



News

May, 1986

GOING PUBLIC WITH OUR ISSUES

The Health and Human Services Coordinating Council met Friday May 2nd to discuss combining and cutting services. It was clear at the meeting no one found the job easy. John Hanson, Director of the State-Federal Relations Office made a presentation on the Gramm-Rudman Hollings cuts relationship with state cuts. Basically his message was that cuts will be calculated in relation to states' August budgets. If Texas cuts before Gramm-Rudman is invoked (and this seems very likely) effects will be drastic for human services.

Two possible duplications of services HHSCC could find thus far were the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Commission for the Blind as well as the Texas School for the Blind and the Texas School for the Deaf.

The HHSCC will need a lot of consumer support to take the position that services should be maintained at their current level or that cuts should be minimal. Members of the HHSCC asked why no consumers were at the meeting. We in the disabled community talk among ourselves yet we do not go on and talk about our issues in public. We have agreed that we can take no more cuts but we must now go public. Your letters, visits and phone calls are needed now! At your organizational meeting give everyone paper, pen and envelopes and ask them to write the Committee and express their concerns about the need for maintaining services at least at their current level.

It is also important we show support for ways of increasing the states revenues. Let the candidates and public officials know the kinds of revenue enhancement you support (taxes, lottery, racing, whatever it may be).



NO CUTS !!



The Department of Human Services (DHS) is proposing to cut Community Care Services to Aged and Disabled persons. This is just the first salvo in the budget cutting battle. Vital services are being proposed to be cut, services that never were fully funded. There is no "fat" in human services programs in Texas and there is no room for cuts.

We need all of you and the local groups in your area to write to the people listed below. We need to let the DHS Board and staff know we won't stand for any cuts. What people can write:

- 1) Community Care Services keep people out of Nursing Homes.
- 2) Community Care Services are cheaper than institutional care.
- 3) Attendant Services are vital for disabled people to live in the community.
- 4) Cutting \$10.2 million dollars from Community Care will mean the loss of services for approximately 7000 people.
- 5) NO CUTS

This is very important! Please write today! If you can possibly make it, the DHS Board meeting will be Tuesday, May 27th 3pm-9pm and May 28th at 9am. It will be in Austin at 701 51st Street in the DHS Board Room. CTD will be there demonstrating our support for "NO CUTS". We will be gathering at 2:00 p.m. and need as many individuals as possible to show our concern! Please try to organize people from your area to come, it will help.

If you have any questions, please give CTD a call. Please write the members of the Texas Board of Human Services: J. Livingston Kosberg, Sid Stahl, Vicki Garza and the TDHS staff: Marlin Johnston and Janice Caldwell. Their mailing address is: P.O. Box 2960

Austin, Texas 78769
(512)450-3011



COMMUNITY LIVING PETITION

As you may recall from earlier issues of the "CTD News" the Federal Legislature is considering Legislation called the Community and Family Living Amendments (CFLA) which would promote independent living for disabled who need support services to live in the Community. Specifically S.B. 873 and HB 2902 would amend the Social Security Act so that funding which is presently only available for institutional programs would encourage the development and provision of community based alternatives for severely disabled persons. Enclosed in this newsletter is a petition to Senator Bentson showing support for the CFLA Senate Bill. You are encouraged to get as many signatures (with addresses) as possible to show the grass roots support for this legislation. With Federal and state cuts in funding for services it is more important than ever that we let our representatives know we support community programs.



Coalition For

CFLA

Community and Family Living Amendments

833 Houston Street, Austin, TX 78756 (512) 454-6694

Senator Lloyd Bentsen
Hart Bldg., Room 703
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

The undersigned urge your support for S.873, the Community and Family Living Amendments. For people with disabilities who currently live in the community, this bill will eliminate the need for institutionalization. It will offer the needed services in the home and in community residences to minimize the need for institutions. For persons currently living in institutions, this bill will offer a federally supported plan for movement to quality community-based residences in small, family scale settings.

Please help Texans with mental and developmental disabilities by co-sponsoring S.873.

SIGNATURE, ADDRESS & ZIP

WILS AND PIECES

The National Agricultural Experiment Station, Davis, California, has been organized as a Federal agency under the Department of Agriculture. It was created by the National Agricultural Experiment Station Act, approved October 1, 1923. The act provides for the organization of a National Agricultural Experiment Station and for the appointment of a Director and the establishment of a Board of Regents to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Regents is authorized to make rules and regulations for the government of the Station and to exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be directed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Station is authorized to acquire, hold, manage, and dispose of real and personal property, to enter into contracts, and to incur obligations and liabilities in the most effective manner for the promotion of the objects of the Station. The Station is also authorized to receive and hold gifts and donations of real and personal property, and to receive and hold grants and contributions from any source. The Station is further authorized to issue bonds and notes, to borrow money, and to sell or dispose of its property, real or personal, in the most effective manner for the promotion of the objects of the Station.

BITS AND PIECES

* Travis County has recently released at no charge a new Texas license plate for people eligible for handicapped parking. The plate does not legally replace the small license plate sticker or card for the dash board but has a large "handicapped symbol" printed on the plate for easy identification. Are these plates available in your area?

* Social Security has a toll free TDD number: 1-800 325-0778. The US Postal Service has produced a pamphlet on the "Free Matter for the Blind and Handicapped" mailing privilege, answering some of the most commonly asked questions. Copies are available from your post office.

* The National Association of the Deaf has appointed Gary W. Olsen as the new Executive Director of the 105 year old organization. Olsen, NAD's third E.D. has been acting director since Nov. 1984.

* The School of Allied Health Services, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston Island, Texas is sponsoring "A National Conference on Health Promotion for Persons with Disabilities" August 10-12, 1986 on Galveston, Island. The conference has been designed to increase the knowledge and skills of health professionals in the delivery of health promotion programs and services to persons with disabilities. For more information contact: Deana Bates, Conference Coordinator, School of Allied Health Services, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas 77550. (409) 761-3038.

* The Housing Task Force of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is developing a Building Code Survey to be sent to municipalities in Texas. The Task Force is interested in finding out what codes, if any, the cities are using to enforce accessibility requirements and how effective these requirements are. If you have any questions or area of concern that you would like included in this survey please contact CTD by June 10, 1986.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Do you know individuals who might be interested in becoming members of CTD? \$12.00 a year CTD individual membership is a great bargain, considering all members receive the monthly and quarterly newsletters, the legislative alerts and information on workshops, etc. In addition, individuals joining become part of one of the largest and most organized state coalitions in the country.

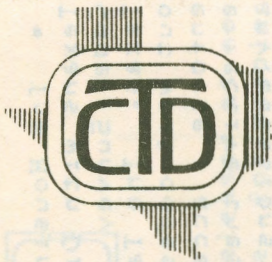
If you know of people who might want to join CTD please contact the Central Office -512/443-8252.

T-SHIRT DEAL!!!!!!!

CTD "DISABLED BUT ABLE TO VOTE" T-Shirts are going like hot cakes. Put your order in now (\$5.00 each) and show your support of disabled people's voting rights.

CTD's Editor's Note:

The CTD News is edited and published monthly by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a state-wide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to: CTD, P.O. Box 4709, Austin, Texas 78765. The deadline for submitting articles is the first of each month for that month's edition.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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