



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

MAY 2014

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

From the Director

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**Mr. Steven Allen, Director of
Boswell Regional Center**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Mississippi Adolescent Center to the Boswell Regional Center family. MAC was moved under the umbrella of BRC on May 1, 2014. This is a positive transformation that will ultimately enhance both programs. This merge will allow for continued growth and prosperity to existing programs and programs that may be deemed appropriate and necessary in the future.

My sincerest gratitude goes to BRC and MAC staff. Their dedication and determination have made these programs flourish. The two programs have joined together nicely, and I know that both programs will appreciate the benefits once all of the adjustments are implemented and completed. Although this changeover will

take much time, the staff from both programs have embraced the concept with a positive attitude. Thanks to everyone for that.

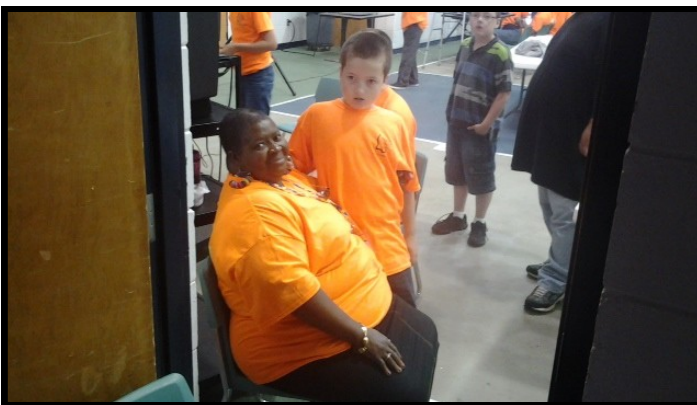
I would also like to congratulate Mr. Ed LeGrand on his upcoming retirement. He has been a tremendous asset to the Department of Mental Health during his tenure, as he's earned his way up the ladder along the way. He has also been a strong advocate for the employees and the people served through this department, and he has worked diligently to ensure the best quality of services possible. Mr. LeGrand will be greatly missed, but he will always be appreciated.

Also, congratulations are in order for Ms. Diana Mikula who has been named as the new Executive Director of the Department of Mental Health to be effective July 1, 2014. Ms. Mikula has also been a tremendous asset to the department during her tenure. She will continue to push the department forward to be as successful and effective as possible while offering more and more community options. Congratulations again to Mr. LeGrand and Ms. Mikula.

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, May, 2014 Issue.

Picnic at the MAC

Although it was raining, the picnic went on as scheduled. Many gathered in the gymnasium at The Mississippi Adolescent Center in Brookhaven to enjoy the activities on Friday, May 30th. Family members, staff, and the ones we serve enjoyed the activities such as face painting, basketball, Wii, movies, and other video games. It was heartwarming to see the smiles and laughter of everyone. Recreation was in charge of the grilling! Sausage dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, chips, sodas and watermelon were on the menu. Lives are definitely being enriched, and rain was not a factor on the wonderful day!



Spotlight on Donna Horton



Ms. Donna Horton
Director of Client Services at
Mississippi Adolescent Center

Donna Horton currently the Autism Coordinator, Admissions and Director of Client Services at the Mississippi Adolescent Center (MAC) in Brookhaven, MS. She earned her Bachelor's of Science degree from Mississippi State University in 1982, her Master's of Business Administration from Belhaven University in 2000 and her Master's of Health Services Administration from Mississippi College in 2006. During her 14 years at MAC she has worked as an accountant/auditor, Qualified Intellectual Developmental Disability Professional and Interdisciplinary Team Coordinator. She graduated from the Certified Public Manager program in 2009. Donna is licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator and also serves in this capacity at the Mississippi Adolescent Center.

In February 2014, MAC took the lead as the pilot facility in Mississippi for talkingtiles/Caretiles in Mississippi. They have been featured in several video clips for Mozzaz and CoCentrix. Donna was a session speaker at the CoCentrix Compass convention in Sarasota, Florida, in March. She presented on the impact that talkingtiles/Caretiles is making at MAC. She has also been a featured presenter for two (2) webinars during May 2014, regarding the continued impact and positive changes being experienced. Donna is dedicated to the very special population served at MAC.

Thank You

Recently an individual long served by Boswell passed from this life into the next. His sister wrote a letter of thanks which is shared below.

To The Administration and Staff of Unit 3:

This letter is to thank you for the care that you provided for my brother, Edward Barnett, during his stay at the facility. I could go to bed at night and not worry because I knew that he was safe and adequately cared for by the staff. When he was home with me, or my daughter, he would have his bags packed in advance to leaving which indicated to me that he was pleased with his surroundings and if we were moving slowly getting him back he would let us know, especially on Monday because he did not want to miss work. At Boswell he had a "life," in that he had a job that he enjoyed and friends. He especially enjoyed outings and would tell me of the various places he had gone. His stay there provided him with resources and opportunities that we as a family did not even know existed. His stay there really enriched his life. We shall forever be grateful and appreciative of the services that were provided for him.

Respectfully,

Linda J. Barnett-Vaughn
Linda J. Barnett-Vaughn

Spring Fling

By: Rhonda McCallum

Well, well, well, what a gorgeous day it was for Spring Fling 2014! The festivities for this year's Spring Fling were held Friday, May 23, 2014. The activities included music, dancing, relaxing in the shade, challenges, and plenty of water to keep everyone cool. The theme this year was tropically inspired: Tiki Time.

The biggest part of the afternoon included BRC Challenges in several areas: soccer, basketball, walking, cycling, running, swimming, and the obstacle course. Many participants were interviewed before the events and stated they had worked hard to prepare for the challenges. Often, they made statements of being hopeful of bringing home a win.

Before, between, and after the challenges, everyone enjoyed the DJ'ing expertise of Bynum & Bynum. The DJ's provided plenty of music to keep the dancing going and everyone having a good time. Many thanks to all those who put together, assist with, and make possible these activities.



Spring Fling continued



Special Olympics

Aquatics Teams Racing



BRC Friends and Family Recognition Program

By Beth Luper

The program was held May 23, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boswell Regional Center Auditorium. Several awards were given such as Outstanding Business of the Year which went to Tyson-Magee Hatchery.



Pictured are Rev. Ike Durr, President of Friends and Family; Leman Cockrell (Tyson); DJ Luper (Tyson); and Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

Outstanding Citizen went to Al & Jaqueline Gordy of Barksdale. (Smooch was present as well.)

Many thanks to our 2013/2014 sponsors! Fellowship Sunday school

- Other Sponsors included:**
- | |
|---|
| Jann Hogue |
| Polk's Pharmacy |
| The Diabetic Clinic |
| McGuffee's Drugs |
| Tillman Furniture |
| FellowsPriority One Bank |
| Peoples Bank |
| Entergy |
| Popeye's of Magee |
| Insurance Associates |
| BB's Salon and Boutique |
| Magee Veterinarian Clinic and Dr. Mark Cole |
| Mark and Ina Magee |
| Brittney Magee |
| Shivers Construction |
| Magee National Guard |
| Shelia Bryant |
| Sylvia Albertson |
| Lou Robinson |
| Richard Carroll |
| Tillman Furniture |
| Jerry & Linda Rose |
| Robin Moss |
| Beth & DJ Luper |
| Ned & Jamie Hinton |
| Shivers Construction |
| Lanelle Hudson |
| Edith Shoemaker |
| Shirley Weatherall |
| Mr & Mrs Richard Manning |
| The Arc of Mississippi |
| John & Carole Adams |
| Mayor Jimmy Clyde |
| Magee Fire Dept |
| Insurance Associates |



Outstanding Citizen is Sue Honea (Magee News.com).

Ladies' Hat Society

By: Cassie Bynum

On Friday, May 2, 2014, representatives of Boswell Regional Center's Ladies' Hat Society presented Ms. Cindy Jensen, Circuit Clerk of Simpson County, with a small gift and a certificate of appreciation for service to others. In the past, Ms. Jensen conducted several tours of the Courthouse for Life Links participants. Ms. Jensen is retiring after 30 years of service to Simpson County.



Brotherhood

By: Cassie Bynum

On Friday, May 16th representatives of the Boswell Regional Center's Brotherhood Club assisted in planting flowers in the courtyard of the LeGrand Café. Each individual had a hand in placing flowers in the planters. Throughout the activity, there was much discussion about how to plant and take care of flowers. They all delighted in the opportunity to get their hands dirty and relished the perfect weather that morning. Afterwards, the individuals enjoyed some much needed refreshments as they admired the work they had accomplished.



Pedi Pampering



Here is a guide to happy feet! There are several reasons to indulge in a pedicure: for healthy feet, for relaxation, and for pampering. Our feet carry us everywhere! So taking out a little time to have them refreshed may just secure you an extra mile. Above are several individuals served by Boswell having a pedicure. They got their pedicure pampering at Chic Nails located at 1700 Simpson Hwy 49 in Magee, MS.

Favorite Direct Support Professionals

The individuals served by Boswell had the opportunity to select their favorite Direct Support Professional for each unit. The following staff were the winners. They were recognized and presented with a certificate at the Friends and Family recognition program on May 23, 2014.



Morton/Goodwater – Renee Enoch



Ridgeview – Lance Adams



Pinelake – Vince Owens



Oak Brook – Mary Sims



Fairway – Alexander Williams

The following two staff were also chosen from their areas.

Brookhaven Autism – Felisha Turner

Wesson – Debra Johnson

Clara Bell Award

Lester Evans Award

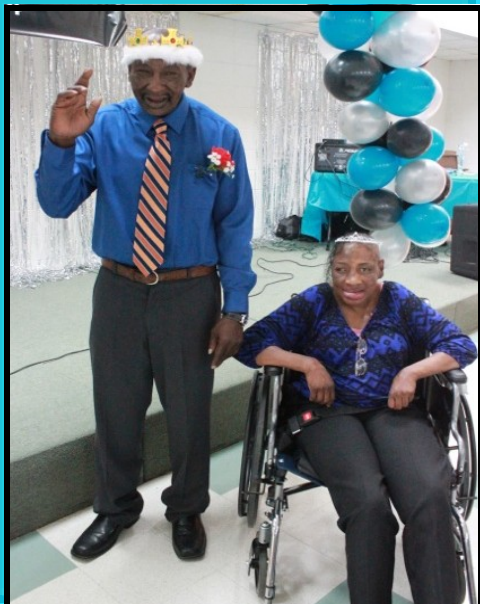


Clara Bell Walker award – Jane Allen



Lester Evans award – Ricky Clark

King and Queen Prom 2014



The winners are S.Ball and J.Loftin

Wal-mart Grant

The Wal-Mart Supercenter in Brookhaven gave a \$1500 grant to Mississippi Adolescent Center. The money was used to upgrade TV's, wall mounts and DVD/Blu-Ray players in the classrooms.

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

Biggest Loser



By: Jennifer Chennault

Trinessa Walker (Community Services/DD) was named Boswell Regional Center's Biggest Loser at the Awards Ceremony held on May 23, 2014. Ms. Walker had an 11% weight loss (26.5 pounds) in 10 weeks. She was awarded a certificate and a \$350.00 cash prize. The Wellness Committee would like to thank all those that participated in this year's fundraiser.

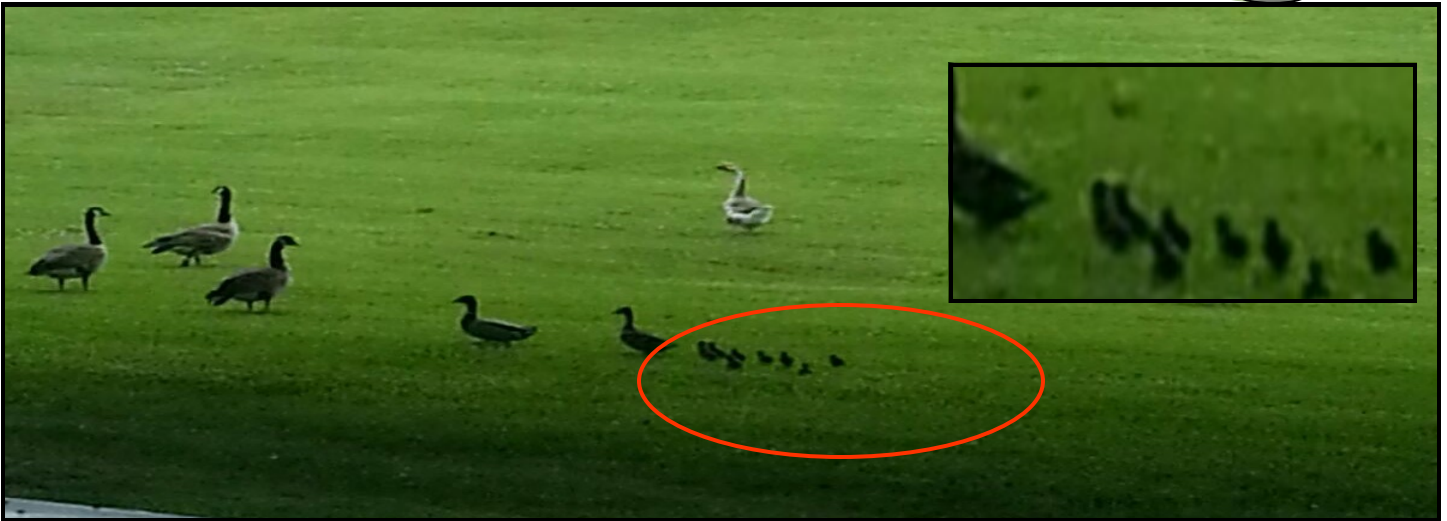


Entergy Special Olympics Donation



During Boswell's Friends and Family Recognition Program, Entergy presented Calvert Sims, Jr. (Special Olympics Area 2 Director) with a \$250.00 donation. Pictured left to right: Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center; Allen Osborne, Entergy; and Calvert Sims, Jr., Special Olympics Area 2 Director. Boswell Regional Center's Friends & Family Association is a nonprofit 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 and fund the annual Christmas party for the individuals served by Boswell Regional Center.

BRC Ducklings



Boswell Regional Center has several new additions to the Magee campus duck dynasty. These little ducklings were photographed getting to know their surroundings by Ms. Bobbie Durr (Quality Assurance).

BRC Salutes Nurses' Week



Pictured: Brittany Walley, Sarah Kennedy, Naomi Vanderford, Kelly Blair, Angela Murphy, Tiffany Wyatt, Ashlee Robinson, Bonita Sullivan, Teresa Windham (Director of Nursing) and Dale Mitchell. Thanks for all you do!

Transition Homes

By: Rhonda McCallum

Boswell Regional Center is proud to provide an array of services to individuals with developmental disabilities which include: home and community supports, supervised living, crisis support, employment opportunities, behavioral services, and day services.

As of April 1, 2014, Boswell Regional Center added a new service to that list, Community Crisis Transition Homes. The Transitions Homes opened on April 1, 2014, with the first person being admitted on April 2nd. The program has grown and is currently at full capacity with 6 individuals being served. The transition homes serve persons 18 years and older who have limited service options available to them. They may not qualify for the ICF/MR programs and may not be eligible or enrolled in waiver services. Therefore, they may literally have no where to go.

“The ultimate goal is to transition everyone into the community.” This is done through providing 24-hour-a-day staff who assists with skill enhancement and services such as cooking, cleaning, day habilitation, travel to and from medical appointments, and employment opportunities.

Although this program is currently located on Boswell’s main campus, there are exciting plans to move into the community in the future. Currently all individuals already attend programs such as work and day services in the community. The ultimate goal is to provide each person with options such as supported living or assisted living, or other options depending on the level of support needed, and community employment that will allow them to reach his/her dream to live a fulfilling community life.



April Employees of the Month



During the May Director's Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employees of the Month for April are Linda Dennis (right), Day Services, and Debbie McLendon (left), Business Services. Congratulations to you both!!!!

Governor's Service Award



Boswell Regional Center employee received Governor's service awards in recognition of 10 years of state service. Vanessa Simmons was recognized for the dedication to BRC at the May directors meeting. Congratulations!

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 In Honor of

By: _____

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

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.

Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held are:

Scrub Sales

Jewelry Sales

Book Fairs

RADA Knives

T-shirt Sales

Special Hosted Events



Friends & Family Association



How to become a member...

Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by placing a check mark in the appropriate box.

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 2012-2013

- Single/BRC Employee - Free**
- Single/Non-employee \$5** Membership Card
- Bronze \$25** Membership certificate designating level of giving
- Silver \$50** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
- Gold \$100** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
- Platinum \$500** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
Publicity in local media
Boswell 35th Anniversary cookbook