care Centers proves this to be a false notion. Any child can be accommodated by a day care center, provided the parents and the center's director agree that the center's program can be beneficial to the child. And, the enrollment procedures for a mentally retarded-or special child are only slightly different from those of any other child. When a parent is aware in advance that only one additional step must be taken for enrollment of a special child, the parent can be prepared to accomplish this step at the same time he or she is handling the other admission requirements.

The Minimum Standards for Day Care Centers states that every child must have an evaluation of his or her health prior to admission in a day care center. The evaluation includes current proof that immunizations have been obtained, along with tests for tuberculosis, and a written statement from a doctor, health clinic, or child health program (such as a Head Start physical exam) stating that the child has been examined within the past year and is in good health.

These procedures are standard for every child. In addition, the regulations state that a report must be obtained "from a consultant regarding the admission of any child needing special care." The Minimum Standards define a child in need of special care as one who has "disabling or limiting conditions such as visual impairment or deafness, other physical disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance or learning disabilities which prevent or limit their participation in the normal activities of the day care center." The Minimum Standards further define a consultant from whom this report can be obtained as, "psychologists, special education counselors, educational diagnosticians, special education supervisors (or) teachers,...pediatricians, licensed registered nurses, child psychiatrists and... social workers skilled in assessing normal and unusual developmental problems in children." Therefore, a parent should be able to obtain the report on the special child in the course of obtaining other enrollment information. Obviously, the parent has his or her choice of whom to ask for this report. (continued on page 2)

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE
for children and adults with mental retardation in Tarrant County
JOIN FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS!

DAY CARE SERVICES IN TARRANT COUNTY (continued from page 1):

If the report obtained from a qualified expert makes any specific recommendations on care or activities, the recommendations must be executed by the day care center and must reflect in the child's records when and how these recommendations were carried out.

A review of the Minimum Standards show that day care centers are responsible to the State Department of Public Welfare for adequate staff-child ratios, for the keeping of appropriate records, and for meeting architectural and health standards as specified in the Minimum Standards. At no point in the regulations is reference made to any provision which excludes any child from participation in a day care center. Therefore, any attempt by a day care center director or member of the staff to deny a retarded child admission to the center on the statement that welfare regulations prohibit admission, is false.

However, in the best interest of each child, the Public Welfare Agency encourages each center to provide the most beneficial environment for each child in its care. When a center's director feels that the center cannot provide this environment for a particular child, that director is acting in a responsible manner if he seeks out the parents and explains this belief to them. It is to the best interest of everyone concerned-the child, the parents, the center's personnel and clients, and the Public Welfare Agency-if the center's director can legitimately recognize, in advance, that his center is not capable of facilitating that particular child's development.

Be realistic when you seek day care for your child. Realize that your child-or anyone's child-may not feel comfortable in the first center in which he is placed. Be prepared for the center's personnel to recognize the need for a change before you do, for they will be able to monitor the child's development on a personal basis. But, also be prepared to adequately respond to the center which tells you that your retarded child cannot be kept there because of a welfare regulation. No such regulation exists.

If you as a parent or advocate encounter any problems while enrolling a retarded child in a Tarrant County day care facility, please contact the FW/ARC office at 336-8661. You will be placed in touch with a person who can help you find answers to your questions and investigate problems.

*Minimum Standards for Day Care Centers. Texas State Department of Public Welfare; Austin, Texas; June, 1976.

The NEWSletter is a monthly publication of the Fort Worth Association for Retarded Citizens, a local unit of the Texas Association for Retarded Citizens and the National Association for Retarded Citizens. Fort Worth ARC 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

FW/ARC members have committed themselves to the organization of a sequence of continuing education programs, so as to become more informed and effective advocates for citizens with mental retardation in Fort Worth. In accordance with the learning needs which we established at our May 1976 membership meeting, the following series of discussions are presented to enable us to more competently understand and respond to problems faced by mentally retarded individuals.

DENTAL CARE FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Poor oral hygiene and dental problems can hamper the handicapped person's struggle for social acceptance. Physically and mentally disabled individuals often must struggle to earn their rightful place within the community. If a handicapped person happens to have poor oral or dental health, acceptance can be even more difficult. One just has to think of the many commercials for breath mints, toothpastes, mouth washes, and denture cleansers to realize the importance society puts on proper oral hygiene. Many disabled citizens are unable to participate in society to the extent of their abilities and interests because of poor oral health.

Dental disease also can have a serious physical impact on a handicapped person. Many people who are elderly, disabled, or chronically ill are unable to travel to a dental office to receive care. As a result, dental problems worsen and frequently lead to intense pain and extensive oral disease. In some cases, severe dental problems can interfere with the ability to speak understandably and can even affect one's physical appearance. Also, other health problems may result when serious dental disease is present. Food is not chewed properly, which in turn, may impair a healthy nutritional state and cause injury to the digestive system.

For many mentally retarded persons, dental problems may be related to their physical disability. Certain dental conditions experienced by some handicapped people may be a result of their disability. For instance, persons who have epilepsy may be prone to overgrowth of gum tissue. This condition often is a side effect of the drug, Dilantin, taken for seizure control. In addition, persons subject to seizures or uncontrolled movement may accidentally damage their teeth. Though safety helmets may provide protection to the head during a fall, they leave the mouth unprotected. Also, the teeth of many mentally retarded individuals often do not develop normally. Such damage frequently results from the same physical condition causing the disability.

Inadequate social and financial conditions increase the likelihood of dental disease among handicapped persons. Proper food and healthy living conditions are necessary for everyone's good health and well-being. The high rate of dental problems among mentally retarded persons often is due to poor diet and the effects of poverty. Because the incomes of many mentally and physically handicapped people frequently are limited, they often are unable to live in the best of circumstances or to afford dental care.

Employment in a sheltered workshop can provide a handicapped person with dignity and purpose, but not very much income. Similarly, elderly people on the limited income of pensions and social security may not have sufficient funds to meet their dental needs. Unfortunately, government sponsored health programs for the poor, disabled and elderly do not provide adequate dental benefits. For example, Medicare only will provide for oral surgery, and in many states, Medicaid dental benefits are not available to people over twenty.

Without positive change, handicapped individuals will continue to needlessly suffer. The problem has not been completely ignored, but the need for dental care for handicapped citizens far outstrips the currently available resources until we move in a new direction, many mentally retarded people will receive care only if they are lucky enough to afford it, lucky enough to have a dentist, or lucky enough to live in an environment conducive to a prevention of disease. If this costly element of chance is to be eliminated, dental services must be planned and organized.

Undoubtedly, even as advances are made, many people will continue to needlessly suffer; however, the organization of existing and needed new services can clearly provide the dignity of dental health to many mentally retarded and other developmentally disabled people.

The National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped is working to develop a comprehensive and systematic approach to providing dental care to handicapped persons of all ages.

The National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH) is coordinating a national effort to deal with the problem of providing adequate dental care for mentally and physically disabled people. NFDH is committed to moving preventive dentistry beyond the dental suite and into the educational, vocational and residential facilities serving disabled individuals.

NFDH programs are providing up-to-date information about oral hygiene procedures that will enable handicapped people to help themselves prevent dental disease. Other efforts are aimed at developing screening programs in centers working with individuals having disabilities so that disease can be detected early, referrals made and treatment provided before serious complications develop. In addition, the Foundation is seeking to advance organized portable dentistry systems to bring necessary health care to those handicapped and elderly persons who are unable to travel to an office.

The issue of adequate dental care for handicapped citizens is a national social responsibility.

The Fort Worth Association for Retarded Citizens is honored to have with us at our membership meeting on October 11th, Dr. Larry Coffee, Executive Director of the National Foundation of Dentistry. Dr. Coffee will present a program to illustrate some of the preventive dentistry approaches used in NFDH's national *Campaign of Concern*.

Parents, advocates and interested professionals are urged to attend this meeting to learn more about how we can help to improve the oral health and social success of Fort Worth's mentally retarded citizens.

...Bring a smile.

FW/ARC EVALUATION SURVEY-OCTOBER, 1977

Please answer the following questions as honestly and completely as possible. Make additional comments on a separate sheet of paper and attach to the front of this sheet. Please return at your earliest convenience.

1. I am a: Professional Friend or Advocate
 Parent or Relative of: Child under age 5
 Child over 5 but under 18 Child over age 18
 Child resides in home Child resides in institution
 Citizen works outside of home Citizen does not work
- | | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Undecided</u> |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2. The FW/ARC should continue with the same types of programs, activities and services as we have provided in the past. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. The FW/ARC is serving the needs of the area's mentally retarded persons as best as we can with our present organizational resources. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. The FW/ARC needs more members in order to continue to serve or better serve our mentally retarded associates. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. FW/ARC should change its membership meetings to once every two months instead of the current once-a-month schedule. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. FW/ARC should combine our membership meetings with meetings of other related groups such as parents from public schools, pediatricians, other handicap service organizations, etc. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. What programs, activities, or services need to be initiated or improved? If improvement is needed, how do you propose the improvements could be made? | _____

_____ | | |
| 8. With which programs, activities, or services have you been pleased? | _____

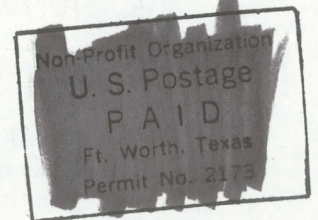
_____ | | |
| 9. In which programs, activities, or services have you and your family participated during the past year? | _____
_____ | | |

10. In your opinion, what would be the best way to go about gaining new members?

11. What need does membership in the FW/ARC fulfill for you?

- To actively serve on behalf of mentally retarded persons.
- To learn about mental retardation and services related to this field.
- To receive the NEWSletter and other publications.
- All of the above. None of the above. (specify)

FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS
1300 W. Lancaster
Fort Worth, TX 76102



Fort Worth ARC
1300 W. Lancaster
Fort Worth, TX 76102

FW-ARC PICNIC-A RELAXING DAY IN THE SUN

Over thirty guests and members attended the First Annual Picnic on September 18 in Overton Park. Those in attendance included over 20 ARC-member families plus a few families who were invited through the Fort Worth School System as well as several people who are just friends of our group. The day was near perfect-just a bit windy, perhaps-but the food was delicious, the company delightful, and everyone had a great time eating, visiting, and playing such games as Frisbee, baseball, bingo, and swinging on the swings. No picnic is complete without the threat of a thundershower, and one showed up at exactly 3:00 to chase everyone home. However, those of us who remained to the end did not go away empty-handed for some fine "sidewalk" prizes were given away, courtesy of Crown Molding Company. Those of us who were able to attend had a great day and we hope many more of you can join us for next year's picnic.

BULLY FOR MOOSE LODGE!

No pun intended, but the adults who attend our monthly Welcome to My World parties wish to express a large Thank You to the members of Moose Lodge #1100 for the gift of a beautiful AM-FM stereo 8-track tape-radio-record player donated to their parties by these fine people. This wonderful gift is one which will be appreciated each time it is used. Appreciated just as much as the gift is the thoughtfulness with which it was given by the members of this Moose Lodge. **THANK YOU!**

FW/ARC CALENDER:

- October 6 FW/ARC BOARD MEETING,
7:00 p.m, Child Study Center
- October 11 FW/ARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING, 7-9 p.m, Child Study
Center, 1300 W. Lancaster-
DENTISTRY FOR THE HANDICAPPED
- October 21 WELCOME TO MY WORLD PARTY,
7-9 p.m, Child Study Center
- October 22 NEW LEGISLATION SEMINAR presented
by Attorney General, John Hill,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m, Dallas ARC
Offices, 2114 Anson Road, Dallas
- November 3 FW/ARC BOARD MEETING, 7 p.m,
Child Study Center

BIRDVILLE ARC BEGINS FALL ACTIVITIES

The Birdville ARC is continuing to sponsor several recreational activities this fall. Among these activities is a bowling league which meets each Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Richland Hills Bowl. Another Birdville-sponsored activity is a square dancing class which is held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Riverside Recreation Center. This particular activity is FREE. Also, anyone who enjoys roller skating might like to join Birdville ARC members and others for an evening of skating at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday night at the Holiday Skating Rink. Admission to the rink is \$1.00 per person.

Birdville President Ann Goin invites anyone who likes to have fun to come out for these activities, and if you have any questions, give Ann a call at 838-9213.

**Together,
we can
do more.**

association for retarded citizens 

TIME FOR A CLOSE LOOK

During the past year and one-half, we as an ARC organization have been involved in a number of programs, activities, and services which have been beneficial to us as individual members as well as the mentally retarded people of Tarrant County.

Under our Continuing Education program in the NEWSletter and at our monthly membership meetings, we have explored such topics as legal issues, legislation at the state and national levels, community services, citizen advocacy, child care, employment, transportation, and recreation-to mention only a few.

As a group, we have participated in or sponsored such activities as the monthly Welcome to My World Parties, the United Way Fair at Hulen Mall, the Legislative Conference sponsored by FW/ARC and held in Austin last October, both the local and national White House Conferences attended by several FW/ARC members, the two successful Star Shine benefits to our Citizen Advocacy program, as well as our annual Banquet and Picnic.

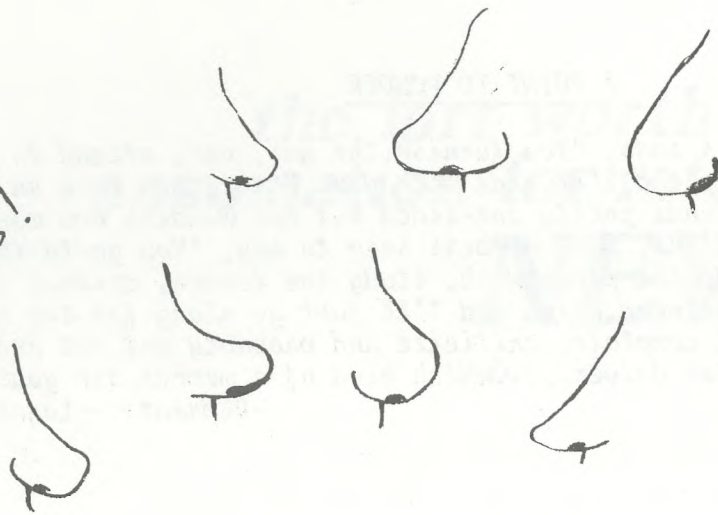
In addition, our guidance and sponsorship continue on such services as the Citizen Advocacy Program, Parent-to-Parent Program, Speaker's Bureau, Sitter Training Program, Police Training Program, and in such general areas as job placement, parent counseling, and dissemination of literature to related organizations as well as to the general public.

Admittedly, the FW/ARC has accomplished many goals in this past year and one-half. Any organization, however, which serves a segment of society that continually grows and changes must grow and change itself in order to remain effective. In an effort to monitor our past accomplishments and make plans for our future, an Evaluation Survey has been prepared to be completed and returned (postage paid) at your earliest convenience. The FW/ARC is here to serve Tarrant County's mentally retarded persons, but this service cannot be performed without the guidance of people like you...

People whose knowledge and experience with retarded persons is an invaluable guide to the determination of the needs of this community.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey with honesty and sincerity. If you feel the need to make additional comments, please make your comments on a separate sheet of paper and attach them to the front of the survey. Then fold the sheets so that the return address is visible-~~AND~~ MAIL!

We're
Counting
Noses!



Are Your
Dues Paid?

It has been brought to the attention of your Board of Directors that many members are having difficulty in remembering the date on which their annual dues are payable.

To assist those members in remembering that date you will want to know the following:

- (1) On the mailing label of your NEWSletter appears a three digit number or four, such as 878. This means your dues will be payable next August (the 8th month) of 1978.
- (2) Your membership card has typed, in the lower right hand corner, the date on which your dues will next become payable.
- (3) The month in which your dues are payable, you will receive a telephone call and/or letter (containing a self-addressed stamped envelope) reminding you that it is time to renew your membership.
- (4) Additionally, when space is available your NEWSletter will contain the names of those members whose dues are payable that month. As an example, here are those names who have memberships due in:

NOVEMBER

Betty Andura	Chris Miller
Joyce Brewer	Margaret Milliken
Bobby Brown	Mike Moncrief
John Brumley	Minnie Nealy
Karla Caffey	Cliff Overcash
JeAnne Dempwolf	Robert Parlotz
Nedra Dutton	B. Parsley
Joan Wiley	R. P. Reeves
Jim Gardner	Michael Reilley
Harold Ginsburg	E. E. Roach
Mario Goldeano	Nelson Sardelli
Becky Hackler	Robin Sauls
Marjorie Houck	Charles Schwab, Jr.
Ola Isbell	Earnest Stanley
David Lancarte	R. R. Swiney
Steven Litchfield	C. A. Taylor
Jim Lomax	John Thomas
Josephine Marshall	V. C. Thornhill
Paul Adams	Nancy Webman
Vearl McDaniels	Edwin Wittenberg
Vicki Middleton	Jim Wright

DECEMBER

Carolyn Burks
Cecil Campbell
Manly Finch
Mary Henderson
I. E. Horwitz
W. R. Jenkins
Edward Muse
Evelyn Phillips
Joe Quezada
Beecher Roberts
Harvey Russell
Tommy Thompson
H. T. Wilkinson

MEMBERSHIP RATES:


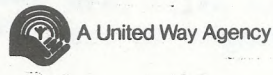
Single	\$10.00	Contributing	\$50.00
Family	\$10.00	Golden	\$100.00
Sustaining	\$25.00	Lifetime	\$500.00

Should you have any questions please contact your ARC office.

A POINT TO PONDER

With his thumb, a hitchhiker says, "You furnish the gas, car, attend to the repairs and upkeep, supply the insurance and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages." It sounds pretty one-sided but one wonders how many hitchhikers there are in many organizations. Many members seem to say, "You go to the meetings, serve on boards and committees, do the paper work, study the issues, contact the legislators and take care of things that need doing and I'll just go along for the ride. If things don't suit my fancy, I will complain, criticize and probably get out and hitchhike to another group." Hitchhiker or driver.....which kind of a member are you?

-Reprint:---Loyal Order of Moose-

<p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____</p> <p>PHONE: Home _____ Business _____</p> <p>I AM A NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL MEMBER _____</p> <p>I AM A PARENT _____ PROFESSIONAL _____ FRIEND OF THE RETARDED _____</p> <p>I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ALL ARC PUBLICATIONS Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>		<p>ARC UNIT _____</p> <p>FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS</p> <p>FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS 1300 West Lancaster Fort Worth, Texas 76102</p> <p>Betty Andura 1177 2630 W. Freeway Fort Worth, Texas 76102</p>  
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