



Boswell Regional Center's BULLETIN

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Director's Column

Raymond Johnson

As the new year begins at Boswell, we want to acknowledge what a wonderful year we had in 2006 and thank our dedicated and devoted employees for all that they did to serve our individuals.

One of the ways in which we try to show our appreciation is by recognizing an employee of the month in the areas of Community MR/DD, Community ICF/MR and Residential Living. Then during the first part of the next year after each area selects a top employee, one of those fine employees is chosen to stand out among them as Employee of the Year.

The 2006 Employee of the Year is Jackie Motley. Jackie is a Direct Care Worker Advanced at the Wesson Group Home. She's been employed with BRC for over nine years. She has gone the extra mile a number of times for the individuals there. You can read more about this outstanding employee on page 3 of this

newsletter.

Also recognized in their areas as top employees were: Dorothy Moore (Community MR/DD) and Dinah Walker (Residential Living).

We are so fortunate at Boswell to have the caliber of people that we have working for us. There are many who go above and beyond the call of duty each day in working with the individuals that we serve.

It is through the efforts of our employees that we are able to continue building on the programs that we already have in place and initiating new programs to better assist the individuals that are in our care.

Another outstanding employee was honored recently. Susan Butler, Director of Nursing. She received the Nursing Administrator of the Year Award from the Mississippi Nurses Association. Susan, we are proud of you!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ed LeGrand on his appointment as Executive Director for the Department of Mental Health which became effective Jan. 1.

We look forward to his leadership and to the opportunities we have to make each day better and brighter in the lives of all of us at Boswell.

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COVER PHOTO



Jackie Motley was named employee of the year for 2006 and was recognized during the Employee of the Year Banquet held March 2nd. She is pictured here with Ed LeGrand, Executive Director, Department of Mental Health.

Motley named 2006 Employee of Year

Jackie Merchant Motley was named 2006 Overall Employee of the Year for Boswell Regional Center during the March 2, 2007 banquet.

Jackie was presented with a plaque and a \$100 savings bond from BRC's Friends & Family Association. As Employee of the Year she will also receive her own personalized parking sign at the parking place of her choosing, have the opportunity to participate in the annual American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference in the fall and a trip to the Arts Fair, scheduled to be held in Brookhaven in September.

Jackie is employed as a Direct Care Worker Advanced at the Wesson Group Homes. She has been employed with Boswell for over 9 years.

Boswell Director Raymond Johnson read the nomination form submitted by Daniel Britt, Director of the Wesson ICF/MR Group Homes, in its entirety as he presented the award to Jackie.

Some of the examples of Jackie's going above the call of duty included the fact that



Pictured at the 2006 Employee of the Year Banquet are, from left: Ed LeGrand, Executive Director, Department of Mental Health; Dinah Walker, Overall Employee of the Year for Residential Living; Beatrice Mikell, Employee of the Year for 2nd Shift, Residential Living; Jackie Motley, Employee of the Year; Dorothy Moore, overall Employee of the Year for Community MR/DD; Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director, BRC and Raymond Johnson, Director of Boswell Regional Center. Not pictured: Karen Roberson, Employee of the Year for 3rd Shift, Residential Living.

she works on Thanksgiving and Christmas to give other staff the opportunity to spend time with their families. During these holidays, she takes extra time to prepare traditional dishes for the individuals to ensure that they have the special days that they deserve.

Jackie is active in her church and her community. She uses her love of baking to minister to the shut ins in her community by taking food when she visits.

Also honored during the banquet were Dorothy Moore, overall winner for Community MR/DD and Dinah Walker, overall winner for Residential Living.

In the area of Residential Living, Dinah was the Employee of the Year for 1st Shift with Beatrice Mikell receiving the honor of 2nd Shift Employee of the Year and Karen Roberson was recognized as 3rd Shift Employee of the Year.

Butler named 2007 Nurse Administrator of Year

Boswell employee Susan Butler was named 2007 Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Mississippi Nurses Association during their annual Nightingale Awards ceremonies held in Jackson on January 29, 2007.

“Years ago, in 1991, Boswell Regional Center and the Department of Mental Health allowed me to participate in the Educational Leave program which marked the beginning of my nursing career, Butler said. “Throughout the years, Boswell has been supportive of me as I further pursued Certification in Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and CPM (Certified Public Manager’s Program).”



Pictured above is Boswell employee Susan Butler, Director of Nursing, at left, who was named 2007 Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Mississippi Nurses Association and Joyce Keen, at right, who was nominated for Nurse Mentor of the Year.

Butler added, “I greatly appreciate all the support I have received over the years and feel like Boswell is a ‘home’ away from home.”



Boswell flags flew at half mast in honor of the late president Gerald R. Ford who was buried on Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

Ford died Dec. 26, 2006; he was 93 years old. Ford was the 38th President and was the only president and vice president never to be elected to those offices, having replaced Vice President Spiro Agnew in 1973 and then President Nixon in 1974 after their resignations. Although he was never elected to the presidency, Ford is attributed by some historians with restoring dignity to White House after the Watergate scandal.

What to do if You Suspect a Gas Leak



In its normal state, natural gas is colorless and odorless, so companies add a distinctive odor, such as the smell of rotten eggs or a skunk to ensure that even the smallest of leaks are easy to detect.

Natural gas requires an adequate amount of oxygen to burn properly. If the oxygen supply is restricted, an excessive amount of soot or ash will be produced and the danger of carbon

One way to tell if enough oxygen is being produced is by checking the color of the flame. A pilot light should be about 90 percent blue. Also check for excessive ash or soot around a pilot light opening or air ducts, lengthy warm up times and strange noises or odors.

If any odor is detected, immediately have everyone leave the area. Don't stop to open windows and don't touch anything that might create a spark, such as a light, telephone or cell phone. If possible, stay away from carpeted areas to avoid sparks of static electricity. Do not try to find the source of the leak yourself.

Boswell employees at each facility have procedures in place to contact the proper personnel in case of this type of emergency.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

When conditions aren't right, natural gas won't combust completely, giving off deadly fumes of carbon monoxide.

Be aware of the following that could cause this condition:

- Boxes or other materials could block the area restricting oxygen flow.
- Vent hoods, pipes or flues can become blocked, cracked or corroded, cutting off oxygen.
- Installation or adjustments may interfere with oxygen flow.
- Improper use can cause oxygen levels to decrease.

When breathed in, carbon monoxide enters the bloodstream and depletes oxygen from the blood cells. When exposed for a long period of time, it can cause brain damage or even death.

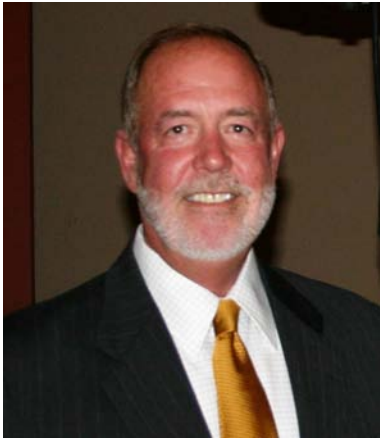
Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- **Headache**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Dizziness or disorientation**
- **Muscle weakness or fatigue**
- **Difficulty waking**

If these flu-like symptoms are not accompanied by fever or if the symptoms disappear when you leave the area, this could be an indication there is a Carbon Monoxide problem.

Always be aware of signs around you that may indicate a gas leak. If you think there is a possible gas leak, contact help immediately.

LeGrand Takes DMH Helm as Executive Director



Ed LeGrand

Mr. Edwin C. “Ed” LeGrand was been appointed by the Mississippi State Board of Mental Health as Executive Director of Mental Health effective Jan. 1.

Mr. LeGrand has been serving in the capacity of Deputy Director of the DMH. He has also served as Chief of the Bureau of Mental Retardation since 1995 and was the Director of the Hudspeth Regional Center from 1982-1995.

He began his career with the DMH in 1974 at North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford, where he served in various positions, including Personnel Director/Assistant Director and Director of the Education Department. He received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Ole

Miss while working as a Direct Care Worker at NMRC.

Mr. LeGrand currently serves as an officer for the Mississippi Certified Public Managers Society and is an advisory board member of the Certified Public Managers Program. He is a graduate of the Stennis Institute of Government and is a licensed DMH Mental Health Administrator. He was elected by his colleagues in state government as the State Agency Representative on the Board of the Mississippi Public Employees’ Retirement System. He and his wife, Shelly, live in Rankin County; they have three children and three grandchildren.

“We congratulate Mr. LeGrand as he makes this transition to the position of Executive Director. He has been an advocate for mental retardation and we have appreciated his leadership in this area,” Raymond Johnson, Director of Boswell Regional Center, said.

Boswell applauds Mr. LeGrand on his appointment as Executive Director of DMH and looks forward to working under his leadership in the years to come.



Congratulations to the three Boswell employees who received certificates from the Certified Public Manager Program in Jackson. Pictured above at CPM graduation ceremonies are, from left, Susan Butler, Director of Nursing, BRC; Dr. Randy Hendrix; Ronald Britt, Director of Community MR/DD Services; Jeff Martin, Director of Business Services; and Raymond Johnson, BRC Director. Britt received his Certificate in Supervisory Management (CSM), while Butler and Martin were awarded the Certificate in Public Management (CPM).

Highlights and Happenings at Boswell Regional Center



Boswell hosted a Retirement Reception in December to honor Dr. Randy Hendrix, who officially retires from the Department of Mental Health in April 2007. A large crowd gathered to wish Dr. Hendrix well. He was presented with a plaque and a bag of BRC memorabilia. He gave a very moving address to those present. Dr. Hendrix is pictured at left greeting Boswell employee Joyce Jones.

Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day was held at the State Capitol in Jackson on March 7th in conjunction with MR/DD Month. Pictured at right is Senator Nolan Mettetal and Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director, Boswell, standing in front of BRC's display in the Rotunda at the Capitol. The display featured Community Living and depicted this year's theme of "Focus on What I Can Do."



Students involved in the Leadership Program through the Simpson County Development Foundation visited Boswell in February. These students, pictured at left, are in the top five percent of their class at their respective schools which include Magee High School, Mendenhall High School and Simpson Academy. After an enjoyable lunch, they visited with Vocational Services Director David Tedford and toured the Work Activity Center.



In Memoriam

The BRC flag flew at half mast in memory of those we lost:

Boswell mourned the loss of retired employee Steve Kennedy, 56, on Jan. 12, 2007. At the time of his retirement, Steve was employed in the Staff Development Department.

Services were held on Jan. 26, 2007 for Wilma Marie Batson, a former employee of BRC. She retired November 10, 2006.

The BRC family grieved the loss of Rose Doris "Dottie" White on Jan. 31, 2007. Services were held on Feb. 7th.

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