

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

Vol. VII • July/August 2018





Job Well Done!

Employees of the Month

Boswell Regional Center's

The Boswell Bulletin is published to inform the public, employees, family members and friends on Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also seeks to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by Boswell's employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Clint Ashley, Director
Kara Kimbrough,
Editor



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ON THE COVER:

Despite dry summer conditions, the old magnolia trees spread throughout Boswell's grounds continue to bloom. The sight of a gorgeous bloom with a little morning dew on it was the perfect start to another hot summer day.



Boswell's Employees of the Month for May were honored during the June directors' meeting, along with Mississippi Adolescent Center's Employee of the Quarter. Each of the winners a \$25 check from Boswell's "Friends and Family Association," a signed certificate and meal coupons to use at area restaurants.



Director Clint Ashley, far left, is pictured with June Employees of the Month, from left: Tamla Holloway, ICF Group Homes; Phyllis Enoch, co-winner-Support/Professional; Stephanie Lee, Campus DSP and Kenya Griffith, Community.



Gerald Payne, left, co-winner of the June Support/Professional Employee of the Month, is pictured with assistant director Cindy Womack, right.



2018 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



Delores Jaynes,

pictured on right,

Received a 10-year Governor's Service Award at the June Director's Meeting from Clint Ashley, left. Delores works in Community Services as a DCA.

Leadership Laurels

"I would like to thank everyone who worked diligently to make sure the transition of the Taylorsville and Bay Springs group homes to Boswell was successful, including **Teresa Windham, Jamie Prine, Lee Middleton and his staff, Bill Blair and his staff, Sonjia Kittrell and her staff and Jennifer Chennault and her staff.**" (from **Cindy Womack**)

"**Tena Sullivan, Jennifer Purvis and Bonita Sullivan** are to be commended for getting all the charts and data regarding the new group homes together. I'd also like to thank the **nurses at the Bay Springs and Taylorsville** homes who helped with the merging process. And, we are happy to have **Jayci Brown** back with us with at Pinelake." (from **Teresa Windham**)

"**Lacey Bourn and Jaylin McDonald** assisted me in working on the 260's that needed to be completed for the new group homes. **Jennifer Gwin and Tracey Sullivan** helped obtain signatures. **Jennifer Chennault** helped transport 260's to the Taylorsville group homes and **Orlando Rankin** is helping with the transitions. Last, thanks to **Ronald Britt and Shan Crumpton** for helping with the SUCCESS grant." (from **Belinda Arrington**)

"**Community staff members** that sat with a SUCCESS individual at the hospital took great care of the patient. In fact, the hospital staff stated that they have never seen a patient being treated so well by staff members." (from **Ashlee Robinson**)

"My **Human Resources staff** has gone above and beyond during the merger and the absence of a staff member, all while attending to their regular duties. They have done everything that needed to be done and not complained once. I really appreciate their dedication to Boswell and those we serve." (from **Suzie Wilder**)

"**Tara Dickerson, Natisha Polk and Denise Brown** helped in a number of ways during the group home merger, including assistance with training objectives." (from **Jamie Prine**)

"**Ricky Grimes and Clint Ashley** were helpful in obtaining information from Ellisville and Hudspeth whenever I needed it. I am very appreciative of their help." (from **Sonjia Kittrell**)

"**Francis Lofton** is now the Supervisor at Oakbrook on 2nd shift and is doing a great job." (from **Will Beeson**)

"I would like to acknowledge the same team Jamie mentioned and also **Denise Brown, Natisha Polk, Angela and Peggy Kelly** for assisting with training objectives." (from **Yolanda Walker**)

"I want to thank everyone that played a part in the transitioning of both the Taylorsville and Bay Springs group homes. I appreciate everyone for the extra efforts they put forth to make this a success." (from **Clint Ashley**)



Spotlight On...



Ronald Britt awarded Mississippi Senate resolution honoring four decades of state service

Pictured with the Senate Resolution honoring Ronald Britt's 40 years of state service are, from left: Clint Ashley, director of Boswell; Cindy Womack, assistant director of Boswell; Rene Brett, bureau director, Mississippi Department of Mental Health; Britt and State Sen. Chris Caughman, who drafted the resolution.

Surrounded by family, co-workers and state officials, Ronald Britt of Magee was honored for 40 years of service to the State of Mississippi and Boswell Regional Center. State Sen. Chris Caughman presented Britt with a framed resolution approved by the Senate in the 2018 legislative session detailing his years of service and dedication to individuals served by Boswell.

In reading excerpts from Senate Concurrent Resolution #611, Caughman said, "In every role in which he has served, Ronald Britt has truly left a lasting and visible impact that has contributed greatly to the immense progress Boswell Regional Center and Mississippi Department of Mental Health have made in helping individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities live more independent, fulfilling lives."

Following the ceremony in downtown Magee, staff members and individuals in the programs supervised by Britt enjoyed a reception in his honor. In attendance were members of Boswell's leadership team and Mississippi Department of Mental Health officials.

Britt, who plans to continue his career at Boswell, joined the center Nov. 21, 1977, after earning an Associate of Arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has served in a variety of roles and worked in numerous Boswell divisions over the years, including physical education, staff development, quality services management, special projects and for the past 22 years, Director of Community Services.



The majority of Community employees were able to attend the ceremony and reception honoring their boss, Ronald Britt, center.



"I wouldn't be here without all of you" – just one of the heartfelt statements Ronald Britt, far right, made while speaking to Boswell employees and over 60 individuals who came to pay tribute to him.



Spotlight On...

More photos from Ronald Britt's reception



Attendees at the reception enjoyed a beautiful cake illustrating Ronald's 40 years at the same job.

Ronald's family including, from left, son Justin, daughter Hillary and grandson Sutton, wife Wanda and his mother Earline surprised him with their attendance at the ceremony and reception. Daughter Amanda and her family live out of state and were not able to attend. Hillary's husband and Justin's family were also unable to attend.



Ronald's directors knew about the surprise event and were able to keep the secret. From left with Ronald, center, are: Ashlee Robinson, Shan Crumpton, Sheri Allen, Kerry Bynum and Kelly Jones.



Grandson Sutton, pictured with his mom Hillary, was ready to sample the cake following the ceremony.



This Month



Bunny Therapy comes to Boswell

Pet therapy isn't new to Boswell – Donna Vella, the therapy dog, is a treasured member of our day services program - but bunny therapy? That's something we hadn't experienced – until recently, that is. Judging from the smiles, laughter and sounds of “Oooh, she's so pretty!” and “Can't I hold the white one next?” – Bundles of Joy, complete with four furry bunnies dressed in costumes, is an experience Boswell's community individuals will never forget.

Describing her rabbits as loving and intelligent, Natalia Williams, owner of Bundles of Joy, or “the bunny lady,” as individuals called her, clearly has a passion for using her rabbits to make others smile.

A resident of Oak Grove near Hattiesburg, Williams is an animal lover who began collecting rabbits along with other pets. She soon realized the rabbits were not only cuddly and cute, but also adaptable enough to allow strangers to hold them and to learn tricks. Williams formed Bundles of Joy and began visiting



Natalia Williams of Bundles of Joy answers questions about the rabbits' eating and sleeping habits while holding Duchess.

nursing homes, senior centers and those with disabilities.

Four of her 10 bunnies – Nala, Kipper, Flash and Duchess – visited Connections, one of Boswell's day programs. Individuals sat quietly, waiting their turn as Williams and her grandmother placed the well-behaved bunnies in their laps for them to cuddle. Afterwards, Duchess, a furry black and white Dutch rabbit, performed tricks like knocking over bowling pins with her nose and jumping through a hoop.

Williams said the “unconditional love” from a bunny enables those with disabilities to feel loved and to reminisce about a time when they had a pet and possibly even a bunny.

For those who attended “bunny therapy,” it was heartwarming to see the joy and smiles appear on the faces of Boswell's individuals as they protectively held the soft,

fluffy bunnies.

Plans are underway for Bundles of Joy to visit Mississippi Adolescent Center in the near future.



This Month

Bunny Therapy Continued





Pastor's Corner



BRO. RUDY JACKSON
Patient Advocate/Chaplain

The Value Of Prayer

The Psalmist said in Ps. 5:3—"In the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up." The famous Hope Diamond, which is located in the Smithsonian Institute, is known of around the world. It is the largest and most perfect blue diamond in existence, boasting 45.52 carats, and having a worth of over 200 million dollars. Though the renown stone is of great value, prayer is much more valuable than the Hope Diamond. Why is prayer so valuable? Here are several reasons.

- I. Prayer Is A Sin Killer- When you really begin to pray, you will either have to give up sinning or give up praying.
- II. Prayer Is A Power Bringer - Read in Acts 2 what happened when the church prayed. The power of God came down upon those believers who were tarrying, waiting for the promise of the Spirit.
- III. Prayer Is A Victory Giver- It is the praying Christian who is the overcomer. Real faith in the heart is expressed in the believer's prayer life. One who has no faith will not pray. So many people and churches are defeated, floundering in their spiritual walk, because of prayerlessness.
- IV. Prayer Is A Holiness Producer- Prayer will result in holy living. You can rest assured, those who pray have a burning desire to live a holy, separate, consecrated, Christ-like life.
- V. Prayer Is An Chain Breaker- If you recall, in the Book of Acts, Peter was in prison. The church was having a prayer meeting for him. The result was that God opened up the prison doors that had him bound and set him free.
- VI. Prayer Is A Christ Revealer- The way we can best reveal Christ in our lives is to stay in close communication and communion with Him. We are to mirror Jesus and dirty mirrors don't give off good reflection.

DMH UPDATE



MS Board of Mental Health names chair and vice-chair, adds new member



Courtney Phillips



Teresa Mosley



Dr. John Montgomery

Mississippi Board of Mental Health recently announced that Courtney Phillips of Indianola was appointed to the board and members Teresa Mosley of Clinton and Dr. John Montgomery of Ocean Springs were named board chair and vice chair respectively.

Phillips is the chief executive officer of South Sunflower County Hospital, which includes Indianola Family Medical Group, Delta Primary Care and Delta Surgical Care. He has 20 years of experience in the healthcare, government and not-for-profit industries. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Delta State University.

Gov. Phil Bryant appointed Mosley to the Board of Mental Health in 2015. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in special education from the University

of Southern Mississippi, while obtaining a minor in psychology. Mosley also has a Master of Education in psychometry from Mississippi College. Suicide and mental health issues have personally affected Mosley's family. She has played a key role in the development of the state's first Suicide Prevention Plan, released in 2016.

Dr. Montgomery was appointed to the board by Gov. Bryant in 2015. He is the medical director for behavioral health at Singing River Health Systems in Jackson County. He earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Florida. He completed a residency in general psychiatry at Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and trained as a Charles E. Steinburg Fellow in psychiatry and the law at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Taylorville, Bay Springs group homes welcomed to the Boswell family



Pictured is one of the two Taylorville group homes that are now part of Boswell. Two other homes are located in Bay Springs.

On July 1, four Ellisville State School group homes were transferred to Boswell Regional Center and are now operated under the center's operations. Two of the group homes are located in Bay Springs and two are in Taylorville.

Director Clint Ashley welcomed all employees to the Boswell family, adding that the transition has been a smooth one.

"We have always had very close ties to Ellisville State School, so adding these four group homes, including the individuals that reside in them, as well as employees that staff them, has been an easy transition," said Ashley. "We look forward to having them as part of Boswell."



100

One Hundred

You're invited to a special celebration
in honor of the 100th birthday of the
MS Tuberculosis Sanatorium,
now Boswell Regional Center

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

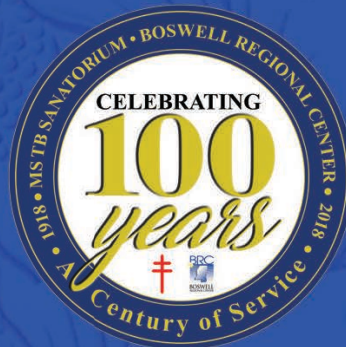
2-4 p.m.

*Special presentation to the
City of Magee: 2:30 p.m.*

Nutritional Services Building

***Bring a small item to place in the 100-year time capsule!**

1049 Simpson Hwy. 149, Magee, MS 601-867-5078



Supporting a Better Tomorrow... One Person at a Time

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities may experience a crisis just like anyone else. A crisis can occur following the loss of a primary caregiver, loss of a permanent home or the temporary need for a structured environment to address challenging behavior.

To help during these times of crisis, in 2014 DMH established six out-of-home crisis beds as part of the community in the Magee area. These beds are operated by Boswell Regional Center. Since March 2014, 93 people have been served in these short-term stabilization beds. People reside in homes with 24/7 coverage and receive treatment and socialization tailored to their needs. People may remain in the program as long as necessary; however, the ultimate goal is to return them to their homes or appropriate community setting within 90 days.

COLLABORATION
PEOPLE COMMUNITY
INNOVATION AWARENESS
EXCELLENCE
COMMITMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
INTEGRITY
RESPECT

