



Boswell Regional Center's

BULLETIN

VOLUME VIII

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Number 4



35 years 1976-2011



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

We are dedicating this special edition of Boswell Regional Center's *Bulletin* to individuals whom receive services from Boswell.

In 1976, BRC opened our doors to 35 individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. In 2010, 35 years later, we are proud to announce that the number we currently serve is over 600 Mississippians with IDD.

Boswell has grown from providing residential services only to providing services to individuals in the community. Through our Waiver Program we are able to provide services in

the individuals home.

We have almost completed construction of the new buildings for housing our individuals. These homes are coming along beautifully and I feel sure that our individuals will enjoy their new living environment.

Over the last 35 years we have had many individuals pass through our doors. Some have been with us for many years and others have just recently come to know BRC as home. We have also said goodbye to a number of individuals.

Some have happily moved to be with family, others have transferred to other facilities, and sadly some have passed on.

I want to thank the families and surrogates of our individuals for entrusting us with the care of your loved ones.

I pray that you and your loved ones will have a warm, prosperous and safe holiday season!

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.

Boswell Regional Center

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Pictured on the front of this issue is a collage of pictures from over the years at Boswell.

We are proud of where we've been and are looking forward to where we're going!

BRC to mark 35 years of service in 2011

Boswell Regional Center is located at the site of the former Mississippi State Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Boswell was established in its current location in July 1976 when these facilities were turned over to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH).

When Boswell opened its doors almost 35 years ago, it housed 35 individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Appointed to the role of first director of Boswell on July 1, 1977 was Joe Earp.

Serving as interim director from Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 1979 was Roger McMurtry. McMurtry later became the Bureau Director for IDD for DMH at the Central Office in Jackson. He retired in 2009 from DMH.

Clyde Woodruff became the Center's next director on January 1, 1980.

Dr. Paul Cotten began his tenure on May 1, 1984 and served until July 31, 1992. Dr. Cotten currently teaches at William Carey University in Hattiesburg. Each Winter and Spring trimester, he brings students from his psychology classes to visit Boswell's campus. During their visit, these students learn about the individuals environment, daily activities and work at the Vocational Services Building.

Dr. Suzie Lassiter became the director of BRC on Aug. 1, 1992. In July 2000, she transferred to Ellisville State School where she served as Director until her retirement in 2009. Even after retirement, Dr. Lassiter continues to be active in TEAAM (Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi).

On August 1, 2000, Raymond Johnson became the sixth director of Boswell and currently serves in this position.

Serving along side of Johnson are Steven Allen, who serves as Assistant Director of Residential Ser-

Boswell Directors

- Mr. Joe Earp
(July 1, 1977 - Sept. 6, 1979)
- Mr. Roger McMurtry
(Aug. 1, 1979 - Dec. 31, 1979)
- Clyde Woodruff
(Jan. 1, 1980 - prior to May, 1984)
- Dr. Paul Cotton
(May 1, 1984 - July 31, 1992)
- Dr. Suzie Lassiter
(Aug. 1, 1992 - July 1, 2000)
- Mr. Raymond Johnson
(Aug. 1, 2000 - Present)

vices and Gloria Johnson, who serves as Assistant Director of Community Programs.

"I feel privileged to serve Boswell as director," Raymond Johnson said. "We have some of the best employees around. With most of our employees, working here is a calling rather than just a job. Their care and concern for the individuals we serve is obvious in their everyday actions."

"When I look to Boswell's future I am optimistic as to our growth, especially in the area of community services. We hope to continue the programs that are already in place."

"We are especially excited about our new buildings that will replace the Jaquith building. When we move our individuals and their staff into these new buildings we feel that with the group home atmosphere will instill pride not only as far as the individuals are concerned, but the staff as well.

BRC float a hit in area parades

Boswell Regional Center's Christmas float participated in five area parades. A number of individuals had the opportunities to ride on this year's float.

Placings in parades were:

Mendenhall—2nd Place

Mt. Olive—1st Place

Raleigh—entries not judged

D'Lo—2nd Place

Magee—1st Place

Thank you to the Maintenance, Recreation, and Expressive Arts departments for all of your hard work to make this a beautiful float and one all of us at Boswell can be proud to display.



Mendenhall



Mt. Olive



Raleigh



D'Lo



Magee

Westminister delivers gifts

For the past 34 years, Westminister Presbyterian Church of Hattiesburg has been collecting and delivering gifts for Boswell individuals.

The ministry to our individuals was started with the assistance of Joe Earp when he was the director of BRC. It has continued on to the present day with the assistance of Joy Garaway , a member of Westminister Presbyterian Church.

Gifts were distributed to individuals at BRC during our Christmas parties December 7 and 8, 2010. ICF/MR group home individuals held their Christmas Party on December 8th in Brookhaven.

Boswell is grateful to the congregation of Westminister for providing these gifts to our individuals . The BRC Choir has plans to travel to Westminister in 2011 to sing during a Sunday evening service.



Pictured from left are: Bro. Rudy Jackson, BRC Chaplain; Orlando Rankin, Director of Recreation, BRC; Kenny Harrell, Westminister church member; Rev. Steve Ramp, Westminister pastor and Lisa Bryant, Director of Support Services, BRC.



Two individuals enjoy dancing at the Community ICF/MR dance following the Annual Christmas Party for Boswell's group homes. Westminister also provided gifts for these community individuals.



An individual from Unit 2 is pictured showing her present from Westminister.

Awards given at Annual IDD Banquet



Justin Wyatt received the Mernie McGhee award from Sandy Entriken.



Joey Ross is presented with the Freddie Evans Award. Congratulating him is Assistant Director Gloria Johnson



Pictured is Michelle Harper receiving the Tom Whittom Award.

The IDD Division held their Annual Awards Banquet Dec. 8th.

Mernie McGhee Award—Justin Wyatt
Freddie Evans Award—Joey Ross
Robert Arnold Award—Maurice Copeland
Tom Whittom Award—Michelle Harper

Awards of Excellence were:

Most Improved—Robert Jones and David Collins

Mr. & Ms. Community Services—Troy Moss/Vickie Warren & Clay Barnes/Diane Robinson

Best Dancer—Bessie Wilkins

Best Cook—Willie Green

Most Dependable—Collie Heidelberg and Justin Wyatt

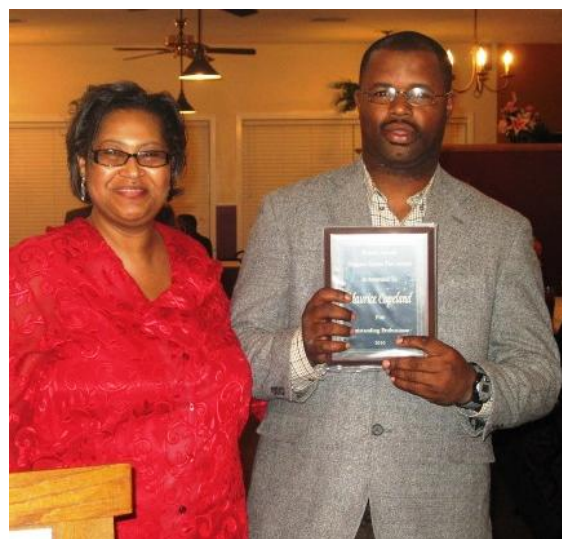
Most Athletic—Chris Wann and Sam Banks

Best Kept Apartment—Earline Smith, Connie Sue Green, and Albertha Popp

Friendliest—Robert Jones, Richard Fredericks, Andy Genetti, Tammy Morgan, Bee Bee Robison, and Debra Halverson

Best Attendance at Work—Joey Ross, Colie Sue Heidelberg, Margaret Brown, and Bobbie Maxie

Best Dressed—Maurice Copeland and Katie Claybough



Maurice Copeland is pictured with Gloria Johnson after receiving the Robert Arnold Award.

Scenes from
Christmas, Don't Be Late!



ALVIN!!!



Frosty....brrrrr



Busy Innkeeper



Good Grief...Charlie Brown!



No bull...reindeer win!



How many eggs?



Christmas Shoes



Santa's coming!

Four BRC retirees recognized

Four employees recently retired from Boswell.

Pictured below with Director Raymond Johnson are left to right, Dorothy Moore, IDD Services; Peggy Shanks, Business Services; Dorothy Smith, Nutrition Services; and Vickie Hartley, Vocational Services at their respective retirement receptions.

Boswell thanks them for their years of service and wishes them well!

