



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

August 2014

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

Waiver Open House

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Open House for the newly opened Boswell Regional Center's ID/DD Waiver Department in Magee, Mississippi, was on August 5, 2014. The purpose of the open house was to introduce the services that the Waiver provides to the community and to meet the ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinators.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship with Boswell Regional Center's staff and visitors from the community. There were Support Coordinators available to answer any questions, explaining the services that are available and how to access these services. Boswell Regional Center is one of five state-operated comprehensive IDD programs. The Waiver program provides supports and services that offer families an opportunity for their loved one to live in a community setting where his/her dreams can become a reality. Below is a synopsis of Waiver services offered and the appropriate contacts to start the process of accessing community resources.

Mississippi's ID/DD Waiver provides individualized supports and services to assist people in living successfully at home and in the community and are an alternative to care in institutional settings. The supports are funded by Medicaid. Services include: Supported Employment, Home and Community Supports, Supervised Living, Day Services-Adult, In-Home Nursing Respite, Community Respite, ICF/IDD Respite, Prevocational Services, Specialized Medical Supplies, Crisis Support/Crisis Intervention Services, and Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy.

The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by the contributions of our dedicated and talented employees. The articles and pictures were written, taken and formatted by BRC employees. Their contributions are greatly appreciated! We sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of the Boswell Regional Center Bulletin, August, 2014 Issue.



Waiver Open House continued

Mrs. Belinda Arrington serves as Constituency Services Director, and Mrs. Cassandra Rankin serves as Director of ID/DD Waiver Services. Boswell Regional Center has eight Support Coordinators, Justin Britt (Magee), Cynthia Porter-Shaw (Magee), Yolanda Brown (Magee), Dr. Tori Gray (Magee), Janice Cockrell (Magee), Sopheria Carroll (Brookhaven), Dr. Barbara Buie (Brookhaven), and Carol Carter (Brookhaven). Trusie Eubanks is the Administrative Assistant, and Tara Blackwell is Electronic File Clerk through Boswell Regional Center's contract services.

The open house was a great time of fellowship and meeting new people. Over seventy-two (72) people signed the register at the ID/DD Waiver open house. There was also an arrangement made out of candy bars which was given away to the one that guessed the total amount of calories. The winner was Mrs. Vickie Nixon, Administrative Assistant to the Director (Mr. Steve Allen) of Boswell Regional Center.



Spotlight on: Uneika Tillman Funches



Ms. Uneika Tillman-Funches
Director of BRC Community
Crisis Transition Homes

Uneika Tillman Funches is a native of Mendenhall, MS. She attended and graduated from Mendenhall High School where she excelled at basketball. After graduation, Uneika furthered her education at Copiah Lincoln Community College in Wesson, MS. While there, Uneika participated in athletics, having earned a basketball scholarship for her merits on the court. From here, Uneika transitioned to William Carey College in Hattiesburg, MS, to continue her academic work. While at WCC, Uneika earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. After graduating from William Carey, Uneika made the decision to further her education by completing a graduate degree. She accomplished this at Jackson State University where she received her Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. Uneika has worked with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health in a multitude of capacities for nearly fifteen years. During her time working for the state, her roles have included direct care worker, psychology technician, case manager, and behavior health specialist. She has been

responsible for the supervision and training of both new staff and interns of varying educational levels. At the present time, Uneika serves as the Director of the Boswell Regional Center Community Crisis Transition Homes program. In this role she supervises a team of workers tasked with the care of individuals seeking permanent program placement. She has served in this capacity for nearly one year. Uneika has earned her certification as a Mental Health Therapist. She is currently enrolled in the Certified Public Manager program with hopes of completing this certification within the next year. Away from work, Uneika participates in church activities and enjoys singing gospel music. She is married with two children.



Boswell's Friends and Family Association benefited from the recent Fragrance/Handbag sale that was held August 19th in the training center. Brands included Jessica Simpson, Michael Kors, Polo, BCBG to name a few.

Pastor's Corner

One summer morning as Ray Blankenship was preparing his breakfast, he gazed out the window and saw a small girl being swept along in the rain-flooded drainage ditch beside his Andover, Ohio, home. Blankenship knew that farther downstream, the ditch disappeared with a roar underneath a road and then emptied into the main culvert. Ray dashed out the door and raced along the ditch, trying to get ahead of the floundering child. Then he hurled himself into the deep churning water. Blankenship surfaced and was able to grab the child's arm. They tumbled end over end. Within about three feet of the yawning culvert, Ray's free hand felt something--possibly a rock-- protruding from one bank. He clung desperately, but the tremendous force of the water tried to tear him and the child away. "If I can just hang on until help comes," he thought. He did better than that. By the time fire-department rescuers arrived, Blankenship had pulled the girl to safety. Both were treated for shock. On April 12, 1989, Ray Blankenship was awarded the Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal. The award is fitting, for this selfless person was at even greater risk to himself than most people knew. Ray Blankenship can't swim.

Don't Give Up

**When things go wrong as they sometimes will;
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill;
When the funds are low, and the debts are high;
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit -
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Success is failure turned inside out;
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;
And you can never tell how close you are;
It may be near when it seems afar.
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.**

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.



Bro. Rudy Jackson
BRC Chaplain

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center offers Specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the individual, family, and community, dreams can become reality.

Where Dreams Can Become Reality

Exchange Club Fair

On August 7 and 8 the individuals attended the annual Lincoln County Exchange Club Fair here in Brookhaven. The fair has been a Brookhaven tradition since 1947. The individuals enjoyed free rides on several different rides ranging from the roller coaster to swings to tilt-a-whirl to a train ride. In addition, the Lincoln County Exchange Club treated the individuals to hamburgers and drinks on both nights they attended. They had a great time as can be seen by the smiles on their faces.



MAC Team Spirit Day



BRC Team Spirit Day



MAC Visitor From Japan

By: Rachel Eide and Donna Horton

A call was received from the Jackson International Visitors Bureau, which is the Mississippi branch of the United States State Department in Washington D.C., asking if we would provide information and a tour about our facility for Ms. Ogita, a visitor from Japan. Ms. Yukari Ogita is a member of the Osaka Prefectural Assembly, Health and Welfare Committee. She was invited to the United States under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. Ms. Ogita was in Mississippi from August 10 – 13, 2014 touring selected Mississippi Department of Mental Health Programs seeking to understand the making of public health policy in the United States towards those with physical, mental and developmental disabilities. Her interest in how adolescents with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities and those with Autism Spectrum Disorder are cared for within state facilities brought her to the Mississippi Adolescent Center.

On August 12, 2014, in Brookhaven, MS, Ms. Ogita was provided a tour of the facility. We were thrilled for the opportunity to showcase what we do at MAC! Administrative staff explained our admission criteria and the admission process. We then provided an overview of the services that we offer. There was a question and answer period where Ms. Ogita asked specific questions regarding our programs, transition services, percentage of individuals transitioned back to a home setting and support for the individuals and their family once home. She enjoyed seeing the students in the classrooms and our education staff interacting with them. Ms. Ogita was also shown TalkingTiles application that we are using in the classroom with the tablet computers and some of the programs that we utilize.



Alzheimer's Scholarship

Ms. Alfrieda Smith has been selected as the 2014 Alzheimer's Scholarship Award recipient. Ms. Smith will have the opportunity to attend the 15th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Psychiatric Disorders in the Elderly "Making Every Day Count," on August 19 – 22, 2014, in Meridian, Mississippi. Ms. Smith is a CNA at Pine Lake Geriatric Services. She is very dependable, has excellent attendance and is willing to work extra hours when needed. Ms. Smith has a holistic approach to caring for our individuals which goes far beyond her general duties. She is always working to improve the quality of life of our individuals. Ms. Smith is passionate about providing excellent care for the individuals on the geriatric unit. Congratulations Ms. Alfrieda Smith for a job well done!



Attendees of the 15th Annual Alzheimer's Conference watch presenters on the stage of the MSU Riley Center where the conference was held.

BRC Employees of the Month



During the August Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employees of the Month for July were Sondra Arthur of Terry, Staff Development, and Rhonda Tillman of Raleigh, Employment Services. Congratulations to you both!

BRC Governor's Service Awards



Boswell Regional Center employees receive Governor's service awards in recognition of a total of 30 years of state service. They were recognized for the dedication to BRC at the August Directors' Meeting. Pictured are Joe Allen (20yrs) and Jennifer Kittrell (10yrs). Congratulations!

MAC Employee of the Month



Tiffany Wages , 2nd shift Residential Living Staff, was chosen the Mississippi Adolescent Center Employee of the Month for July.

In Memory of



Cathy Jones

Jan. 5, 1965 - Aug. 23 2014

Cathy Jones was faithful BRC employee who worked in ID/DD Waiver Services as a Support Coordinator. She touched many lives and will be missed by many friends and family members.

National Dog Day!

Happy National Dog Day! This holiday (also known as National Dog Appreciation Day) has been celebrated every year on August 26th since 2004.

The purpose of the holiday is to show appreciation for the millions of dogs in the US that keep us safe and bring us comfort and companionship. Many dogs even put their lives on the line every day – for their law enforcement partner, for their disabled companion, and for victims of a tragedy that need to be pulled from wreckage.

National Dog Day founder Colleen Paige said, “I want this to be a day to encourage dog ownership of all breeds, mixed and pure – to help abolish puppy mills and end breed specific legislation so we can create a world where all dogs (and every animal) can live a happy, safe and abuse-free life.”

According to NationalDogDay.com, here is a list of ways to celebrate:

1. Adopt a dog from your local shelter or pure breed rescue organization. Volunteer at your local shelter and offer to walk a dog or play with a dog, clean cages or anything else they need help with.
2. Have a safety check of your home to make sure it's safe for your dog and others.
3. Donate blankets, food and toys to animal welfare organizations.
4. Organize a peaceful demonstration in front of your community pet store that sells puppies.
5. Write your Congressman and ask that he/she support the ban of Puppy Mills and Gas Chambers in your state.
6. Order an adorable dog shaped flower arrangement from 1-800-Flowers.com and enjoy a 10% discount by using code DOG when placing your order!
7. Have a National Dog Day party and invite all your friends and their dogs!
8. Spend the day taking photos of your dog.
9. Assist an ill or elderly neighbor by walking their dog.
10. Buy your dog a fun new dog toy....or two...or five.
11. Give your dog some fun exercise by taking him or her to a doggy play resort.
12. Brush your dog to eliminate excess fur.
13. Give your dog a massage or holistic spa treatment.
14. Teach your dog a new trick.
15. Buy your dog a fashionable collar and leash.



Pictured: Robin Moss (Expressive Arts/one of Donna Vella's handlers) and Donna Vella (Therapy Pet)

From the Wellness Committee



Heart Attack Signs in Women

- . Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- . Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- . Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- . Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
- . As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.





Boswell Regional Center's Friends & Family Association is a non profit all volunteer organization that works to ensure Boswell individuals are valued and loved.

All monies received from memberships are donated to the organization to purchase items for the individuals served by Boswell Regional Center.

Donations

Donations may be made in memory or honor of a loved one:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: ____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Boswell Regional Center

**Friends & Family Association
P.O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111**

**Boswell
Regional
Center
Friends and
Family
Association**



*Where Dreams Can
Become Reality!*

Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by circling the appropriate amount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make your check payable to:
Friends & Family Association
P.O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111

Annual Membership Fees

Single/BRC Employee – Free

Single/Non-employee \$5

Bronze \$25

Silver \$50

Gold \$100

Platinum \$500

Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held are:

Scrub Sales

Jewelry Sales

Book Fairs

RADA Knives

T-shirt Sales

Special Hosted Events

Purpose

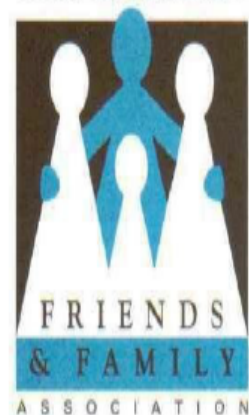
To promote and support the individuals of Boswell Regional Center

To foster the development of programs on their behalf

To recognize and reward the efforts of employees of Boswell Regional Center

To raise and receive funds for the accomplishment of the above purposes.

Boswell Regional Center's



Boswell Regional Center

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A MS Department of Mental Health Facility