



# Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

# March 2016

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

## Recognizing IDD Month

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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, March, 2016 Issue.

Boswell Regional Center offers specialized program options to those people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. Boswell Regional Center operates under the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. The center's main program is located off Highway 49 in Magee, Mississippi. Other sites are located in Mendenhall, Brookhaven, Wesson and Hazlehurst.

March was observed as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness Month. The month of March is set aside each year to raise public awareness of Intellectual Disabilities. The City of Magee graciously joined forces with Boswell Regional Center again this year to increase awareness in the community through a proclamation signed by Mayor Jimmy Clyde on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This year IDD Day at the State Capitol was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>.



Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde is pictured signing a proclamation designating the month of March as Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Also, pictured are E. Manning, recipient who receives services; Rhonda McCallum, Director of Boswell Regional Center Day Services programs; Steven Allen, Boswell Regional Center Director; and R. McGill, recipient who receives



# Recognizing IDD Month

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Pictured above for the Brookhaven Proclamation signing are (left to right) Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of Boswell Regional Center; Kimberly Bingham, QIDP at Mississippi Adolescent Center; Larry, services recipient; Aaron, services recipient; Brookhaven Mayor Joe C. Cox; P. Brown, services recipient; T. Cliburn, service recipient; Stephanie Thompson, Health Program Specialist; Consuela Johnson, QIDP at Mississippi Adolescent Center; and Donna Horton, Director of Client Services at Mississippi Adolescent Center.



Pictured above for the Hazlehurst Proclamation signing are Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of Boswell Regional Center; K. Williams, services recipient; Hazlehurst Mayor Henry Banks, Sr.; T. Morgan, services recipient; W. Lawless, service recipient; and Clorissa Sutton, Direct Support staff.



## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

MS. DIANA MIKULA

Since the last column I shared with you, the Department of Mental Health's appropriations bill has been introduced. It originated in the Senate, moving through the normal legislative process and was changed in the House of Representatives.

Our appropriation bill, Senate Bill 2888, was not what we had hoped to see. The Senate version includes a \$16 million cut, almost 6.5 percent. With the state facing a budget shortfall, many agencies knew appropriation bills were likely to reflect cuts in their budgets. However, \$16 million is significant and DMH cannot absorb a cut of that magnitude without a decrease in services.

Appropriation bills as first introduced represent only a starting point for negotiations between the House and the Senate. The bills change during the legislative processes, and as additional revenue projections come in or as legislators meet with state agency leadership. When our appropriations bill was sent to the House last week, a strike-all amendment was added to the bill to appropriate the funding recommended by the Legislative Budget Office. However, this is still a general fund cut of almost \$2 million and does not include the \$32 million in special funds spending authority.

If DMH takes a funding cut of this magnitude, it will result in a reduction of services. Legislators have to make difficult decisions during these times. My hope is they are able to restore some of the funding that has been removed in the bill.

DMH's appropriations bill also did not include the Direct Care Series realignment which I know many of you have advocated for this year. Direct Care Staff are the employees with the highest rate of turnover in state government. According to the Mississippi State Personnel Board, in FY15 turnover in Direct Care Trainee and Worker positions was approximately 48%. Direct Care Staff are the front line staff who assist and support the people served by DMH with all of their daily life activities. It is extremely important to reward our Direct Care Staff with realignment.

On a more positive note, a group of family members whose loved ones have been served by DMH visited the Capitol on February 25. They represented members of the Friends organizations from North Mississippi Regional Center, Hudspeth Regional Center, and South Mississippi Regional Center. The group was recognized from the gallery of the House of Representatives and met with several legislators while they were in town. It is important for our legislators to meet their constituents and hear the stories they share about their loved ones' experiences. It adds a personal touch and shows the impact state services have on Mississippians.

We are entering the final weeks of the 2016 Legislative Session, and there will be much more to discuss when it is over. I hope to have much more information for you in the next column I share. Thank you for all that you do, and please know there are legislators who appreciate your hard work too.

Sincerely,

Diana S. Mikula  
Executive Director



# IDD Day at the Capital

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health celebrated IDD Day at the Capitol on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This event began at 8:00 a.m. and ended at around noon. Increasing awareness is important. The more resources and knowledge that is shared, the more educated our communities will be about Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Diana Mikula, DMH Executive Director, stopped to give a hug and shake a hand every chance she got with the ones we serve. Some of our Day Services individuals participated in this event and were all smiles. Seeing the bright lights, beautiful columns, and everyone dressed up just made their faces light up even more. More than 41,000 Mississippians are affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Representative Andy Gipson, District 77, took a moment out of his busy schedule to take a picture with E. Thornton, who receives services from Boswell Regional Center.



Back row: House Representative Chris Caughman, District 35; House Representative Noah Sanford, District 90. Front row: J. Rose, service recipient; G. Soucy, service recipient; R. Clark, service recipient; and Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center.



Front row: Diana Mikula, DMH Executive Director; Trevon Bell, Client; Dominic Tobin, Client; Consuela Johnson, QIDP. Second Row: Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center; Demetria Lewis, Resident Living Staff; Connor Farrar, Client; Kimberly Bingham, QIDP; Kathy Williams, Resident Living Staff; Henrietta Bey, Social Worker. Back Row: Larry Pace, service recipient.



# Dream Extreme Celebration

On March 24, 2016, Dream Extreme Day Services held a celebration in honor of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. March is observed as Intellectual and developmental Disabilities month to raise awareness by the public. The color green marks this great month. As people entered the building, this color stood out! Green punch, a cake with a green ribbon, and kiwi were served. Staff and clients dressed in green to assist in spreading IDD awareness. Rhonda McCallum, Director of Day Services, said, "This is our first event, but I see many in the near future." April 6<sup>th</sup> was set aside at the Capitol in order to display information and to allow one to visit with people who have disabilities. Boswell Regional Center staff and clients pause for a picture. Pictured from left to right: Cindy Womack, Assistant Director; W. Haney, recipient who receives services from BRC; B. Kinsey, recipient who receives services from BRC; Rhonda McCallum, Director of Day Services; and Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center.



# Spotlight on Ricky Grimes

The Spotlight for this month is BRC Director of Support Services, Mr. Ricky Grimes. Ricky served 26-years in the United States Air Force and retired from service in February 2011. Following his retirement he worked for two years in Government Relations for a private firm in Brandon, MS. Ricky also worked for a short period with BRC in MRQA before relocating to Houston Texas in September 2013. In Houston, Ricky worked for the Texas Veterans Commission helping disabled/homeless veterans gain employment and housing. In July 2014 Ricky moved back to MS and back to BRC as the BRC Night Administrator. Ricky performed this duty until he was selected as Director of Support Services in August 2015.

Ricky and his wife Lori live in Mize. Ricky is proud to call Mize home after serving in various locations around the world and the continental United States during his military career. Ricky was born and raised in Alabama and is a huge University of Alabama football fan. Ricky also enjoys fishing, working around his house, and other outdoor activities. Ricky said he is blessed to work with a great group of professionals and equally blessed to provide service to the people we serve at BRC.





# St. Patrick's Day

The St. Patrick's Day Dance was scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>, but the weather did not permit, so it was rescheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>. It was well worth the wait! As the vans rolled in, everyone was dressed in their green attire hoping not to get pinched! The building was decorated with green shamrock hats, green beads, green balloons and a huge rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. Everyone danced, fellowshiped and enjoyed refreshments. This event was a success because of the dedicated staff at Boswell Regional Center. They work diligently to ensure that the individuals have a great time at all events. Thank you for making memories!





# BRC Good Friday Service

Boswell Regional Center held a Good Friday Service on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, in the BRC Auditorium. The program began with the invocation by Bro. Jarrod Lee followed by Bro. Will Beeson extending a warm welcome. Boswell Regional Center Expressive Hearts staff and choir ensemble rose to sing two beautiful selections, "Behold The Lamb" and "Worthy is the Lamb." B. Kinsey, a recipient receiving services, read the New Testament scripture Colossians 1:14 and the Old Testament scripture Isaiah 53:5. Expressive Hearts again blessed everyone with two more selections, "O, the Blood" and "Resurrection Canon." The staff and clients applauded as they enjoyed the sweet music directed by Claire Bevell. As Bro. Rudy Jackson approached the podium, the stage was decorated with the beautiful wooden cross with a purple cloth draped and a crown of thorns. Easter lilies bordered the edge of the stage. Just before the message, Bro. Rudy lead everyone in prayer and then asked, "What does the cross mean to you? It's more than a shiny piece of jewelry." What a blessed message! As the service concluded, Bro. Mike Sellers shared a special selection with the high attendance crowd, Bro. Herbert Anderson gave the Benediction.





# MAC Easter Egg Hunt

Children served by the Mississippi Adolescent Center delighted in an Easter Egg Hunt at the Staff House. They enjoyed walking to the house and then searching for Easter eggs filled with Candy.



# Spring Fling

On March 14 – 18, the clients at MAC had Spring Fling Week. They were out of school for the week and enjoyed daily activities which included items such as movies, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, bicycle riding, water balloon throwing, game day, jumping in a bouncing house, pizza day, sausage dog day, chicken wing day, Krystal Hamburger day and grilled burgers day.



# A Lifelong Dream

Dorothy Bailey has been waiting years to one day see her daughter Nicole Clark. Arrangements were made by her Program Manager Phyllis Davis and (DSP) Betty Newton. Dorothy was able to travel to Liberty, MS, on March 17, 2016, and visit with her daughter. According to the staff Dorothy enjoyed the visit, and Nicole showed Dorothy how she has learned to play the keyboard. Dorothy's adopted mother would love for Dorothy and Nicole to keep in close contact and stated that visits can be arranged for once per month. Nicole is also enrolled in the ID/DD Waiver Program. During Dorothy's Plan of Services and Supports Meeting, seeing her daughter was one of her Hopes and Dreams. Thanks to all the staff members who support her, she was able to realize one of her Dreams.





# Joint Birthday Party



Anissa and Stephanie enjoyed a joint birthday party on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They went to Walmart and picked out every detail of their party, right down to what they wanted on their cake. They worked very hard to make their party at Day Services fun and enjoyable. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” and ate cake and ice cream. The party was a complete success!



**DREAMS CAN ONLY  
BECOME REALITY  
WHEN THEY BECOME  
YOUR VISION.**



daveramsey



# A Look Around Boswell



Several fun events took place around Boswell during the month of March. On March 31st and April 1st there was a Masquerade Jewelry Sale (above left) where lots of great goods were available for only \$5! BRC celebrated Doctor's Day on March 30th (above right). On a nice sunny day in March, the resident ducks were able to provide a bit of joy during a stroll around campus.

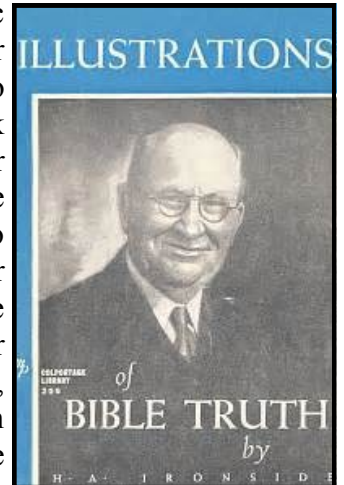


## Pastor's Corner



Bro. Rudy Jackson,  
BRC Chaplain

In his little book, *Illustrations of Bible Truth*, H.A. Ironside pointed out the folly of judging others. He related an incident in the life of a man called Bishop Potter. "He was sailing for Europe on one of the great transatlantic ocean liners. When he went on board, he found that another passenger was to share the cabin with him. After going to see the accommodations, he came up to the purser's desk and inquired if he could leave his gold watch and other valuables in the ship's safe. He explained that ordinarily he never availed himself of that privilege, but he had been to his cabin and had met the man who was to occupy the other berth. Judging from his appearance, he was afraid that he might not be a very trustworthy person. The purser accepted the responsibility for the valuables and remarked, 'It's all right, bishop, I'll be very glad to take care of them for you. The other man has been up here and left his for the same reason!'"



# Boswell Orientation Class



Boswell Regional Center conducts two orientation classes per month. Those pictured below are from the first orientation class in April. **Front row L-R:** Tara Blackwell (CS-Hazlehurst), Armaund James (Fairway), Simmea Magee (CS-Rials Creek), Latoya Johnson (Brookhaven Autism), Morgan Williams (Employment Services), Dominique Fairley (Oakbrook). **Back row L-R:** Jonathan Tillis (Success), Dolphus Colon (Fairway), Christie Barske (Nutrition Services), Fleshia Milloy (CS-State Farm), Dessie Coleman (CS-Hazlehurst), Brielle Blackwell (Brookhaven Autism), Sherian Camerson (Wesson).

# MAC Employee of the Year

Angelia Hardy was named Mississippi Adolescent Center's Employee of the Year for 2015 during the annual Employee of the Year Recognition banquet held on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Facility Director, William Gates, made the announcement during the awards portion of the program. Gates said that "Angie" works in the education department and was a dedicated employee and very deserving of the honor. She was presented with a plaque for her great service.

Pictured left: Angelia Hardy, Employee of the Year Recipient and William Gates, Mississippi Adolescent Center Director.



Pictured above: Center is Angelia Hardy, Employee of the Year Recipient, and Gates along with several MAC co-workers.



# BRC January EOM's

During the March Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employees of the Month for January are Charles "Chuck" Noble and Faye McInnis, both of whom work in DD Community Services. Employees for the month of February are Trevor Reed (Psychology) and Roxie Weathersby, both of whom work on Ridgeview. Congratulations to each of you!



# BRC February EOM's

# 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 their dedication to BRC at the March Directors Meeting. Pictured are: Shannon Austin (20) years and William Armstrong (10) years. Congratulations to you both!



*Boswell Regional Center proudly donated \$350 to the Simpson County Relay for Life. Relay for Life will be held on Friday, April 29 at the Magee High School Track. Thank you to all who donated in the recent road block!*



# MAC February EOM



MAC's February 2016 EOM is Robert Hunter. Robert works 3<sup>rd</sup> shift as a Residential Living Staff.

## 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*

**Boswell Regional Center  
Annual Employee TB (Tuberculosis)  
Testing and Screening**

**April 1, 2016 thru April 30, 2016**

All staff (state/contract) are to complete annual  
TB Testing and Screening

Please go to one of the following locations for  
testing and screening

**Main Campus:** Portland (employee health)

**Units:** Pinelake, Oakbrook, Ridgeview, Fairway

**Magee:** Magee Community IDD Services, Goodwater  
Group Home, Morton Group Home

**Brookhaven:** Brookhaven Group Homes (Magnolia Cove/  
Dogwood Trail)

**Wesson:** Wesson Group Homes (Rosewood/Oakwood)





## *Center for Discovery, Integration & Transformation*

Advanced Professional Social Work Continuing Education:

**2016**

### **Trauma Series: Matthew Vasquez, PhD**

- May 20 Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)
- June 11 The new science of neglect: An overview of brain development, affect regulation, and the implication for social work practice (3CEs)
- July 16 Understanding trauma and traumatic stress for health care professionals (3CEs)
- August 13 Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)  
*(Repeat)*

### **Child Maltreatment Series: Tamara Hurst, PhD, LCSW**

- September 16 Recognizing and reporting child maltreatment: An overview for helping professionals ( 3CEs)
- October 14 Understanding forensic interviews of children for mental health, health care, and criminal justice professionals(3CEs)
- November 18 Labor and sex trafficking: What is it and does it happen here? (3CEs)

Each class: \$60 Regular/\$45 Early Bird

Space is Limited/Pre-registration Required

Class Time: 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

For more information & to register visit our website [www.usm.edu/social-work](http://www.usm.edu/social-work)

*Registration Opens on April 20, 2016*



**THE CLAIBORNE**  
PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

*All workshops are hosted by The Claiborne at Hattiesburg, 200 Whispering Pines Boulevard, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Located off Veterans Memorial Drive between Timberton subdivision and the Family Y.*

**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

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## 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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Boswell Regional Center  
Post Office Box 128  
Magee, MS 39111  
Telephone: 601-867-5000  
[www.brc.state.ms.us](http://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  
Center  
Friends and  
Family  
Association**



*Where Dreams Can  
Become Reality!*