



BULLETIN



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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

We held our annual Employee of the Year Banquet in July and announced Mrs. Diana Slay as the 2008 Employee of the Year for Boswell.

It's always a privilege for me to be able to recognize the Employee of the Year. Mrs. Slay is very deserving of this honor. Her supervisor indicated on her nomination form that Mrs. Slay has not been late a single time in the past four years that they have worked together. That is an accomplishment in itself. But what really makes Mrs. Slay outstanding is her devotion to Boswell and to the

individuals that we serve. Congratulations to you, Diana!

I would also like to recognize the other award recipients: Sandra Anderson and Mary Kelly, as well as Rena Wood and Ricky Harris.

We were saddened by the death of Eunice Kennedy Shriver in August. Mrs. Shriver was the founder of the Special Olympics Program. Our individuals are among the 3.1 million people who participate in the Special Olympics today. Individuals across the world have benefitted from this program.

I'd like to thank all the staff and individuals who made Boswell's 2009 Arts Fair "a blast." It was wonderful to see how everyone worked together and then were able to enjoy the finished "product." It was a great Arts Fair! We also thank Millcreek for participating with us and to Mississippi Adolescent Center for attending.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center provides Mississippians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities a comprehensive array of service options promoting independence and an optimal quality of life. Through an active partnership of individual, family, staff and community, these service options are designed to enhance each individual'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 intellectual disabilities and the individuals served at BRC.

Raymond Johnson, Director

Kathy Lee, Editor

Kathy Dampeer-Pittman, Assistant

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 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 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.

The Front Cover

Pictured on the front cover is 2008 Employee of the Year Diana Slay. The honor was announced at the annual Employee of the Year Banquet.

She is pictured with Raymond Johnson, BRC Facility Director, on left and Steven Allen, Assistant Director of Campus Programs, at right.

Diana Slay Recognized at Annual Banquet



Diana Slay

Diana Slay of Mendenhall was named Boswell Regional Center's Employee of the Year at the annual Employee of the Year Banquet. Slay, who has worked for Boswell for the past 11 years, is employed in the Residential Living Division as a Direct Care Worker Advanced working second shift on Unit 2 on the main campus. She was also named as the Overall Employee of the Year for the Residential Living Division.

Also recognized were **Sandra Anderson** of Mendenhall and **Mary Kelly** of Brookhaven. Anderson was named Employee of the Year for the Community IDD Division and Kelly was named as the Community ICF/MR Employee of the Year.

Slay, who has received the honor of Employee of the Month approximately seven times, came to Boswell after working at Magnetek for 32 years. She has been known on many occasions to come in on her day off to help with various trips and activities. According to her supervisor, Slay has not been late for work a single day in the last four

years that they've worked together. Her nomination form stated, in part, "Mrs. Slay's dedication to Boswell and the individuals on Unit 2 is obvious. She arrives each day with a smile and leaves with the satisfaction of knowing her time here was well spent. She is held in high regard by her coworkers, the individuals and their families. Mrs. Slay is not only dependable, she's exceptional."

She has been married to Carrol Slay for 41 years. She has two grown children, Shelia, 37 and Michael, 35. Slay is an avid fisherman and



Sandra Anderson

gardener.

Employees who also received recognition were **Rena Wood** of Mize, named the Residential Living Division's First Shift Employee of the Year and **Ricky Harris** of Mendenhall, who was named Third Shift Employee of the Year for Residential Living. All those recognized received an engraved plaque. In addition to a plaque, Slay also received a new name badge which

includes the words "Employee of the Year", a bag of goodies and a Reserved Parking sign for any available parking space of her choice. In addition, Rev. Ike Durr, president of BRC's Friends & Family Association, presented her with a \$100 savings bond. She will be recognized at the MH/MR Conference Luncheon in Philadelphia in October.

"We are very fortunate at Boswell to have the outstanding employees that we have and standing out among those is Diana Slay," Facility Director Raymond Johnson said. "Mrs. Slay is an example of what



Mary Kelly

the difference is between a good employee and a great employee. On many occasions she's gone above and beyond what's been asked of her. Over the years, she has exhibited a real devotion to Boswell and to the individuals that we serve."

Each year Boswell selects an Employee of the Year from the three areas of Community IDD, Community ICF/MR and Residential Living from those employees who have been selected as Employees of the Month. The Employee of the Month program recognizes those who work in the area of Direct Care.

Assistant Director Named to Local Board

Steven Allen, Assistant Director of Campus Programs for Boswell Regional Center, was recently named as Secretary-Treasurer for the Simpson County Development Foundation.

Allen began his career with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health in July 1989. He transferred to Boswell Regional Center in June 1993 from East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. During his 16-year ca-

reer at Boswell, Allen has served in the following capacities: Vocational Training Instructor, Physical Plant Director, Bureau Director for Support Services, and his current position as Assistant Director of Campus Programs.

Allen received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Belhaven College and his Masters of Education Degree in Leadership at William Carey College. He is the recipient of the James W. Park Award for Academic Achievement.

Professionally, Allen is a Licensed Mental Health Administrator and Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. He is a graduate of the Certified Public Manager program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, and Leadership Simpson County. He has previously served on the Simpson County Development Foundation Board of Directors.

Allen also currently serves as a Board Member for Boswell's Friends & Family Association.

He is a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church.



David Tedford, Director of Vocational Services, is pictured at left answering questions from staff and board members of Gateway Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Oklahoma. The group toured Boswell's Work Activity Center recently.

BRC Welcomes Board Member

Boswell welcomes the newest member of the Mississippi Board of Mental Health, Sampat Shivangi, M.D. of Jackson.

In 2005, Dr. Shivangi was nominated the Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. He was also asked to serve on the National Advisory Council. He previously served on the Mississippi State Board of Health.



BRC Facility Director Raymond Johnson is pictured updating members of the state legislature regarding the condition of buildings at Boswell. A legislative committee annually visits various facilities, and tours buildings and property belonging to the state.

Boswell's Arts Fair was a Blast!

Although a statewide Arts Fair wasn't in the picture for 2009, BRC held its own Arts Fair on Aug. 21st with the theme of "A Blast From the Past".

And what a blast it was from the 40's all the way up to today's music. Also, three solos were performed by individuals and enjoyed by all. They did a great job!

Boswell's choir started the Auditorium hopping with some music and video from the Blues Brothers. They then performed "I Saw the Light" which was directed to Blues Brothers, "Jake" and "Elwood".

Community IDD went back into the 40's with the music of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" by the Andrews Sisters.

Unit 2 gave us a look at "TV Land" with some of our favorite shows from the past - "Married with Children", "Good Times", "Sanford and Son" and "Sonny and Cher".

Units 3 and 4 (and their spacecraft) took us back in time with Elvis' "Hound Dog" and Michael Jackson's "Billie

Jean."

Performers from Millcreek wowed us with a Motown Medley, featuring "I Can't Get Next to You", "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."

Unit 1 got the crowd fired up with everyone joining in singing and clapping to "You're a Shining Star" by Earth, Wind & Fire.

Education provided a "Tribute to Michael Jackson", featuring "ABC", "Heal the World" (with three individuals signing the chorus), and "Thriller."

Community ICF/MR performed the O'Jay's "Stairway to Heaven" and "Darling, Darling, Baby". They ended their performance with Kool and the Gang's "Celebration," which brought the crowd to their feet!

The afternoon finale was a spectacular performance of "High School Musical 3" presented by Millcreek.

Thank you to all who made this event possible!

BRC Bids Two Retirees Farewell



A retirement reception was held in July for two retirees, Beatrice Mikell, pictured at left and Reudean Warren, pictured at right. Both are pictured with their certificates which were presented by Raymond Johnson, BRC Facility Director.

Three Graduate from DMH Focus Program

Boswell employees Susan Butler of Raleigh, Susan Lott of Collins and Calvert Sims, Jr. of Magee, recently graduated from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Focus Program.

DMH's Focus Graduation was held on Friday, July 31 at Tara Wildlife in Vicksburg. DMH's Accelerated Leadership Development Program "Focus" offers a unique opportunity for employees to hone their skills to greater and higher personal performance and self-awareness.

"Focus is one of the most exciting projects our agency has been involved with," said Ed LeGrand, DMH Executive Director. "This groundbreaking initiative is helping to strengthen our employees and build upon their talents. DMH's mission is to support a better tomorrow today and this is one

Pictured at right, from top: DMH Executive Director Ed LeGrand and Susan Butler; LeGrand and Susan Lott; and LeGrand and Calvert Sims, Jr.

of our efforts to prepare the leaders of tomorrow."

The goal is to help DMH employees reach maximum capacity and to develop "bench strength" for the agency. This experience challenges participants to grow to new heights in both ability and attitude. "Focus" lasts 12-18 months and involves four multi-day retreats.

Butler is the Director of Nursing at Boswell; Lott is the Support Coordination Director for Home and Community Based Support; and Sims is employed as QMRP for the Magee ICF/MR Group Homes.



Units Recognized in the Area of Oral Hygiene



Unit 1

Three Units in the Jaquith ICF/MR on-campus facility have been recognized for their work with the individuals in the area of oral hygiene.

Each month, Quality Assurance selects a team to award the trophy to that has the best oral hygiene record out of all the units.

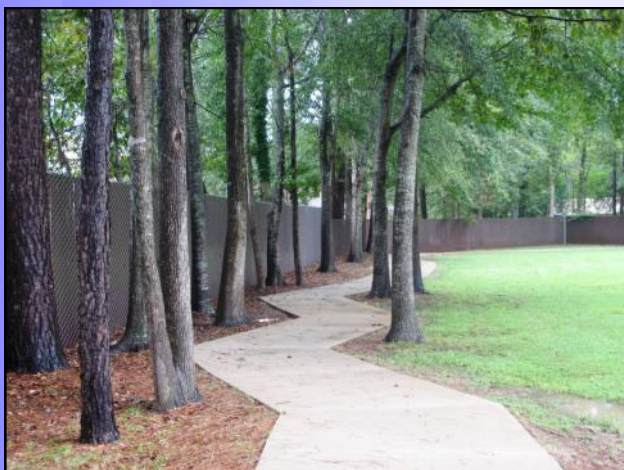
Congratulations to these Units and thank you for your hard work!



Unit 3



Unit 2



Walking trails have been added to both the Brookhaven Group Homes, at left, and the Wesson Group Homes. These additions are being well used by individuals. The Wesson Group Homes also added a pavilion, pictured at far right, complete with a grill, picnic tables and a swing.

We remember....

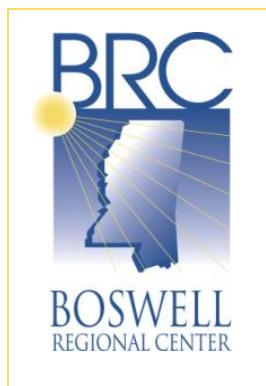
Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who died in August.

Mrs. Shriver was a diligent advocate for the rights of intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals around the world and the founder of Special Olympics.

Special Olympics grew from a camp in Mrs. Shriver's backyard in the early '60s into a program that today has 3.1 million participants from 107 countries. Among those participants are individuals from BRC.



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