



BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S **BULLETIN**

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Inside This Edition

- City of Magee donates building to Boswell Page 3
- Three BRC departments move to new location Page 3
- MR/DD Month Activities Page 4

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Raymond Johnson



The year has started out busy as usual with a number of projects on the board.

We are undergoing a number of changes in order

to best meet the needs of the individuals that we serve.

One of our newest projects is the renovation of a building that the City of Magee has so generously donated to us for our Community Programs for individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities and/or mental retardation. This building, located on Main Street in Magee, will house our Pre-Vocational Workshop and Day Habilitation Program. Before we can begin utilizing this building, however, it will require some remodeling and repair. We are excited about not only adding this much needed square footage, but being able to increase the number of individuals

we can serve in this program. We thank the City of Magee for working so hard to make this happen and appreciate Mayor Jimmy Clyde and the Board of Alderman for supporting Boswell. (For a complete story see Page 3.)

We are now leasing the building which used to house Insurance Associates, located across from the Magee Post Office. This building currently houses our Community/DD Program, Home and Community-Based Waiver Services, and Diagnostics and Evaluation Department.

We have also received permission to demolish some of our buildings on campus due to deteriorating conditions. These buildings include the Lakefront Building, PARS Center and Smokestack.

There is so much more to do, but we see progress every day and we always keep before us the goal of making sure our individuals have the optimal quality of life and are working toward a more independent way of living.

MISSION STATEMENT

Boswell Regional Center provides Mississippians with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, a comprehensive array of service options promoting independence and an optimal quality of life. Through an active partnership of client, family, staff and community, these service options are designed to enhance each client's quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.



BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is a publication of Boswell Regional Center. The Bulletin is published free of charge to inform the public and interested family members and individuals about Boswell Regional Center activities, policies and progress.

This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in mental retardation and the clients served at BRC.

Raymond Johnson, Director
Kathy Lee, Editor

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and each facility to recruit, employ, and promote qualified employees and applicants without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability. The Department of Mental Health/Bureau of Mental Retardation complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the sole purpose of this act to provide a clear mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

ON THE COVER

Our cover picture of the Boswell "rock" at the entrance was taken by employee Angele Pierce who braved the snow on Saturday, January 19, 2008 to check on things on campus. We appreciate her willingness to share her photos with us!

City of Magee Donates Building to Boswell

The City of Magee recently donated the vacant Fred's building, located on Main Street in Magee, to Boswell Regional Center.

"The City of Magee has generously conveyed this building to our facility," Johnson stated. "Boswell will use the building to house two divisions of our Community Services Program for individuals with a diagnosis of developmental disability or mental retardation."

The 13,664 square foot building will house the Community DD Program's Pre-Vocational Workshop and the Day Habilitation Program. The Pre-Vocational Workshop will include a range of activities that are directed at specific habilitation goals leading to vocational skill development. Individuals who participate in the Day Habilitation Program receive training and support in daily living, social skills, communication and self-help, and other adaptive skills.

Before the building can be utilized, however, several renovations will take place including ceiling repair, a new roof, heating and cooling repair, new flooring, painting and adapting the building in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Funds generated by Boswell Industries will provide the necessary means to renovate this facility.

Boswell currently serves over 60 individuals in the Community DD Program through the Pre-Vocational and Day Habilitation programs in their existing facilities. The additional square footage will allow both of these areas to grow.

"We are excited about acquiring this building and look forward to being able to expand our services for the individuals enrolled in our Community DD Program," Johnson said. "Moving our Pre-Vocational Workshop and our

Day Habilitation Program into this building gives us the potential to serve over 250 individuals."

The individuals in the Community DD Program who are currently working at the facility on campus will be able to transfer to this site. This move will free up space in the on-campus Vocational program to allow more opportunities for individuals who reside in the Intermediate Care Facility on the main campus.

"The City of Magee has been very

supportive of this project and we look forward to a good working relationship between Magee, Boswell and the State of Mississippi," Johnson stated. "We believe with this expansion we will be able to bring additional revenue to Magee with more individuals and employees being in closer proximity to area businesses," he added. "While we will begin this transition with existing staff, we foresee with the growth of this facility the potential for additional employees."



Pictured with the sign for Boswell's building is, from left: Susan Lott, Director of Home and Community Based Waiver Services; Belinda Arrington, Director of Diagnostics and Evaluation; and Ronald Britt, Director of Community DD Programs.

Offices Move to Magee Location

Some of Boswell's departments are now housed off the main campus.

Community/DD Services, Diagnostics and Evaluation, and Home and Community Based Waiver Services now occupy the building that was formerly Insurance Associates in Magee.

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House is scheduled for Tuesday,

June 17th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

"There are several advantages to having these departments located in Magee," Raymond Johnson, Director, said. "These departments all provide community-based services and where better to locate them than in the heart of the community."

continued on page 7

MR/DD Month Helps to Raise Awareness

The theme for this year's observance of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March was "Success – When Doors Open We Succeed."

In conjunction with Gov. Haley Barbour's proclamation as the month of March as Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde, Mendenhall Mayor Randall Neely and Brookhaven Mayor Robert Massengill also signed proclamations for their respective cities designating days of observance.

Days of observance were March 4 in Brookhaven, which also recognized Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility, March 6 in Magee and March 13 in Mendenhall.

Each proclamation recognized Boswell's contribution to the overall economy in these cities, the responsibility of area citizens to support and encourage acceptance of all citizens including those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities and the dedication of those who serve this population.

The annual MR/DD Day at the

Capitol was held on March 12th, with Boswell's display focusing on "Living Programs for Retired Individuals."

In Wesson, staff and individuals from the group homes manned a display with light refreshments at Trustmark Bank.

When Boswell Regional Center opened its doors in 1976, its employees and individuals began contributing to the local economy in the Simpson County area.

Since that time Boswell's number of employees has increased to close to 600. Employees shop locally, purchase gas, frequent area restaurants, pay taxes, conduct banking business, and the list



Brookhaven Mayor Robert Massengill is pictured signing a proclamation designating March 4th as MR/DD Awareness Day in Brookhaven. Pictured standing, from left: Mental Health Board member John Perkins of Brookhaven, Boswell Assistant Director Gloria Johnson and Facility Director Raymond Johnson.

goes on. Boswell expects to have an employment payroll of \$20.5 million for 2008.

Everywhere that individuals go, a staff member goes with them to provide transportation and to assist them with their shopping or other business needs such as banking and going to the doctor.

BRC provides services to approximately 600 Mississippians diagnosed with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

"Our individuals and our staff utilize local businesses for their shopping, banking and other needs," said Raymond Johnson, Director of Boswell Regional Center. "We're also fortunate that we have the support of area businesses that employ some of our individuals. And there's no better time than Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to recognize the impact that Boswell has on the economy in these areas" he added.



Daniel Britt, Director, Wesson Group Homes, is pictured above with a display recognizing MR/DD Awareness Month. Pictured with him is Trustmark Bank employee Patty McCardle.

Boswell's Friends and Family Meet

Boswell Regional Center's Friends & Family Association held its semi-annual meeting in March.

Those who came were delighted to hear the Boswell Choir sing three selections.

Friends & Family voted to purchase an item of appreciation for Boswell employees to recognize all the hard work and extra effort they put in day after day at the facility.

The purpose of Friends & Family is to promote and support the individuals of Boswell, to foster the development of programs on their behalf, to recognize and reward the efforts of Boswell employees and to raise and receive funds in order to fulfill these goals.

The cost of a membership in Friends & Family is \$5 for a lifetime membership.

If you are not a member and wish to become one, you may contact Kathy Lee at 601-867-5000.

BRC Attends Event



Pictured at Brookhaven Day at the Capitol are, from left, Imogene Ryan, Pre-Vocational Services, Boswell Industries Brookhaven Division; Rep. Becky Currie of Brookhaven; and Boswell Assistant Director of Community Services Gloria Johnson. Mrs. Ryan also serves as an ambassador for the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce.



Boswell held its Spring Blood Drive in March. Pictured above is Director Raymond Johnson, employee Joe Allen, and Liz Carpenter, Marketing Representative for Mississippi Blood Service. Mr. Allen was a recipient of one of the five Wal-Mart gift cards given away as door prizes for the event.

Anti-Stigma Campaign Continues

The Anti-Stigma Campaign launched in May 2007 is continuing and has made great strides in the area of combating the stigma encountered by those suffering from and being treated for a mental illness.

BRC continues to support the Mississippi Department of Mental Health in efforts to reach all sectors of the public with the message to support friends and family during treatment.

IN AND AROUND BOSWELL

Employee Café Opens for Evening Hours



The LeGrand's grand opening for 2nd shift was held recently. Assistant Director Steven Allen is pictured greeting the first customer, Blanche Sanders. She was presented with a card holder, courtesy of People's Bank. Other door prizes were given away, including a \$20 meal ticket donated by BRC's Friends & Family Association.

Second shift employees at Boswell Regional Center find it difficult on their supper break to get to town, back to campus and still have enough time to eat.

In response to suggestions from second shift employees, Boswell's LeGrand Café, which has served lunch to employees since its opening in 2003, recently opened its doors during evening hours.

"This is something we've been working on for a while in order to help out our second shift employees who may not have time to leave campus for supper," said Steven Allen, Assistant Director of Resident Services. "We try to be sensitive to the needs of our employees and if it's possible, try our best to work it out."

While a scaled down menu is offered, employees who have taken advantage of it appreciate the convenience.

Boswell Honors Retirees and Wishes Them Well!



Two retirees were honored at the Director's meeting in March. They are both pictured here with Facility Director Raymond Johnson. Pictured at left is Betty McDavid and pictured at right is Paula Johnston. Happy retirement!

SEVERE WEATHER VISITS BOSWELL CAMPUS



Offices Move...

continued from page 3

“It will provide a more accessible location for people seeking services such as those performed by the Diagnostics and Evaluation Department,” he added. “It will also be more convenient for Case Managers and Support Coordinators that work out in the community.”

Offices in this building, located across from the Magee Post Office, have a new phone number. Please call 601-849-5128 to reach one of these departments.

February brought severe weather to Mississippi and to Boswell Regional Center.

A late night storm took this tree down on House #112, which is campus staff housing.

Repairs were quickly made thanks to our Maintenance Department.

Newsletter Can Be Emailed

In our fast paced world, sometimes we don't have time to read all our mail. But most of us who have email read it faithfully.

If you find that you are in this category, you may prefer receiving BRC's Bulletin by email. Send an email to the following and indicate your preference for an email copy of the Bulletin:

klee@boswell.state.ms.us

WE REMEMBER...

LORRIE MARKER, who was employed with the Dietary Department at Boswell Regional Center, died on Saturday, January 12, 2008.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, January 15th at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home in Magee with the funeral following visitation.

Pictured at right is the BRC flag which we fly at half mast in memory of employees and retired employees when they pass away.



Boswell Regional Center



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