



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

Spring Issue

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All one has to do is walk outside into the sunny, yet cool days to realize that the spring season is upon us. The spring of the year is a favorite season for many people, including myself, and it is certainly easy to understand why. The Spring is when the earth comes back to life after a long cold winter. It is in the spring when the first flowers begin to bloom and the green world begins to return after its winter slumber.

This time of year is one of planning future events for our individuals that will get them outside and active in the upcoming months. Our recreation and expressive arts divisions already have full calendars planned, so it is sure to be an exciting time for all involved. Speaking of expressive arts, featured on the front page are two individuals whose artwork received recognition at a recent event.



Their art was showcased in the VSA/Goodwill Art Exhibit at the Arts Center of Mississippi. BRC is proud to announce that these two artists were awarded Honorable Mentions for their work and will each receive a check for \$50.00.

The exhibit is to showcase the work of artists with disabilities in the State of Mississippi. There were entries from State Hospital and Mustard Seed as well as from schools and the community. All the artwork was excellent. Remember that not all of the artists have an intellectual disability but may have a physical disability instead. Congratulations to all involved.

We are all looking forward to what the next few months will bring and I think we are all pleased to announce that spring has sprung!



Raymond Johnson

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

has deep historical roots and an unparalleled record of service to the people of this area and of the state as a whole. We are thoroughly integrated into, and we are an integral part of, the economic and social fabric of our neighboring communities. The effectiveness of our service to our clients is self-evident.

It is a pleasure for me to report in this issue that we are making good headway in establishing the Sanatorium Museum. As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press, we are gathering, cleaning, cataloging, and preparing items, artifacts, photos, and documents for display. The museum will be housed in Building 14.

Recently, I announced my upcoming retirement on June 30, 2012. I have enjoyed my years at BRC and the opportunity to work with our wonderful staff. I will miss the BRC and DMH family but I am excited to begin doing retirement things. We all have bucket lists, and I have mine too. I believe that now is the time for me to do all of the things I have dreamed of most of my life. I look forward to the upcoming of spring, working on my house, doing yard work, taking a few much needed trips to various places, watching the butterflies swarm the flowers with my beautiful wife Diane, and enjoying outdoor events and outings with family and friends. Further, I am looking forward to the next few months and the opportunity to sit back and watch all of the exciting changes and opportunities that will occur for BRC in the near future.

Remember to thank God for all of the seasons and the many blessings from Him each day. And in this, my last Director's column, I hope that you will enjoy the upcoming months and this spring edition of the BRC Bulletin.

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Bulletin. Can you believe spring is approaching? Flowers are blooming already as the sunshine treats us to summer like warmth. The yellows, oranges, and browns of winter are giving place to the greens of spring. Soon the scarves, jackets, and boots will be pushed to the back of the closet and sun shades, visors, and floral print will appear.

As everyone around here begins to succumb to "spring fever," this edition brings to you images of the fast flying holidays and reports on wintertime events that have taken place around Boswell Regional Center. We at BRC have enjoyed such activities as parties, cook-outs, tours, visits from local colleges, Friends and Family meetings, a visit from the Smith County Career Center, blood drive, Health Fair, Scrub Sale, National Red Day, Valentine's Day Ball and an Etiquette luncheon at Copiah Lincoln Community College in Wesson, MS.

Everyone is aware of the talk about the Department of Justice actions that are impacting on facilities such as ours. Be sure that we are acting *proactively* to secure the future of BRC. Subsequent issues of the Bulletin will report on related projects that are being carried out now. We here at BRC have many strengths to call upon. This facility, first as the Sanatorium, now as the Boswell Regional Center

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
Suzie Wilder, Editor
Kathy Pittman, Photographer

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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Sidewalk and Bridge Project enhances BRC

Boswell Regional Center is a very beautiful campus and it is common to see individuals and staff alike walking from building to building and place to place. Recently, with the help of the DFA, Bureau of Buildings and Grounds, we received funding to build new ADA compliant sidewalks and a bridge. While the new construction has added aesthetically to the campus, it has also made it safer and easier for our individuals to walk from place to place. According to Craig Kittrell, Maintenance Director,

“sidewalks are one of the most common pieces of transportation infrastructure, yet if not accessible, they can pose great challenges and danger to anyone in a wheelchair or with crutches.” The ADA standards that have been incorporated into the newly constructed sidewalks have made it easier for client use. The sidewalks are six feet in width, meet slope requirements with the use of ramps, and have a detectable warning device before intersections.

The wellness committee for BRC recommended that the sidewalks have mile markers placed into the cement every one-tenth of a mile. The markers will enable our individuals and staff to record how far they have walked. The sidewalks have helped to create a safe and healthier environment. After all, walking is a low cost way to support regular, physical activity to assist in decreasing the risk of chronic health conditions in both our individuals and employees.



“The new ADA compliant bridge and sidewalks at BRC are a tremendous hit with the individuals. This project was completed at just the right season of the year and the individuals can be seen walking daily to and fro about campus. We are very grateful to the State of MS and the MS Bureau of Building for funding this project.”

**Mr. Raymond Johnson,
Facility Director**



A lot of work went into this new project. Pictured at left is the demolition of the old sidewalk. Pictured at the right one can see the bridge being lowered into place.



BRC is proud of your accomplishments

In today's society, there are many dishonest people. One could ask, if I were having a bad financial month and I found a purse full of money, would I return it? Some would say absolutely yes, while others would have to think for a minute. Well, Tommy did find a purse full of money and he did not have to think for one minute about what he would do. He immediately turned the purse over to a staff person so it could be returned to its' rightful owner. The best part of this story is that the purse belonged to another individual who did not even realize it had been lost. When her purse was returned to her, she was very thankful and happy! Unit Administrator Will Beeson stated that "I know it has taken her several months to save the \$45.00 that was in her purse. For her purse to be returned, in fact, is very impressive." Congratulations Tommy on your honesty and willingness to be a good citizen.



LC industries is the largest employer of persons that are blind. BRC has quite a few individuals who are employed through LC Industries and they do a great job. LC industries representatives Mr. Jeff Easterling, Plant Manager and Ms. Marlene Cockrell, Assistant Plant Manager visited the Brookhaven division of Vocational Services to show their appreciation for a job well done.

Two individuals were given service year pins and also received embroidered shirts. Individuals were treated to refreshments provided by LC Industries. BRC is very proud to have such dedicated individuals working hard and earning their pay.

Walmart announces employee of the month

Boswell Regional Center has approximately 33 individuals employed by Walmart. We appreciate the opportunity that the store has given our individuals to work while performing a very valuable service to Walmart. Our individuals look forward to going to work and do not like to miss even for a special occasion.

Chris is one of those exceptional employees. Walmart showed their appreciation for his fine work by awarding him the employee of the month. He was given a plaque for his exceptional attendance and work product. Congratulations Chris on a job well done!



Christmas 2011 at Boswell Regional Center



Dancing the night away.....The Annual ICF/MR Community Services Division's Christmas party was held on December 15, 2011. The event was hosted by Goodwater/Morton Group Homes and took place at Copiah Lincoln Community College, Magee MS. location. The individuals enjoyed the food, fellowship and party atmosphere. Music was provided by Mr. Greg Barnes. Special guest included Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Johnson, Ms. Gloria Johnson and Ms. Kathy Pittman. A special thank you goes out to the staff of the ICF/MR Community Services Division and Boswell Regional Center for participating in making this event a great success.



Everyone looks forward to Christmas for many reasons: Jesus' birthday, time with family, time off from work, good food, etc. But there's another reason why some of the Community IDD Services individuals who live at Broadhead Apartments, Mendenhall Retirement, and State Farm look forward to Christmas—the annual Priority One Christmas party.

Charlene Lloyd and Priority One Bank have been celebrating Christmas with these individuals since 2003 and it is truly a blessing to witness. Charlene and her elves start preparing for this annual party in November by requesting a list of what the individuals want from Santa. But, the individuals began thinking of the annual party and what they want from Santa much earlier. They let their wants be known to all the bank employees when they complete their weekly banking transactions.



The presents are great and appreciated, but they are just part of the party. Priority One treats the individuals to dinner with personalized place mats, before Santa and his elves make their appearance. All the individuals have their picture taken with Santa. After the presents are opened and pictures taken, some of the individuals entertain the guest by singing their favorite songs. The evening always ends with everyone singing Christmas Carols. There is not a doubt in my mind that this was a time enjoyed by all.

Celebrating in Style...



Each year our individuals look forward to the annual Valentines Day Ball. This year, as in the past, we celebrated in style. The men were keenly dressed and the ladies looked beautiful in their party dresses. We have our clothing coordinator to thank for her hard work in making sure our individuals are dressed well. The food was wonderful with thanks for the great job of our nutritional services division. There was a tasty array of food for everyone to enjoy at the party. The Ball was a hit with everyone who attended.



The Valentine's Day Ball is a great time for socializing, dancing, and enjoying some good food and times with friends.



On March 15th, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a day of green shamrock hats, green beads, dancing and fun. Everyone enjoyed spinach and artichoke rangoons, green sugar cookies and green punch.

Of course, both of these events were a success because of the dedicated staff at BRC. They work diligently to ensure that our individuals have a great time at these events. Thank you to everyone who was involved behind the scenes to make both of these events times to remember.



Pictured at left are our very dedicated staff who make these events happen. I think you would agree, by the smiles on their faces, they enjoy making our individuals parties big hits.

“The individuals all had a wonderful time and enjoyed spending time with their friends. Events like the Valentine dance provides our individuals the opportunity to socialize and interact with their peers. They are looking forward to the next social event.”

Gloria Johnson, Assistant Facility Director



The Sweet and Calming Voice of BRC



A few years ago, lightning struck the Nutritional Services Building and wreaked havoc on our telephone system. Our system was old and we had a difficult time getting the proper replacement parts to bring our phones back on line. We somehow managed to repair the system and our phones were up and running again. However, it was only a little while until we were notified, by the Department of Information and Technology, that our phone software was obsolete and it would have to be upgraded. The decision was made to purchase the new software.

And so here we are, our new system is up and running. With the new software, we had the opportunity to have a recorded greeting and an automated system of transferring calls. The next dilemma was who would be the new “voice” of BRC. It is not hard to believe that the first name that came to everyone’s mind was Ms. Janice Cockrell. She has the sweetest voice on campus. Ms. Cockrell was contacted and asked if she would be willing to record the “phone tree” for our new system.

Now, with the system up and running, everyone is pleased with the voice on the line directing callers to their desired contact. When asked, Janice had this to say about the experience. “ It took me a while to get over the initial shock when Mr. Jeff Martin informed me that I had been chosen to be the voice for the new phone system. In fact, I thought Ms. Dovie Hall was kidding me when she gave me the message that Mr. Martin had called. Even though I was totally shocked, I was also very honored. During the process I didn’t start off being nervous, however, after we had to restart several times, I did start getting a little nervous. Mr. Jeff Martin and Mr. Steve Allen were there to cheer me on and were very helpful during the process as was the phone attendant. I actually think I was making them nervous because I believe Mr. Martin had started to notice the time it was taking and the hourly wage the phone company was charging”. “ It was a very exciting time and I am very honored to have been chosen to be the voice of BRC. “



"My sister Joyce Windham also made sure I had a bottle of water in case I got thirsty because she knew I probably would have to repeat myself several times."

Janice Cockrell

Organization Award for Energy Efficiency/Management

Boswell Regional Center believes in being a good steward of the State of Mississippi's funding for our facility. That is why our maintenance director, Mr. Craig Kittrell began a project to help assist in not only saving money on our electricity bill, but also to assist in reaching the global environmental targets and reduce our carbon footprint.

As part of the Federal ARRA funding, energy auditing and retro-commissioning were performed on the main campus. The appraisal was performed to search for ways to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and to ensure that all systems were functioning properly and efficiently. Inspections included baseline energy modeling and functional testing of chillers, boilers, air handling units, fan coil units, split DX systems and lighting. As a result of the analysis and audit, BRC was presented with the (ARRA) Energy Conservation Measures Award by the Mississippi Development Authority Energy Division and the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property. Throughout the year, BRC also performs an array of in house energy measures. Many thanks go to Craig for his hard work and dedication to this facility. Congratulations Craig and BRC!

“Craig has been very instrumental in reducing the utility costs by 23% since 2005. He is well respected throughout the state in this area and has been asked to present at the upcoming Energy Conference on the coast later this year. Craig understands that every dollar saved on utilities is a dollar that will be used to better the lives of those we serve.”

Steven Allen, Assistant Facility Director



Pictured above is Betty Norman, Director of the Mississippi Development Authority Energy Division and Craig Kittrell, Director of Maintenance for BRC.



Boswell Welcomes a Very Distinguished Visitor

John Donovan and Caryn Zucker are co-authoring a new book, *Autism's First Child*. The star of the book is named Donald T. and he resides in Forest Mississippi. Throughout their research, the co-authors discovered that Donald spent a year in the old preventorium on BRC's campus when he was just three years old.

Not much was known about Autism 67 years ago, so Donald's parents were looking for answers to their child's unknown disorder. That is one reason they placed him in the preventorium. When John and Caryn discovered that Donald spent a year here when he was three, Mr. Donovan contacted BRC and asked if he could visit the campus. He wanted to get a feel of where Donald was housed.

The two authors visited the campus and were guided on a tour by Vocational Services Director, David Tedford, and Human Resources Director, Suzie Wilder. Both authors were very impressed by Mr. Tedford's vast knowledge of the grounds and of the preventorium. You see, David grew up right next to the grounds and had many stories to tell about the children of the San, as he referred to them. Mr. Donovan and Ms. Zucker were thrilled with the knowledge that they attained when they made their visit.



John Donovan is a correspondent for ABC News "Nightline" based in Washington D.C., and was an occasional substitute for former anchor Ted Koppel. Caryn Zucker is a television producer and the mother of a teenager with autism. Along with John Donovan, she has been collecting forgotten stories of autism for a book.

"Our visit here brings everything that we were thinking about Donald's time at the preventorium together, now the pieces fit. Thank you so much for the tour and the southern hospitality that was provided to us during our visit."

John Donovan



Pictured above from left to right: Caryn Zucker, John Donovan and David Tedford.

Boswell Regional Center is on the Heritage Trail

Through a project developed by the Simpson County Development Association the grounds of what used to be known as Sanatorium, Mississippi are placed on the Heritage Trail. Each stop along the trail is of historic significance to Simpson County, showcasing points of interest and facts about the origins of the county.

The trail will follow old highway 49 through the county with stops along the trail at sites in Braxton, D'Lo, Mendenhall, Weathersby, Harrisville, Pinola/Westville, Sanatorium, and Magee. Each site will have a permanent, weatherproof sign detailing the community, historical, and cultural events. Magee, as the southern terminus, and Braxton as the northern, will have additional information about the trail.

BRC is proud to be a part of this trail and we look forward to citizens and tourists learning about the historic significance of what used to be known as Sanatorium, Mississippi.

The next time your out and about and have some time to experience the history of our county, I suggest that each of you take the opportunity to visit the Heritage Trail.



Sanatorium Museum

Boswell Regional Center has a rich history that will be shared with the community through a museum. Currently, with the assistance of Richard Rankin, we are working on putting the museum together by indexing and referencing each item of memorabilia that will be placed in the museum. The items that will be showcased are photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia from the preventorium and the tuberculosis hospital. The hospital was in operation from 1918 until 1976, when it was turned over to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and became known as Boswell Retardation Center. The name was later changed to Boswell Regional Center.

Mr. Rankin is working diligently to get the museum up and running. It is also going to be of major significance because the museum will be visited by persons on the heritage trail. Stay tuned for the grand opening!



“In the near future Boswell Regional Center will open the MS State Sanatorium Museum. We are excited about this opportunity to furnish information and display items pertaining to the San’s past I hope you will join us for the grand opening on a date to be announced later.”

**Raymond Johnson ,
Facility Director**



In and Around Boswell

Everyone enjoys being recognized for their hard work and dedication to their jobs. Our individuals are no exception to that rule. Assistant Director, Ms. Gloria Johnson, decided that not only BRC staff should be recognized at our Director's meeting, but, also our hard working individuals. So, during the last meeting, these very deserving individuals were given service awards. Their years of service to BRC ranged from 1 to 6 years of dedicated service to this facility. Thanks for a job well done!!



Private instrumental lessons are one of the new expressive arts programs currently offered at BRC. Piano, guitar, recorder and voice lessons are taught weekly by Jacob Ware, Claire Bevell and Jarrod Lee.

Lessons and practice times are scheduled to fit in with the students' daily/weekly schedule of work and classes. Some students are learning to read music and all of them are enjoying making music of their very own.

Pictured at left, is expressive arts director, Ms. Claire Bevell teaching an individual how to play the piano.

As we all know, education is a lifelong process. I am sure that each of these graduates from the CSM/CPM program can certainly attest to that. The CPM program is administered by the Mississippi State Personnel Board and is a nationally accredited program. The average time to complete the program is two years.

This graduating class of December 2011, is the largest class that we have graduated at BRC thus far. As a big proponent of the program, I know exactly what each of these employees went through to attain their certifications.

Congratulations Class!



In Remembrance....



Sheri Suggs
Unit 2

Being long remembered
They are hanging from my soul,
They are with our Heavenly Father now,
Alas! They are finally whole.

The fear, the pain, the suffering
Has finally gone away.
The tears that fell like rain,
Are replaced with sunny days.

Oh what a joyous feeling
To know you're safely home.
Your soul is free in heaven
And with the Angels there you roam.

Rest in Peace Sheri and Iva
You will be missed.



Iva Hilton
Education



CHAPLAINS' CORNER



From an and old clipping here is the way the news of Waterloo arrived in England. There were no telegrams or telephones in those days of course, but every one knew that

Wellington was facing Napoleon in a great battle, and that the future of England was in great uncertainty. A sailing ship (Semaphored) signaled with coded flags the news to the signalman on top of Winchester Cathedral. He signaled to another man on a hill and thus news of the battle was relayed by the ship from station to station to London and all across the land. The first signal was the word (Wellington) and the next word was (defeated) and then a fog came down and the ship could not be seen. "Wellington defeated" went across the countryside and great gloom fell on the hearts of the people. After two or three hours the fog lifted, and the signal came again (Wellington defeated the enemy.) Then all England rejoiced.

There was a similar battle some two thousand years ago, when on the eve before Passover, Jesus, who is called the Christ was crucified and put into a grave and the message went out (" Christ defeated.") There was much gloom on the part of those who loved Christ and much joy in the hearts of His enemies. But three days latter THE FOG LIFTED!!!!

Christ Defeated Death

1Cor 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Please don't go through two thousand twelve as if the fog did not lift.

He is ALIVE!!!



Many Thanks to our Friends and Family Sponsors for your Generous Donations.

Boswell Regional Center

BRC's Friends and Family Association is a non-profit all volunteer organization that works to ensure BRC individuals are valued and loved. All monies received from memberships are donated to the organization to purchase items for the individuals served by BRC. For more information on how you can become a member of this worthwhile association, please contact:

Kathy Pittman
Public Relations
601-867-5000 ext 75021

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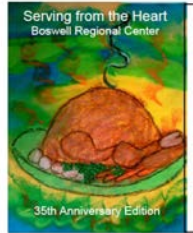
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Purchase a 35th Anniversary Boswell cookbook today!



Featuring over 225 delicious recipes & artwork created by Boswell individuals

This is a hard covered, binder cookbook and priced at only \$15!

To purchase a cookbook contact: Kathy Pittman at 601-867-5000 ext 75021

Proceeds will benefit BRC's Friends & Family Association

Upcoming Events

April 6, 2012– Good Friday Service in the Auditorium at 10:00 a.m..
April 27, 2012– Relay for life.
April 30, 2012– Holiday– Confederate Memorial Day cookout.
May 4, 2012– Awards day and Friends and Family meeting at 9:00 a.m..
May 10, 2012– Torch Run Green Park at 1:00 p.m..
May 11-14, 2012– Special Olympics: Keesler Summer Games
May 18, 2012– Spring Fling

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 individuals' quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.

