



COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER

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Winter 80-81

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The annual delegate assembly of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities held in Dallas in November, proved once again to be a meaningful and informative experience for everyone who participated. I felt very honored to have been chosen to serve as the president of CTD for the forthcoming year. I hope that the next 12 months will be a period of significant growth and development of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Certainly, the awareness of issues and obvious commitment to a cause exhibited by delegates representing a wide variety of disabilities from diverse sections of the state point toward the possibility of an exciting year for CTD.

Nineteen eighty-one (1981) has been designated as the International Year for Disabled Persons (IYDP). All members of CTD should take the opportunity made available by IYDP to increase the level of awareness of your community regarding the abilities of disabled persons.

The 67th session of the Texas legislature will convene in 1981. Senator Chet Brooks has taken the lead in recommending legislation which will improve the quality of life for disabled Texans; however, all members of CTD should take the time to contact your local state senators and representatives and encourage their support of the legislation represented in the CTD legislative platform which is summarized elsewhere in this newsletter.

As problems such as inflation and a troubled economy cause cutbacks in programs and services available to disabled persons, it becomes extremely important that all disabled persons unite in an active concerted effort to assure that all disabled people have the opportunity for equal participation in our society. The varied types of disabling conditions and large num-

bers of people represented in the membership of CTD places the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities in a position to plan a responsible role in this effort.

I look forward to working with each of you during the forthcoming year.

-BOBBY SIMPSON, President CTD

1980-81 CTD NEW OFFICERS AND ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

First meeting of the New Board will be in Austin in January, 1981. Exact date and place to be announced. If interested in attending, contact any of the following:

Officers

PRESIDENT-Bobby C. Simpson
10512 Robinwood
Austin, Texas 78758
512-837-4796-home
512-465-4656-work

VICE PRESIDENT-Larry Johnson
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San Antonio, TX. 78216
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214-620-1810-home

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2827 Harrison
El Paso, TX. 79930
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DELEGATE ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

CTD voted to make the recommendations of Senator Chet Brook's Senate Committee on Human Resources as major portion of the CTD's Legislative Platform:

EMPLOYMENT

1. (a) Change the State Use Program requiring State agencies to buy products produced by the blind and handicapped from a pilot to a permanent program.

(b) Move the program from the Commission for the Blind into private non-profit status and give it rule-making authority.

2. (a) Texas Rehabilitation Commission's appropriations request for State money for rehabilitation services beyond that needed for federal matching and for Extended Rehabilitation Services.

(b) Texas Rehabilitation Commission's line item appropriations request for the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

the disabled community as its permanent executive director; and to cause a significant proportion of future vacancies on its staff to be filled in a similar manner.

WHEREAS:

Sensitivity and leadership in the office of the Governor are essential to the realization of equal opportunities for all disabled Texans and,

WHEREAS:

The presence of a highly competent, genuinely caring administrator with a disability in the office of the governor is encouragement to and serves as a highly visible role model for disabled people and,

WHEREAS:

The commitment to citizen involvement in government has resulted in a receptive attitude and construction response to concerns of disabled Texans and,

WHEREAS:

This responsiveness has been manifested in his leadership for the Governor's Task Force for Handicapped Citizens and the Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped his active concern for the involvement of qualified disabled persons on Texas boards and commissions and in positions of responsible employment and his investment of time and energy in personally touring facilities serving disabled persons,

RESOLVED:

That the Coalition of Texas with Disabilities at this, its third annual Delegate Assembly, commends and expresses its appreciation to Alan B. Clark Jr. for his outstanding service to the disabled citizens of the State of Texas.

MEMBERSHIP

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is experiencing steady growth in terms of organizational members and individual members. Organizational members now total 16 with individual member's registration standing at 115.

ARLINGTON-

Arlington Handicapped Association

AUSTIN-

Indoor Sports Club, Inc.

MIGHT

Commerce-

Launch, Inc.

DALLAS-

Association of Individuals with Disabilities

EL PASO-

West Texas Association for the Handicapped

HOUSTON-

Coalition for Barrier Free Living

Texan Paralyzed Veterans Association

SAN ANTONIO-

Goodwill Rehabilitation Services of San Antonio

Reclamation, Inc.

San Antonio Citizens Concerned

for the Handicapped

San Antonio Council for Advancement

of the Services for the Deaf

San Antonio Insight

STATEWIDE-

Texas Association for the Deaf

Texas Rehabilitation Counseling

Association

Texas Society for Autistic Citizens

Now is the time for all good members to renew their memberships! If you did not attend the Delegates's Assembly or paid your dues since November 8, 1980, please mail your check, \$5.00 for individual members, \$25.00 for local organizational membership, \$50.00 for State organizational membership, \$75.00 for Associate membership. All such monies should be sent to the CTD treasurer, Lee Kitchens at 25 Canyon View Dr., Rt. 3, Ransom Canyon, Slayton, TX 79364. Recruit other organizations and individuals to join CTD in 1981 IYDP. Improve your Disability Profile.

MEMBERSHIP CLOSEUPS

ARLINGTON HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION

THE ARLINGTON HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION began in 1976 and now boasts of over eighty members. The association organized it's able-bodied and disabled membership into three committees: Day Enrichment, Barriers, and Housing.

The Arlington Handicapped Association has recently received a grant from Texas Rehabilitation Commission to begin a shared attendant housing program for severely physically disabled persons having vocational potential. The Association is interested in providing apartment style living quarters which would have attendant care services for its residents. The project will serve severely physically handicapped who are presently living dependently with family members or who are in nursing homes. For further information contact, Sam Provence, Arlington Handicapped Association, P.O. Box 3757, Arlington, TX 76010 (817) 460-6691.

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

CBFL has been in existence since 1975. It is a group disability consumer organization consisting of approximately 400 members in the Houston area. CBFL is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all disabled people in the Houston Area. CBFL has recently established the Houston Center for Independent Living. This Center provides

a variety of independent living services such as information and referral, peer counseling, interpreter services, attendant matching and other services necessary for disabled persons to live a more independent lifestyle. For further information contact Bob Kafka, President, Coalition for Barrier Free Living, P.O. Box 20803, Houston, TX. 77025.

LAUNCH

LAUNCH is a Dallas area organization whose objective is to promote the civil rights of Learning Disabled persons of all ages including Community leadership training. LAUNCH is currently expanding local membership through the establishment of LAUNCH stations in metropex area. One target site is the Richland Jr. College area.

Forthcoming programs include January 24th Business Meeting at Brookhaven, February 14 Leadership Training Workshop at Brookhaven and a March 19 workshop on success stories of LD adults. For further information contact Linda Larch, 3238 Creek Bend Cove, Garland, Texas 75042.

SAN ANTONIO ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR THE HANDICAPPED (SACCH)

SACCH is a local San Antonio cross disability group for handicapped citizens and their advocate friends, who conduct monthly gatherings consisting of business, social and work sessions aimed to improve the quality of life and integration to society for all disabled persons. Standing at a membership approaching 100, SACCH has been the consumer action group in San Antonio seeking multi-modal approaches for community transportation, coalition approaches to employment, housing, recreation and most recently is working with a service provider group to seek the establishment of a San Antonio Independent Living Services program in the city. For further information, contact Joyce Jenks, President, 107 Meadow Valley, San Antonio, TX. 78227.

TEXAS SOCIETY FOR AUTISTIC CITIZENS

TSAC is a consumer advocacy organization with 13 Chapters in Texas which are primarily groups of parents of autistic children. The primary focus of TSAC is the identification of inappropriately served autistic persons and the development of small community-based residential treatment homes combined with comprehensive family support services. TSAC is dedicated to improving the quality of life of all autistic persons and their families. For further information contact: Joe Bradley, President, 314 W. Eleventh Street, #203, Austin, TX. 78701.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY LIVING

1. TDMHMR's Community Center appropriations request at Activity Level 4C for expansion of community living alternatives.

2. Legislation to allow TDMHMR Community Centers to purchase real property.

VOTING

1. Legislation to require that in precincts where there exists an appropriate accessible building owned, leased, or operated by Texas State government or a subdivision thereof, such as county, school district, or municipality, it be required that elections be held in an architecturally barrier-free building.

2. Legislation to amend the Texas Election Code, Article 505, Subdivision 2, so that a physician's affidavit is not required for persons desiring to vote absentee on the grounds of disability.

EDUCATION

1. Bills to amend the Texas Education Code and authorize the Department I.S.D.'s to participate in the minimum foundation program as do the other school districts of Texas. This additional funding would enable the Department to upgrade its educational programs to a level sufficient to meet TEA standards.

TAX INCENTIVES

1. That the current Texas sales tax program be modified to exempt all medical devices and appliances prescribed by doctors.

2. That the motor vehicle sales tax statutes amended to exempt vehicles purchased by catastrophically disabled persons.

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

1. That legislation be enacted to require the following: for a community's model building and housing code to be enforceable, it must contain provisions for accessibility to handicapped persons and must be reviewed every three years for the purpose of including updated provisions such as those pertaining to physical handicaps.

2. Amend current law to require new construction in counties over 10,000 population to comply with standards and specifications for accessibility to certain privately-financed buildings as outlined in the statute which are open to public use of education, employment, transportation, or acquisition of goods and services.

SUPPORT SERVICES

1. A resolution, or rider to the Appropriations Bill, to direct the Department of Human Resources to make modifications in its in-home attendant care services program with regard to population priorities, level of funding, and eligibility criteria so that

services are more readily available to younger severely disabled adults.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Legislation to direct the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation to furnish special portable placards to county tax assessor-collectors for issuance to any disabled person who is medically qualified.

2. Legislation to amend current law to define a disabled person, with regard to eligibility for specially designated parking, as anyone with a disability that substantially impairs or restricts their mobility.

COMMUNICATIONS DISABILITIES

1. Adequate appropriations for the Texas Commission for the Deaf to:

a. Purchase and lease TDD systems for use by State agencies

b. Fulfill its legislative mandate, continue vital services, and reasonably expand existing programs to meet critical needs.

2. Support the development of an adequate and feasible appropriations pattern for State support of the South-West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf affiliated with Howard College in Big Spring, Texas.

AUTISM

1. A resolution to modify existing regulations relating to licensure of the community-based facilities treating autism and other serious emotional disturbances to authorize the use of effective aversive treatment modes as necessary.

2. A resolution to encourage the implementation of pilot programs in developmental counseling for parents of children with developmental disabilities such as autism and mental retardation at the Texas Research Institute in Mental Sciences (TRIMS) and other child development programs.

3. A resolution to encourage the Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System to place additional emphasis on undergraduate teacher training programs in autism and other serious emotional disturbances.

Messrs. Ralph Rouse and Tom Morrison of the Regional Technical Assistance Staff (504) made a presentation on the role and functions of their special unit to the third annual CTD Delegates Assembly. The Regional Technical Assistance Staff within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides assistance in understanding the regulations, obtaining policy interpretations from the Office for Civil Rights, conducting training and onsite technical assistance for health and social service providers receiving Federal financial assistance, reviewing self evaluations and transition plans to insure voluntary

compliance and program accessibility at reasonable expenditures, providing video-tapes, pamphlets and other printed materials to recipients of Federal financial assistance beneficiaries (disabled consumers) of HHS funded programs.

A very important objective of RTAS is to train disabled persons and their organizations on their rights under Section 504 and to encourage the involvement of knowledgeable disabled persons with local health and social service providers in an effort to develop thorough self-evaluation and transition plans and to monitor the implementation of those plans to ensure voluntary compliance. RTAS would very much appreciate hearing from you if you are interested in getting involved in such an effort.

The staff consists of the Director, Mr. Ralph D. Rouse, Jr; two technical assistants, Tom Morrison and Dorothy Taylor, and a secretary. For information or inquiries write or call the Regional Technical Assistance Staff, 1200 Main Tower Building, Room 1125, Dallas, Texas 75702. Telephone numbers are: (214) 767-4123 voice and TTY (214) 767-8940.

TWO IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS:

An estimated 40-50% of qualified disabled Americans are unemployed, and a very significant percentage of those employed are underemployed;

WHEREAS:

The principal determinant of behavior in human society is the successful role model;

WHEREAS:

The Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, which presently employs no disabled persons, has recently advertised for applicants for permanent executive director, and has received applications from several qualified disabled persons;

WHEREAS:

It would seem self-evident that a committee on the employment of the handicapped, if it is to be convincing, should employ the handicapped, especially in positions of significant and visible responsibility;

RESOLVED:

That the Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped to employ a qualified disabled person who is an appropriate representative of

WEST TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The West Texas Association for the Handicapped is an El Paso based consumer advocacy organization founded 3 years ago. It is playing a major role in bringing to reality the city's first center for the handicapped, improved accessibility to public facilities, better transportation and increased employment opportunities for disabled individuals.

WTAH members represent the interest of disabled citizens as active participants on such committees as, Community Development, Steering Committee, City 504 Transportation Compliance Board, Handicapped Center Design Committee, and the Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for further information contact: Ken Meiser, WTAH President, Special Populations Office, 4001 Dulanzno, El Paso, TX 79905.

A ROOF OVER EVERY HEAD:

Fact Finding Forum on Housing for Texans With Disabilities

The Texas Developmental Disabilities Program has recently funded a study to examine the problems and solutions related to appropriate housing for individuals with disabilities, and their families, in Texas. A series of regional fact finding forums were conducted in order to gather input from consumers, parents, service providers, and housing representatives. This information will contribute to implementation of a program that assists the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Texas Housing Authority to more effectively respond to the needs of handicapped individuals. Logistical support was provided by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities.

If you were not able to attend one of the six forums held in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio, but would like to make a com-

ment or recommendation on programs and policies to be implemented by the new Texas Housing Authority, contact Elaine Roberts, Program Director, Coalition of Texans With Disabilities, 2818 San Gabriel, Austin, TX. 78705 512/472-4152

SUMMARY OF THE POLICIES FOR THE MERIT SYSTEM COUNCIL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR THE HANDICAPPED

(EFFECTIVE DATE:
NOV. 1, 1980)

The purpose of the Affirmative Action Program for the Handicapped is to provide reasonable accommodations to handicapped applicants desiring employment with the state agencies served by the Merit System Council.

The following policies will be implemented on November 1, 1980:

POLICY NO. 1-HANDICAPPED, EXAMINATION WAIVED

This policy is provided for those handicapped applicants "who are physically unable, due solely as a result of a handicapping condition, to compete independently in the examination process." In this circumstance, "independently" is defined as a handicapped

applicant who cannot test without the aid of an interpreter, marker, page turner, reader, etc. The target population receiving this accommodation includes the legally blind/visually handicapped, the dexterity impaired, the learning disabled, the deaf/hearing impaired and the mentally retarded.

POLICY NO. 2-SPECIAL SCHEDULING OF EXAMINATIONS

This policy is provided for those handicapped applicants who are unable, due to a handicapping condition, to compete in the open-competitive examinations as regularly scheduled by the Merit System Council. Handicapping conditions may have ancillary effects on an individual, necessitating special test accommodations.

POLICY NO. 3-HANDICAPPED, DATA GATHERING

This policy provides the Merit System Council statistical data collection ability for future use in pursuing Affirmative Action for the Handicapped. The data will be gathered from information submitted voluntarily by handicapped applicants.

POLICY NO. 4-

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE

The Merit System Council plans to install a Telecommunication Device, commonly known as a TTY or TDD, for those applicants with communication disorders or handicaps. Also included in this policy is the development of an "Information for the Handicapped" handout briefly explaining accessibility to the Merit System Council.

For further information contact: Leo F. Brockmann, Director, Merit System Council, 507 Brown Building, P.O. Box 1389, Austin, TX. 78767.

CTD EDITOR'S NOTE:

The CTD newsletter is edited and published quarterly by the Coalition of Texans With Disabilities, a statewide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to:

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