



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

Fall Issue

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

From the Director

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Boswell Regional Center Director Mr. Steven Allen

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, Fall 2012 issue.

As Summer ends and Fall approaches, the flowers and leaves begin to die down for the months ahead. At Boswell Regional Center, the opposite is taking place. Things are alive and moving at "Warp Speed." In April of 2012, BRC decided to offer specialized program options on campus and to expand our community options. The following is an update on these programs.

The Autistic Program now consists of three Group Homes in Simpson and Lincoln Counties for up to 21 adult males and one Group Home in Lincoln County for up to 5 adult females.

The Geriatric Program is functional in one of our campus buildings in Simpson County and in two Group Homes in Copeiah County. This program is available for up to 56 individuals and offers 24 hour nursing care in all settings.

The Special Supervision Program is also progressing with one wing to be operational in January 2013. This program will provide on-campus supports for up to 24 males with mild to moderate IDD who also require some type of specialized supervision.

The Short Term Stabilization Program will become a reality in the months to come. As individuals are admitted to this program, a Person Centered Plan will be performed and the goal of moving to a community setting will be less than 120 days. This program is designed to serve up to 20 males and up to 20 females.

Also, Boswell Regional Center has a newly established Mobile Crisis Team designed to provide supports to those who are in our community programs that may be experiencing some type of crisis situation. The goal of this team is for the individual to continue to receive services in the community program while receiving support during the crisis. As a last resort, crisis/respite beds are available on the campus for up to 30 days.

From the Director (Continued)

Our Community Residential Program will double during the next year. One of the goals of BRC and the Department of Mental Health is to offer more community options for everyone. During the next few months and years, our plans are to offer additional community residential placement in Simpson and Lincoln Counties, should anyone desire. We will also continue to partner with private and non-profit providers to offer community options across the state of Mississippi. These options will be available based on the following criteria: 1) The individual is requesting this option, 2) the family agrees, and 3) the team has no objections. Many individuals have already moved and are very happy in their new homes and apartments. I am excited to share in their joy.

This edition of the Bulletin will spotlight our Autistic Program. The goal will be to shine the light on the other programs in the future.

I would also like to take a moment to express my gratitude to the many employees of Boswell Regional Center. Everyone has embraced the changes being made and has taken challenges and transformed them into opportunities to enhance the lives of those we serve.

Pastor's Corner

I want to ask you a question. Do you apply the same standards of faithfulness to your Christian activities that you expect from other areas of your life? I think if we look at what was the mind set that motivated the apostles, it might help.

Lets take the apostle Paul to start with. In the book of Romans the first verse reads Rom. 1:1 "Paul, a **servant** of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God." Notice the highlighted word servant. This word in the Greek is the word "Doulos". This is one who has placed him or herself at freewill to be in a permanent relation of a servant or slave to another. His will altogether consumed in the will of the other. So what Paul is saying is that his life was not his own, but rather it was given fully to Christ. This word can be found in four of the apostles' writings: Paul, James, Peter, and Jude.

Now with that in mind, we too are to consider ourselves servants of Christ, which brings us back to the original question. Do you apply the same standards of faithfulness to your Christian activities that you expect from other areas of your life? If your car starts once every three tries, is it reliable? If the mailman put the right mail in your box 20% of the time would he be trustworthy? If you were fifteen or twenty minutes late for work every other day, would your boss consider you a loyal employee? If your refrigerator works all but two days out of the week, would you say "Oh well it works most of the time"? If you miss a couple of loan payments every year, does the bank say "Ten out of twelve ain't bad"? If you fail to worship God one or two Sundays a month, would you expect to be called a faithful Christian?

We expect faithfulness and reliability from things and other people. Dose not God expect the same from us? The problem is in our religious activities we see ourselves as volunteers rather than servants. For a volunteer, almost anything seems acceptable. For a bond-servant who has died to self, faithfulness is expected. 1 Cor. 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful". Have a blessed day.



**BRC Chaplain
Bro. Rudy Jackson**

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

Spotlight: Autism Services

What's new at Boswell Regional Center? The development of Autism Services! Imagine using the latest advanced technology to communicate with others. Autism services is looking into tools that can be used to decrease communication barriers. These devices not only can increase communication, but also have the capacity to enhance a variety of life skills. Available technology is being researched by Autism Services for use within the Autism Homes. Various apps (applications) can be downloaded to a handheld device for free or at a minimal cost which can assist the individual to increase communication and foster greater independence.

Another tool that is being integrated into the Autism Homes is social stories. Social stories are useful to help ease the trauma of transitioning to new experiences and environments which is most often difficult for individuals with Autism.

The goals for Autism Services are to provide training in a home environment that enhances community living skills and facilitates growth toward independent living; to develop and implement a training curriculum for professionals, paraprofessionals, and families; to utilize technology to build upon strengths in the areas of social, communication, and transitional skills; to build partnerships with the community, and to serve as a resource on Autism for the state of Mississippi in conjunction with other organizations.

Mrs. Lisa Bryant serves as the Director of Autism Services. She brings to the table a myriad of expertise and experience in the area of Autism. The Morton Home, located in Magee, was opened while she was Director of the Community ICF/MR Group Homes. This is a home for eight men with an Autism Diagnosis. During this time an Autism Task Force was established in which she served in various capacities including President. The Autism Task Force became the TEAAM Organization (Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi) and she served in different capacities within the organization. She was President of TEAAM in 2009.

Also serving individuals with Autism is Director of the Magee Homes, Mr. Calvert Sims, and Direc-



Director of Autism Services Mrs. Lisa Bryant

tor of the Brookhaven Homes, Ms. Carol Carter. Both have worked with TEAAM and Kamp Kaleidoscope.

Boswell Regional Center is looking forward to the new, exciting, and unique opportunities Autism Services will provide for individuals with the diagnosis of Autism. Together we are breaking the barriers to better living for individuals with Autism.

Arts Fair

This year's Arts Fair was another hit! The theme was Bridging the Past to the Future and that is just what we are doing here at Boswell Regional Center. The auditorium was covered with Khaki colored shirts which one referred to as, "looking like cadets". The shirts were worn by staff and the ones we serve.

When the curtains were pulled by BRC hosts Mr. Holloway and Mr. Sims, there was not a foot that was not moving to the sounds of Elvis by Unit 4, or a little country music like "It's your love" sung by Mr. Beard. Other acts included a spiritual moment by the Boswell Choir singing "I believe I can fly" and "I made It" by Ms. Bolden. Let's not forget the show stopping Project Runway models of Unit 1. Those are just a few of the fun filled performances that rocked Boswell Regional Center.

Many thanks to all of you in and behind the scenes that helped put this Arts Fair together. Also, thanks for the time that went into each song, prop, skit and dance. We give to each of you a standing ovation. We look forward to seeing new ideas and other hidden talents that we have at BRC next year.



Education Department bridging the gap between the past and the present



Above: M. Beard performing "It's Your Love"



Left: Boswell Choir performing "I believe I Can Fly"

Congratulations to the Employee of the Year!



Pictured is Steven Allen, Director of BRC; Kopedia Durr, Employee of the Year; and Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director of BRC.

Kopedia Durr has been selected as Boswell Regional Center's Employee of the Year. He and finalists Joe Garner and Emma McCollum were honored at the August 3, 2012, Employee of the Year Luncheon.

A graduate of William Carey University with a degree in psychology, Kopedia has plans to return this fall to pursue his master's degree. He is well known throughout the facility for his warmth, humility, and compassion. Kopedia offers a sincere commitment to his job and the community. Confiding that he was "surprised and very honored" to be selected, Durr says the individuals always come first. He enjoys the honor of being voted as "Favorite Direct Care Worker" by the individuals with whom he works. Durr enjoys being able to provide our individuals with a safe environment; one in which they can thrive.

Facility director, Mr. Steven Allen presented Kopedia with a plaque, a parking sign, and a bag of goodies. He was also awarded \$100.00 donated by People's Bank in Magee. Mr. Allen said that Kopedia is a dedicated employee and was certainly very deserving of the honor. Congratulations on a job well done Kopedia!

Boswell Hosts Bioethics Program



On Tuesday, July 31, 2012, BRC hosted the Center for Bioethics Summer Fellowship Program from UMMC. This is a cross-campus program that integrates students from the Human Sciences to the Medical Sciences. Most are originally students at the Oxford Campus that transfer to the Jackson Campus for the summer program. The morning began with the Virtual Dementia Tour and lecture then a campus tour followed by a wrap up session. Kathy Van Cleave, LMSW, LCMHT, Division Director, and Maria Allen, Alzheimer's Division, are pictured along with the students and instructor.

Boswell Employs Leaders



Craig Kittrell, Director of Maintenance, and Kathy Pittman, Public Relations Officer, are members of this year's Simpson County Leadership Class. At a recent banquet they were presented with certificates acknowledging participation in the program.

Kathy was elected as one of the new members to serve on the Board of Directors for the Simpson County Development Foundation. Congratulations to both of you!

Boswell Honors Honesty

During the June Director's Meeting, Gary Adams from Unit 4 was presented with a citizenship certificate and a medal for his outstanding display of honesty. While walking back from lunch one day, he found a cell phone. He immediately found a staff and turned it in. The staff to whom the phone belonged was very, very grateful as all of us now have so much of our information and pictures on these devices. The Education Director stated that honesty was a valuable trait to possess and that it would help him succeed in the community. When asked if he would like to add to this presentation, he replied, "I guess I really saved the day!"



A Fountain of Flowers



The fountain located in front of The LeGrand Cafe has been taken over with flowing flowers instead of water for the summer. Education students decided they wanted to partake in the opportunity to assist in making the campus full of colors through the beauty of flowers. Working together as a team, maintenance helped in providing the support and products needed to make this a successful creation. As one can tell by the pictures a good time was had by all as the afternoon project was finished just in time to enjoy a cold glass of lemonade.

2012 Walk To End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This event is held in more than 600 communities nationwide.

Several Boswell staff members participated in a local walk to end Alzheimer's disease under Team DMH (Department of Mental Health). Participants were: Kathy Van Cleave, Kristin Van Cleave, Maria Allen, Lisa Bryant, and Cassie Bynum. Team DMH joined approximately 750 people in the Jackson walk and raised an estimated \$60,000.00 collectively. The walk was held at The Museum of Art Garden in Jackson, Mississippi, on September 15, 2012.

As part of the walk, a Promise Garden was established in the garden square at the Museum of Art. Through color, Promise Flowers represent the diverse reasons participants attend the walk. At the conclusion of the walk, participants viewed the stunning and poignant display of Promise Flowers.

Walk to End Alzheimer's unites the community in a display of combined spirit and dedication in the fight against this devastating disease. If you would like to learn more about this important fundraising event, visit the website www.alz.org.

From Seed to Harvest



Tommy displays a product of his bountiful harvest

Impressive doesn't even begin to describe Tommy's garden. Spectacular, fabulous, and gorgeous may be getting a little closer to a real description. A resident of State Farm Apartments, Tommy B. could be referred to as a "Master Gardener". When his summer garden was at its peak of success, there were 40 rows of tomatoes, green beans, kale, okra, cantaloupe, summer squash, acorn squash, habanera peppers, banana peppers, green and red peppers, and eggplant. Director, Steven Allen said that Tommy's garden was one of the most beautiful gardens that he had ever seen. Coming from someone who has plenty of experience in the outdoors, that is quite a compliment. Even after the garden was past its peak, the size was still very impressive.

How was Tommy able to prepare this garden with no farm equipment? Farm equipment was supplied by the BRC maintenance division. Employee Charles Sullivan offered his time on and off the clock to help Tommy get the ground prepared for planting. Kudos to our dedicated employees. Additionally, contract employee John Hayes who has worked with Tommy for the past couple of years offered his assistance. When he first started working with Tommy, the garden never really took hold and yielded a decent crop. John decided that he would help Tommy

realize his dream of building a big garden by bringing his personal tractor and helping Tommy get the rows formed. He did this on his own time simply because he wanted Tommy to be successful. "Now you can make a big garden," John told Tommy. So Tommy did just that, and the vegetables grew and grew.

When Tommy was asked about his talent for gardening, he said when he was young he didn't ride a bike or anything like that; he planted a garden. His uncle told him he could really learn something from working in a garden and indeed he did. Tommy said his dad also grew a garden. He keeps proof of that in his room and gladly displays the picture of his dad tending his own garden. It was plain to see that his dad's garden was huge also. Tommy said he learned about planting large gardens from his dad.

I told Tommy that I was not blessed with a green thumb; however, I do love fresh vegetables and could really appreciate his garden. Tommy turned to me and said, "Well, I guess that I need to come and stick my thumb in your soil so you can grow a garden." I only wish that little trick would work!

Keep up the good work Tommy. Your garden was beautiful. We look forward to seeing what you plant next year.

Alzheimer's Scholarship Award

Mr. John Robertson has been an exemplary employee at Boswell Regional Center since his hiring date, September 18, 1994. He began working as a Direct Care Worker for Community Services at the East-side Men's Group Home in September 1994, and over the past seventeen years has worked at several of the Community Services sites which earned him the title of Direct Care Advanced. Mr. Robertson is primarily working at State Farm Apartments and assists various days at the Simpson County Day Habilitation Program. He provides assistance with taking the individuals on several outings that are scheduled each week. Mr. Robertson works with the elderly/retirement clients, some a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or dementia.

Mr. Robertson was instrumental in organizing the opening of State Farm Apartments in 2005. This ability was a tremendous help with the transferring of several individuals to State Farm. Mr. Robertson was dedicated to ensure our individuals were comfortable in each new apartment.

Several individuals at State Farm Apartments need extra care with certain daily living skills. In fact, there have been several nights Mr. Robertson would get up after his 10:00 p.m. shift and make sure the individuals were safe.

It is an honor to have Mr. Robertson in the community and assisting with the elderly individuals in our program. Mr. Robertson not only takes care of our clients, but he is always assisting the Program Manager with making doctor appointments and transferring our individuals to these appointments. He keeps not only the Program Managers updated on the daily activities but he keeps Mr. Michael Rankin informed as well. Mr. Rankin and the Program Managers are always complementing Mr. Robertson on a job well done.

Mr. Robertson lives in Mt. Olive. His favorite hobby is cooking cakes for the individuals, his friends, and neighbors. He can cook the best pound cake in town. Mr. Robertson is a very hard worker and a dedicated employee. Mr. Robertson is loyal and trustworthy.

In summary, Mr. Robertson demonstrates a very passionate and caring demeanor and takes the initiative to provide an array of opportunities for the elderly indi-



Mr. John Robertson has been selected for the 2012 Alzheimer's Scholarship Award.

viduals he serves. He is exemplary in serving his community and Boswell Regional Center. There is no doubt any agency would be fortunate to have him on their team. Therefore, the Community IDD Services department is honored to recommend Mr. John Robertson for the Alzheimer's scholarship.

Pictured to the right is Kathy Van Cleave, Director of the Division of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia within the state of Mississippi. She conducts a yearly conference focusing on Alzheimer's disease and other related topics. To contact the Division of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia call: (601)867-5000 ext. 75242



Boswell Industries



Pictured is David Tedford, Director of Boswell Industries; Steven Allen, BRC Director; Senator Sally Doty, and R.McGill.

Boswell Industries provides assistance to individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities in achieving employment independence through hands on vocational supervision and training. Each individual served receives an employment training habilitation plan designed specifically to meet his or her unique employment needs, from vocational evaluation, education, guidance and training to job placement assistance and job coaching. Boswell Industries staff works closely with the participants to enable them to reach maximum vocational potential.

Boswell Industries programs are designed to teach and reinforce expected workplace behaviors and skills that assist in preparing individuals for various employment settings. The measures would include meeting their emotional, intellectual, and physical needs without causing disturbance to others in an employment environment. The work training environment is supervised by Boswell Industries personnel who are specially trained to meet the needs of those who are working in this environment. Here the individual has access to social interaction, personal adjustment training and the opportunity to earn industry based wages without the challenge of competition or set schedules of production and demand.

Boswell Industries physical plant facilities for manufacturing, assembly and warehouse are comprised of 31,000 square feet on the main campus; 5,000 square feet at the Brookhaven, Mississippi Division and 13,200 square feet at the new Magee Division. Boswell Industries is currently contracted with five Mississippi based corporations compiling over 25.5 million products shipped from it's facilities this past fiscal year. Products shipped and manufactured include various styles of mailbox post, component assemblies for the electrical manufacturing industry, cardboard box fabrication, mailbox and post assembly packaging, sponge mop assemblies, plastic flatware packaging and numerous component packaging and assemblies for various manufacturers.

The goals of Boswell Industries are to provide optional employment, vocational training and employment placement services for all individuals served and to facilitate the growth and development of those individuals toward the optimum goal of supportive and or competitive employment.



Pictured is Gloria Johnson, BRC Assistant Director; Senator Sally Doty, and Steven Allen, BRC Director

Paint it Purple!

September is World Alzheimer's Month and September 21st is Alzheimer's Action Day. Worldwide, thirty-five million people and their families are affected by Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia. In Mississippi alone, the number of Alzheimer's related deaths were close to 800 in 2007. Across the state, we Paint it Purple for Alzheimer's awareness on September 21st. Boswell joins in the worldwide effort to help bring awareness to this devastating illness.



Paint it Purple!





Mississippi Celebrates National Recovery

Recovery : A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Think Recovery is a collaboration effort between the Mississippi Peer Support Specialist Network and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health

September is national recovery month. Mississippi is joining the nation in celebrating National Recovery Month this September. We are recognizing that recovery from substance abuse and mental health issues is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

To celebrate recovery, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Mississippi Peer Support Specialist Network are launching the public awareness campaign Think Recovery. Over the next 11 months, all DMH certified providers will be encouraged to educate their staff on the 10 + 1 Components of Recovery.

Personal stories of recovery and community integration are highlighted throughout the Think Recovery campaign.

“We all possess the fundamental and inherent value to be accepted and treated with respect and worth,” said Ed LeGrand, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. “We want individuals to restore, rebuild and reclaim control over their lives by increasing their resilience and focusing on their strengths.”

“My struggles are learning experiences that allow me to face my challenges and make a change. Today I am a certified peer specialist for NFusion. This is a huge step for me toward my overall life goal! I’m learning how to be a positive role model for my community. Although I have had a lot go wrong in my life, I see now that I can make some good come from it all. I have a saying that I often use for motivation - ‘Be the change that you wish to see in the world’”. This quote is from Stephen Youngblood, who continues to take daily steps to recovery.

“I was selected for Peer to Peer training, and I would like to pursue helping others through it,” says Carnette Hudson who learned how to help her son who has a mental illness. “Because of my training in Peer to Peer and the success of my situation, I have found I can help others. We have conquered a great portion of life and we did it together.”

The Mississippi Peer Support Specialist Network are first degree family members and/or people living in recovery with mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities that provide support to others who can benefit from their lived experiences.

If you or someone you know is in need of services and supports, call the DMH 24 hours-a-day, 7 days a week at 1-877-210-8513 or visit www.dmh.ms.gov. For more information on Think Recovery, visit www.dmh.ms.gov.

The 10 + 1 Components of Recovery

Self - Direction
Individualized and Person Centered
Empowerment
Holistic
Non-Linear
Strengths-Based
Peer Support
Respect
Responsibility
Hope

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 on campus are:

- **Scrub sales**
- **Jewelry sales**
- **Book Fairs**
- **RADA knives**
- **Donut sales**
- **T-shirt sales**
- **Breakfasts**



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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single | \$5 | Membership Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze | \$25 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends and Family publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver | \$50 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold | \$100 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum | \$500 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
Publicity in local media
Boswell 35th Anniversary cookbook |