



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

February 2016

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

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Dixie National Wagon Train

Since 1965, Mississippi has played host to the largest Rodeo and Livestock show in the South. The Dixie Wagon Train marks the beginning of the Rodeo in Jackson, MS. This year, the Mt. Olive wagon train rode through BRC's campus with Benji Purser and Randy Robertson of BRC's Maintenance Department leading the way! Kim Wood, BRC employee of Records Management, also rode the entire way with her husband. Mrs. Rena Wood also participated. Individuals enjoyed watching the different wagons and horses as they rolled by. They even had the opportunity to interact with Ben Robinson's miniature pony.



The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by contributions from 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, February, 2016 Issue.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

MS. DIANA MIKULA

Over the past three weeks, the Department of Mental Health, like other state agencies, has had the opportunity to appear before appropriations committees and subcommittees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to present our budget request. Though we always share information and meet regularly with legislators during the course of the session, these committee hearings are important opportunities to discuss our request. This year our request is above the recommendations made by the Legislative Budget Office (LBO). It is crucial that we detail to our legislators the reasons our request is above the LBO recommendations, the needs we have in our programs, and the ways we are responsibly using the funding they appropriate to us.

As I mentioned previously, the first topic I have discussed in these meetings has been the proposed realignment in our Direct Care Series. We are asking for a realignment of at least \$2,300 a year for these employees. We know from the State Personnel Board (SPB) that our Direct Care Series employees have the highest rate of turnover in state government, and I also know the SPB has also shared that information with legislators in their own presentations. There are legislators who have indicated their support of this request. We will continue to ask for it, both on behalf of our employees who deliver excellent front-line care each and every day, and for the people we serve, who deserve to have the best care we can provide.

I have also focused on the need to expand our Home and Community-Based Waiver (HCBW) services. A national consulting team recently recommended an increase in HCBW rates. This rate increase is expected to expand the network of private providers who are currently offering HCBW services. Excluding DMH Regional programs and Community Mental Health Centers, there are fewer than 20 private providers who currently offer these services in our state. Multiple providers operating in other states have expressed an interest in serving Mississippians if HCBW rates were increased. We are hopeful to be able to offer these expanded HCBW services in the future.

Other topics I have focused on include special fund authority and the restoration of positions that have been eliminated. The requested increase in special fund authority allows DMH programs to use cash that is expected to be generated through ongoing operations. Our programs rely on special funds, such as Medicaid receipts, to fund operations. However, without the authority to spend these funds, DMH cannot use them, effectively leaving cash on the table. We have asked the Legislature to restore the recommended LBO cut in special funds and for an increase in our special fund authority.

DMH currently has 1,800 fewer positions available and 1,400 fewer employees than we had in 2008. We have done much more with much less than we have in the past. However, we are requesting the restoration of several hundred positions, which will help maintain licensure requirements and Joint Commission standards. With the high rate of Direct Care Series turnover DMH programs experience, we know we need to constantly keep some positions on recruitment.

Before I close, I would like to mention several events that were held recently. The Mississippi Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness held its annual Day at the Capitol on February 9, and there were a number of advocates and supporters there. On February 16, DMH employees, advocates, members of the Alzheimer's Association of Mississippi and more gathered at the Capitol for Alzheimer's Advocacy Day. On February 17, more than 40 legislators attended the annual Legislative Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital and Friends of Hudspeth Center. They were able to hear the personal stories of people who have had received the services DMH offers, and see for themselves the impact our agency has on lives. I'm grateful for everyone who took part in these events and shared their stories with legislators at the Capitol, and for the work you all do every day.

Sincerely,
Diana Mikula

Dixie National Rodeo

Some of the guys from the Mississippi Adolescent Center took an outing to the Dixie National Rodeo. This is the final destination of those who participate in the Dixie National Wagon Train.



Valentine's Dance

On February 11th, we celebrated our annual Valentine's Day Ball in the Big Kitchen. This event was held for individuals that reside on campus. Everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship and fun. After dancing, everyone gathered around for the festive refreshments. The decorations were beautiful with balloons dangling from the ceilings. A special thanks to the DJ, Mr. Jamie Bynum, and our staff that come together to assure this event happens every year for the ones we serve.



National Red Day

National Red Day is the first Friday of each February. On February 5th, Boswell Regional Center encouraged everyone to GO RED to show support in raising awareness for healthier lives. A health fair was held at the Training Center. MSU Extension Services was there to provide a skin analyzer and nutrition displays. Copiah Lincoln Community College nursing students provided free blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and Body Mass Index assessments. The Mississippi Department of Transportation gave a Fatal Vision demonstration, and BRC's Employment Services Division provided free popcorn! There were also door prizes. In addition, Mississippi Blood Services joined us for a blood drive outside BRC's Training Center.



Fatal Vision Goggles



Fatal Vision Goggles (FVG) are educational tools used to visually demonstrate various levels of impairments and the dangers of impaired driving. FVG distort vision and cause the wearer to behave similarly to one impaired by alcohol or drugs. Demonstrations of the FVG include participants wearing the goggles and participating in activities such as attempting to walk a straight line between obstacles, participating in a ring toss game, attempting to throw a bean bag into a cone, as well as other various activities aimed at demonstrating the difficulty of performing basic tasks.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation demonstrated the Fatal Vision Goggles and a distracted driver activity at BRC's health fair on February 5th. Pictured to the left is Jason Martin doing some of the obstacles.

Interested in scheduling the Fatal Vision Goggles for your event? Please contact us at SurviveYourDrive@mdot.ms.gov.



Blood Drive

LaShina Keyes, Supervisor on Fairway building,

Spotlight on Suzie Wilder



Suzie and her husband, Tommy

The Spotlight for this month is BRC Human Resources Director, Ms. Suzanne “Suzie” Wilder. Suzie started working at the Mississippi State Personnel Board in 1998, after she moved from Okinawa Japan. She began working at Boswell Regional Center in 2000, replacing Mona Childress as head of Human Resources.

Some of Suzie’s adventures include living in Las Vegas, then moving to Okinawa Japan where she lived from 1994-1998. Her son, Reid, was born in Las Vegas and daughter, Regan, was born in Okinawa. She has a granddaughter named Olivia who is four-years-old. Ms. Wilder is married to Tommy Richardson. They have three dogs, love traveling, and are looking forward to Suzie’s retirement day.



Above Left: Suzie is pictured with her daughter, Regan. Above Right: Suzie is pictured with her granddaughter, Olivia; son Reid; and Kinsley, girlfriend of Reid.

Surprise Birthday Party

By: Trinessa Fezell

Donald Boyd 50th Birthday 2016



This moment was magical.. A surprise party was held at Dream Makers for Donald Boyd. This was his 50th birthday! His mom, sister, aunt, and nephew came. Mr. Boyd cried tears of joy when he walked in and we yelled "SURPRISE!" It is moments like this that make your job so worthwhile. Before leaving, his family thanked everyone for taking care of their loved one. When we may be at our lowest, it is magical moments like this that make us feel better and help us realize how blessed we are. Boswell really is a place where dreams can become reality.



Pastor's Corner



**Bro. Rudy Jackson,
BRC Chaplain**

During the terrible days of the Blitz, a father, holding his small son by the hand, ran from a building that had been struck by a bomb. In the front yard was a shell hole. Seeking shelter as quickly as possible, the father jumped into the hole and held up his arms for his son to follow. Terrified, yet hearing his father's voice telling him to jump, the boy replied, "I can't see you!"

The father, looking up against the sky tinted red by the burning buildings, called to the silhouette of his son, "But I can see you. Jump!" The boy jumped because he trusted his father.

When you first read this story you may think that faith is a blind leap into the dark, yet it is anything but. The assurance for the action was a relationship that had been built over a period of time between the father and the son, and in that day that relationship was to be tested. That son knew his father's voice and knew from past experience the strength of his father's arms that they would no doubt hold him. The Christian faith enables us to face life or meet death, not because we can see, but with the certainty that we are seen; not that we know all the answers, but that we are known by the One who has all the answers.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen.

Have a blessed day

Bro Rudy



MAC January EOM



January 2016 MAC EOM Luther Jackson

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 person, family, and community, dreams can become reality.

Where Dreams Can Become Reality

In Loving Memory

In Our Hearts



D. Halverson
8/17/62—2/15/2016

*We thought of you today.
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you
yesterday. And days before
that too.*

*We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping. We
have you in our heart.*



E. Lee
4/12/76—2/12/2016

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
(Magee, Brookhaven, New Hebron
and Shivers)

Direct Support Professionals are needed
for all shifts and locations.

If you believe that helping people
matters, then we need you at BRC!

For more information contact:

Human Resources
601-867-5000 Ext. 75079

P. O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111



Boswell Regional Center

Where dreams can become reality.

Mission Statement

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

Programs

Boswell Regional Center programs offer an extensive range of program and service options to those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The primary goal of each existing program using a person centered approach is to allow each person to live more independently and to fulfill their lives through meaningful days.

Programs and services offered through BRC include:

Community Options:

- In Home Services
- Community Living
- Crisis Transition Homes
- Employment Opportunities
 - Day Options
 - Behavior Services
 - Autism Services



Campus Options:

On Campus Residential Services

On Site Day Programs

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

Boswell Regional Center
Post Office Box 128
Magee, MS 39111
Telephone: 601-867-5000
www.brc.state.ms.us

A MS Department of Mental Health Facility



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
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Friends and
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*Where Dreams Can
Become Reality!*