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Coalition of Texans with Disabilities [1977-1978]

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November 1978

Approximately one million Texans are disabled by physical, mental, and/or emotional impairments. That these people, despite their different disabilities encounter similar problems is the central conviction from which the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities emerged. The first task of CTD is to bring together people and organizations which in the past have scarcely talked to each other, much less cooperated closely on common issues. Communication, cooperation and coordination are goals of the Coalition. A united front is necessary to obtain such goals as improved education, expanded rehabilitation services, accessible housing, effective transportation, civil rights, enhanced employment, consumer participation, and integration into the mainstream of Texas life. CTD is striving to build a model which enhances its members interests while channeling their resources and which involves disabled and non-disabled individuals and organizations of and for disabled persons in a joint effort. The building of this broad constituency facilitates representation of disabled Texans to the government, the private sector, and the general public.

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is an organization of organizations. It brings together statewide and local organizations representing various different disability groups as well as individuals interested in the work of the Coalition. At the annual CTD Delegate Council representatives of member organizations and individual members unite to determine overall policies of the Coalition and to elect officers and board members. The Board of Directors of CTD meets quarterly to further define CTD's policies. Qualification for membership is explained in the attached form. CTD's strength lies in its organizational and individual members. Through them CTD offers a ready resource to programs and activities seeking to serve disabled people and to provide a convenient link of Texas organizations of and for disabled individuals. As a state-wide consumer-based organization, the Coalition requires active participation from its members. Consumer involvement itself is an important goal of CTD and the channel through which CTD attempts to help disabled Texans to help themselves. Come join with us in this higher quality of life for Texans with disabilities.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

Whereas:

Cross-disability cooperation is both a goal to be achieved and an instrument of tactical value, and;

Whereas:

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is a cross-disability coalition concerned with full access to all civil rights for all citizens

Therefore Be it Resolved:

That the attached document establishes a foundation and platform of Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, from which future specific issues and activities will be developed and undertaken.

Submitted by Lee Kitchens
Date: 10/1/78
And Approved Unanimously by the
 Delegate Assembly

Overview

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF 1977 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Basically, this proposal calls for legislative action in Texas in 1979 that is coordinated with and supportive of Federal action to make a reality of the implementation plan that has been developed in response to the major findings and recommendations resulting from the 1977 White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

To a large degree, the recommended national improvement contains features that have for some time been in place in Texas or that were called for following the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

Twelve centrally important basic areas are addressed. These include:

1. An integral part of the planning process for the programs that address issues concerning disabled Texans shall be a system of meaningful consumer input beginning in the development stages and containing throughout the implementation of such programs.
2. Investigate the feasibility of a state-wide advocacy system for all disabilities. This can be accomplished by expanding existing advocacy systems or establishment of a new system which includes all disabilities.
3. Reaffirmation of state policies concerning handicapped individuals.
4. More adequate support and financing for state agencies whose sole focus is upon services to handicapped individuals (e.g., Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Commission for the Blind, Commission for the Deaf, and Department of Mental Health-Mental Retardation, Department of Human Resources).
5. Reduction of architectural and environmental barriers.
6. Promotion of public awareness and acceptance.
7. Improvements in social services, expanded recreation opportunities, and broadened cultural experiences
8. New, improved and more meaningful employment opportunities for handicapped individuals
9. More adequate and more relevant transportation services; and
10. Housing services responsive to individual needs and consistent with the principle that handicapped individuals should live in their least restrictive living alternatives.

11. Effort to implement existing legislation.
12. Full access to the civil rights of all citizens in the voting process through the elimination of architectural, attitudinal, communication and bureaucratic barriers.

CENTRAL STATE-WIDE COORDINATING MECHANISM

Basic functions of a State-wide Mechanism should include:

- a. information and referral service
- b. general advocacy and ombudsmanship
- c. coordinaton of the direct service effort of other organizations, to assure more effective use of available resources and improved service outcomes or impacts
- d. objective evaluation and independent reporting on the performance of organizations legally responsible for providing direct services, so as to assure greater accountability
- e. general leadership in the stimulation of public information effort in behalf of individuals with severe disabilities
- f. assuring meaningful input by individuals with severe disabilities in processes of policy formulation and execution on matters vitally affecting their daily lives -- to be accomplished through methods that include, but are not restricted to, annual regional conferences of individuals with disabilities followed by an annual state meeting

REAFFIRMATION OF STATE POLICY

The Texas Legislature should reaffirm previously declared state policies concerning individuals with disabilities. This redeclaration of state policy should recognize the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, respect their individuality and human potential, commit the state to progressive service programs that tend to ensure that individuals with disabilities, achieve their potential more fully, and otherwise encourage individuals with disabilities to participate fully and adequately in the daily lives of the communities in which they live.

EFFECTIVE GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING LEGISLATION

The Texas Legislature should take effective action to ensure the better execution and administration of landmark legislation that has already been passed, in which the basic rights of individuals with disabilities are declared and protected.

The following legislative processes should be used to advance this basic objective:

1. Legislative oversight, to include the testimony of representatives of state agencies before the proper committees of the two houses of the Texas Legislature
2. Refinement and strengthening of existing state laws
3. Via the appropriations process

Specific areas for priority by emphasis in this effort should include:

- a. Improved state compliance with Title V of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, with Article 4419e (state statute forbidding discrimination against individuals with disabilities); Article 678g (requiring public buildings in Texas to be barrier free), and related state laws
- b. P.L. 94-142 and A.B. 1673 (concerning educational rights of disabled children and youth) and
- c. housing and transportation services

IMPROVED FUNDING FOR STATE AGENCIES THAT HAVE AS THEIR SOLE FOCUS SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Because of current funding problems confronting direct service agencies, many individuals with disabilities currently are not being served at all, or are being served inadequately, or one receiving inappropriate services.

During the next session, the Texas Legislature should make adequate and responsible levels of financial support available for those state agencies organized for the sole purpose of serving individuals with disabilities. Those agencies include the proposed state-wide advocacy system, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, The State Commission for the Blind, the Texas Commission for the Deaf, and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Not only should state funding for established programs such as vocational rehabilitation be improved, but the appropriations process also should ensure that the state is in a position to move forward rapidly and substantially in implementing new programs currently being approved by the congress, such as the independent living rehabilitation program.

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS

The state's committment of the establishment of a barrier free environment for individuals with disabilities must be strengthened. More adequate administration and tighter enforcement of state law requiring public buildings and facilities to be fully accessable are essential. Through legislation a state comparable to the soon-to-be strengthened federal Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board should be established in Texas. State Organizations such as the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and Texas Commission for the Blind should be heavily involved in administration of the statutes. Accessibility issues should not be simplistically restricted to such matters as building design; instead, particularly in-so-far as public buildings are concerned, the issue of accessibility should be extended to such things as whether or not the building site is safely and conveniently accessible for handicapped individuals who rely upon public transportation. Elected public officials in Texas should vigorously oppose the ill-advised effort currently being exerted in some circles nationally to obtain a moratorium on the implementation of recent laws requiring the reduction of architectural and other barriers.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE

An intensive and effective program of public information dissemination needs to be launched, in order that elected public officials, other policymakers and the general public become better informed and more sensitized to the problems and potential of individuals with disabilities.

Throughout the public information campaign, appropriate emphasis needs to be placed upon the economic and human waste that results when proper and relevant services are unavailable, inadequate or not extended on a timely basis.

This public information effort should be generally spearheaded by the State-wide Advocacy System.

IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

In close coordination with any related effort to be initiated at the national level, the Texas Legislature give careful consideration to proposals that tend to improve the quality of the daily lives of individuals with disabilities.

Some of the specific actions that should be taken involve the following:

1. The Title XX program of social services should be legislatively assessed and addressed to bring about greater recognition of and provision for individuals with disabilities, with attention to such specifics as --
 - a. group eligibility on the basis of disabling condition, with eligibility for Title XX social services for individuals with disabilities not being conditioned upon narrow economic criteria;
 - b. legislative action to assure a more equitable allocation of Title XX funds for pertinent specialized services to individuals with disabilities; and
 - c. greater accountability on the part of agencies involved with the Title XX program of social services.
2. The improved use of volunteers should be investigated, and improved liaison should be established with individuals employed in such areas as public recreation services, management of cultural resources, etc.
3. A major lead in this particular initiative should be assumed by the proposed State-wide Advocacy System.

EMPLOYMENT

More adequate and meaningful career opportunities must be made available for individuals with disabilities.

9 In part, this should be accomplished through renewed effort and improved resources on the part of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the State Commission for the Blind.

To a degree, this general objective also should be facilitated through the tightening of existing laws, through more effective administration of existing laws, and through a public information effort that reduces attitudinal barriers.

Specific areas do, however, need to be addressed.

For example, the Texas Legislature should establish programs and priorities which ensure a continuum of educational opportunities tailored to needs of disabled persons regardless of age and which enable such persons to achieve their maximum potential, whether it is education of self in order to promote healthful, enjoyable living, or whether it is vocational in order to increase options for becoming economically independent.

Other specific action steps should include, but not be limited to:

1. revision of job descriptions for public service positions, so as to eliminate archaic and unnecessary barriers to public service employment on the part of individuals with disabilities;
2. modernization of standards and procedures used by the state merit system; and
3. aggressive administration of affirmative action programs for individuals with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION

In Texas, individuals with disabilities are confronted with special transportation problems. The state does not have a well designed policy on public transportation services. To the extent that improved transportation services for handicapped individuals have been achieved in the state, such improvements have primarily resulted from local initiative fragmentedly and isolatedly exerted at the communication level.

Education, health, employment and related services for individuals with disabilities are of marginal value if there is no accessible transportation system between the individual and the service. Public transportation systems are of little value if not accessible by individuals with disabilities.

In concept with related federal effort, a meaningful and comprehensive state policy needs to be formulated relative to this problem. Once the policy is formulated, administrative responsibility for its execution must be clearly and appropriately pinpointed.

HOUSING

A comprehensive state policy on housing services for individuals remains to be legislatively articulated in Texas. During the next session, this should be done by the Texas Legislature.

The right of individuals to live and receive services in least restrictive and culturally oriented environments should be emphasized in the policy declaration.

Independent living, and support of alternative living arrangements must be treated as a compelling necessity.

There should be the legislative devinition of a basic goal of providing living places in communities with adequate support and rehabilitative services -- all promoting integration into normal living situations.

COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

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THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL CTD CON-
VENTION HELD SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 1, 1978 AT THE EL TROPICANA
HOTEL IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Pat Found welcomed everybody to the first CTD meeting.

Larry Johnson introduced Representative Henry B. Gonzales of San Antonio.

Representative Gonzales:

"Thank you very much, Larry...or should I say Mr. Johnson. We'll get real formal. I feel as if we know each other pretty well because, as he said, he did give me the pleasure of seeing him in Washington. It is always a treat to have a friendly San Antonio presence in Washington. We get visitors but never seem to get enough...at least to satisfy me. We had a very nice visit and I think some of the problems we all confront in common were very well discussed. And then we had a chance to intercede as we should because you have this tremendous governmental structure and to most people it is an impersonal thing and the citizen tends to get lost and unless you have some means... This is why this office of representative is so critical, so crucial, to our society. You know it is a prime constitutional office. What I mean by that is: it is one of the few that is provided in the constitution itself. But of all the legislative branch, I consider it the most critical because the people who wrote the constitution wanted it that way... for good reason. You know the only way to become a representative is to get elected by the people. You can't be appointed. Now, a U.S. Senator can be appointed if there is a vacancy for any reason. A Governor can appoint a U.S. Senator during the interim but never a member of the House. A representative can be a representative only by virtue of an election...an open election by the people in that particular district. And the reason is there because this is the office that has to be accessible to the people. As I've always said, it should be as accessible as the telephone and when it isn't then it isn't functioning. And it's pretty difficult to say you're going to try to represent...as our district presently turns out to be on an average of a half million citizens...it's not an easy task and it takes a lot more than so many even students of government realize in the way of help...staff help and so forth.

"But I think the important thing is that we realize that, at least in my book, everybody is important all the time...not just the powerful; not just the privileged; but everybody...and not just during election time but all the time. Everybody's important. (At least that's the way I feel it is....and this is the way it has to be reflected in the office and this is the way the staff has to reflect or there's not going to be staff members for long in the 20th district office.

"I would just like to say a very few things I've prepared because in anticipation of this meeting...and I wanted to thank you to begin with for thinking of me. I particularly would like to thank Mr. Johnson. I'm sure were it not for him probably I wouldn't. It's a privilege. We're in an area in which when it come to legislation, whether it's on the local, state or national level, you have to make a special effort. When I first went to the State Senate 21 Years ago, I found about 33% of my legislative plans were based on what I considered to be...I couldn't see how anybody could debate the need for legislation effecting the blind. At that time you had a very different, you had a primitive set up and to my surprise, I found that it was difficult to find anybody else willing to co-sponsor the bill. Why? Because in our system it is turning out to be that we have government by pressure groups. This is one reason why I wanted to congratulate you for forming this specific...what I would call...a task force. It's long overdue. And I've discovered that you had to have a very special interest and I couldn't even get a sub-committee hearing on my bill and it was a minor thing. It was really to bring long delayed justice in handling then the partially existing state programs. Finally after the first three months, I got a hearing and then the rules changed and it was harder to get the bill...and then the sub-committee called a meeting and said they would have to call the Director of Public Welfare (that's what they called it then). To my astonishment, the Director came in and opposed the bill. Well that killed it right there you know. I was a freshman Senator...Here was the powerful Director and he say 'no' the State of Texas can't afford to have this. I was flabbergasted! Well, I thought maybe I misinterpreted my bill so I sought a personal audience with him and discovered that actually it was a matter of policy. Unless the Department came in and requested legislation they would resist anybody else coming in with legislation. Well, let me make a long story short. I finally got the bill but it took 4 years...and it really was a minor change. So this is the thing you meet and now on the national level things have, I think, improved tremendously. There is an awareness and this is what I wanted to say: (Nobody has to tell you this) Historically, the handicapped have been out-of-sight, out-of-mind. Public consciousness of the handicapped was limited more or less to an occasional glimpse of a blind person with a dog; a street beggar asking for alms; or perhaps a pencil seller. For years this was our common notion of handicapped.

There are countries in which begging is a profession and in which that is the profession of the handicapped. But that is not a profession of honor as the common accepted word is understood even in those countries...and I think least of all in America. Here I think we have finally provided a little bit of help. We have provided a little bit of sympathy and we have most of all an averted eye to the handicapped. You know you're there but really we don't want to know - but I think things are changing...

I know they have changed! And you're part of the change and, as I have said, I congratulate you for forming this particular group. I think that it is essential under our system.

"Today, in Washington, we have a new subway system for example. It's a several billion dollar system. The station platforms are designed for use by the blind. Smooth tile structures tell you where it is safe - rough stone borders tell you where the platform edge is. There are elevators for the chair-borne...and the subway car doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs...and there are no stairs to negotiate. At the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, where I'll be finding myself in about 2 hours, you can find information signs in braille in elevators and elsewhere. You can get around if you're chair-borne or if you're blind. And in every city in America the corner curbs are being cut down for ramps to accommodate wheelchairs.

"Bus systems are being required to provide real service to the handicapped. Now, some of the bus provisions, I hope to be the author of some of the amendments because I sit on the committee that used to have jurisdiction of mass transit legislation and when we had the first mass-transit legislation of any consequence, I was the one who authored the particular provision that got into the law and remained in subsequent enactments.

"Colleges are being required to widen their doors and eliminate other barriers and construction under federal program grants. Again I think I had a hand in that.

"All across the land barriers are coming down...and for the first time opportunity is replacing charity...but this has not been accidental. The elevators on the Washington subway were not put in until a Federal judge ordered it and actually enjoined the use of any station that did not provide access to the handicapped. It took a lawsuit! It wasn't done voluntarily. The judge ruled, in effect, that if a public transportation system could not serve all the people who supported it, it couldn't serve any of them at all... and of course he was right.

Barrier-free design has been talked about for decades but did not become a real priority until it became literally a legal necessity. And even though we provide these clauses in the law, nobody ever really enforced them for years because the first provision I spoke about awhile ago...I put in about some 14 years ago...it was either 1963 or '64. I think 1964... '63 we had the first mass-transit bill. It got no place but it was in '64 that we finally had a little push and then I'm sure the first amendment was put on.

"Access to even so basic a thing as adequate educational opportunity - the provision fo special programs at special facilities- is only now achieving the status of a legal right.

"There is one simple reason for all of this: The handicapped people of America began to speak up for themselves. Handicapped people lost their patience and found their votes. First class citizens are the only kind of citizens in this country. That may not be a total reality but we can surely make it a total commitment...and it is only in that spirit that I feel we welcome each other this morning.

"You're here because you know that opportunity comes to those who seek it. You made the rest of us sensitive; you have made us provide what we should have provided all along; and you know how very much there remains to be done. You're not going to be asking for anything that you're not entitled to in my opinion. Access to public places, barrier-free designs, sensible aids, reasonable and adequate programs: All these things that mean opportunity. This is the land of opportunity for you as well as for me but only if your rights are respected and upheld. I wish you well and success and God-speed in your coming deliberations and in your future actions. And thank you for the privilege of sharing a few minutes with you. Thank you very much."

Pat pound introduces Ray Vaughn (TRC) and Bert Risley (TCB). Bert Risley said a few words:

- 1.) He commended Henry B. Gonzales
- 2.) He commended the people involved in the Texas White House Conference.
- 3.) Organization is the best way to affect change.
- 4.) Training facilities, service delivery
- 5.) He introduced Preston Arnold, Director of Client Assistance, TCB.

Carol Simon, Department of Human Resources was introduced.

The Keynote speaker, Mr. Joe Veiz, was introduced.

Joe Veiz:

- 1.) Member of the ACCD Board of Directors
- 2.) Past President - Florida Council of Organizations
- 3.) Chairman of the Spinal Cord Advisory Council
- 4.) Registered lobbyist in the Florida Legislature.

The following is an outline of Joe Veiz's Speech.

Topic: Why-How-What a Coalition

Why a Coalition

- 1.) Access - Do as a coalition what is impossible as an individual.
- 2.) Representation -
 - a.) Different groups - Each need to be consulted on each decision - one voice.
 - b.) Cross-disability
- 3.) Consensus - One voice speaking for different wants.

Goals of A Coalition

- 1.) Must be agreed on by groups in coalition.
- 2.) Coherent
- 3.) Simple
- 4.) Implemental

How a Coalition

- 1.) Individual decisions are different in each state
- 2.) Leadership - Understand cross-disability coalition and the needs of different groups.
- 3.) Common concern
- 4.) Joint action

Forming a Coalition

- 1.) By-laws
- 2.) Resolution of conflict while each group keeps its identity.
- 3.) Each disability group must be involved in planning with no one dominant.
- 4.) Communications - Groups must perceive what is being done.
- 5.) Accountability

Maintenance of the Coalition

- 1.) Issues need to be seen collectively.
- 2.) Autonomy of groups
- 3.) Staff
 - a.) Funding
 - b.) Volunteers
 - c.) Staff must represent coalition
 - d.) Staff and Boards must be coordinated
- 4.) Patterns of cooperation between disability groups.

Question-and-Answer session was held after Veiz's speech.
Points brought out during the session:

- 1.) Establish credibility
- 2.) Funding sources
 - a.) Grants
 - b.) Membership
 - c.) All groups contribute something
- 3.) Disabled most effective spokesperson - Don't discriminate against able-bodied - Impact.

- 4.) Individuals can join in Florida - No vote
Groups of Individuals can join.
- 5.) Leader should not go off in a direction that body
has not approved.
- 6.) Response time for communications must be specified.

The following is a composite of issues that individuals would like to see CTD address during the next year:

- Housing for urban and rural areas
- Greater accessibility
- More availability of communication assistance for the deaf.
- Advocacy training for disabled Texans.
- Raise the allowable income level for assistance from vocational rehabilitational agencies.
- Education
- Leisure
- Concern about Proposition 13 fever.
- Employment
- Captioned TV for the deaf
- Public relations, success stories about persons with disabilities.
- Review of existing legislation and the enforcement procedures therein.
- Implementation of Title V of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Making the voting process more accessible for disabled Texans.

THE REMAINDER OF THE PROCEEDINGS WILL FOLLOW IN A FUTURE MAILING.

REMINDER: To remain on the CTD mailing list we request that you become a member of the organization. Printing and mailing costs require us to make this request at this time.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved:

That CTD supports their members in the Corpus Christi area in their effort to expand and to gain access to the beaches and other recreational facilities.

Submitted by:
Bob Kafka

October 1, 1978

Approved unanimously by
the Delegate Assembly



THE COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to cross-disability communication, cooperation, and coordination. The Coalition promotes the social, educational, physical and mental well-being of disabled Texans. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities brings together people and organizations with similar goals in a united effort to represent all disabled Texans to government, the private sector, and the general public. Membership in the Coalition enables organizations and individuals to enhance their effectiveness in improving the quality of life for Texans with disabilities.

FOUR CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE AVAILABLE:

State organization members are non-profit organizations composed primarily of persons with disabilities and their adherents; have chapters in at least two cities; are not regional chapters of a state organization having membership in CTD. Dues are \$50.00 annually.

Local organization members are non-profit organizations composed primarily of persons with disabilities and their adherents; are not a chapter of a state organization having membership in CTD. Dues are \$25.00 annually.

Associate members are organizations wishing to support the work of CTD but which do not meet the above qualifications for state or local organizations. Dues are \$75.00 annually.

Individual members are persons wishing to support the work of CTD. Dues are \$5.00 annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact a CTD officer or board member listed on the reverse side.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
(Organization or Individual)

Address _____

Name of contact person for organization _____

Membership category applied for:

/ State / Local

/ Associate / Individual

Please complete organization information on the reverse side. Thank you.

MAIL APPLICATION & DUES TO:

CTD
Atten: Bob Kafka
3217 Montrose
Suite 112
Houston, Tx 77006

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Estimated membership _____
Estimated percentage of membership with disabilities _____
Does the organization have non-profit status? _____
Is the organization a chapter of a state organization? _____
If yes, what organization? _____
Does the organization have chapters in at least two cities? _____
Is the organization a regional or local chapter of a state
organization? _____ If yes, what organization? _____

Statement of organizational purpose: _____

CTD OFFICERS

President: Pat Pound
11511 Fast Horse
Austin, Tx 78759
512-345-4981

Vice-Pres.: Lee Kitchens
25 Canyon View
Route 2
Ransom Canyon
Slaton, Tx 79364
806-829-2180

Secretary: Bob Kafka
3217 Montrose
Suite 112
Houston, Tx 77006
713-526-1952

Treasurer: Don Culwell
2502 Waterford
San Antonio, Tx 78217
512-824-8618

CTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Evans
13710 Syracuse
San Antonio, Tx 78249
512-696-2815

Larry Gardner
5535 2nd Street
Lubbock, Tx 79416
806-792-9674

Edward Jenkins
4903 Wichita Circle
El Paso, Tx 79904
915-757-1744

Larry Johnson
8502 Ahern Apt. 201
San Antonio, Tx 78216
512-342-0756

Tom Morrison
4654 Cedar Lane
Dallas, Tx 75211
214-330-8524

Virginia Roberts
1810 Vallejo
Austin, Tx 78757
512-459-6654



THE COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to cross-disability communication, cooperation, and coordination. The Coalition promotes the social, educational, physical and mental well-being of disabled Texans. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities brings together people and organizations with similar goals in a united effort to represent all disabled Texans to government, the private sector, and the general public. Membership in the Coalition enables organizations and individuals to enhance their effectiveness in improving the quality of life for Texans with disabilities.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION _____

Name _____
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Address _____

Name of contact person for organization _____

Membership catagory applied for:

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/ Associate / Individual

Please complete organization information on the reverse side. Thank you.

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ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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1810 Vallejo
Austin, Tx 78757
512-459-6654

1000

BYLAWS

Article I Name

The name of this corporation is the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities herein after referred to as the Coalition.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of the Coalition is to promote the social, educational, physical and mental well being of Texans with disabilities.

Article III Membership

The Coalition shall be composed of four classes of membership:

- A. State organizational members shall be consumer organizations which:
 - 1. Consist primarily of persons with physical and/or mental disabilities and their adherents.
 - 2. Have chapters in at least two cities.
 - 3. Are not regional or local chapters of a state organizational member.
 - 4. Are non-profit organizations.
 - 5. Have Purposes similar to those of the Coalition. Dues for a state organizational member shall be \$50. annually.
- B. Local Organizational members shall be consumer organizations which:
 - 1. Consist primarily of persons with physical and/or mental disabilities and their adherents.
 - 2. Not a chapter of a state organizational member.
 - 3. Are non-profit organizations.
 - 4. Have purposes similar to the Coalition. Dues for a local organizational member shall be \$25. annually.
- C. Individual members shall be persons who are interested in supporting the work of the Coalition. Dues for individual member shall be \$5. annually. Individual memberships shall be effective upon payment of dues.

Article IV Delegates' Council

- A. **Powers:** The Delegates' Council shall have the responsibility for the following: approve and terminate membership as set forth in Article III, approve the annual budget, elect Board members, elect Coalition officers and establish policies of the Coalition.
- B. **Number:** The Delegates' Council shall consist of delegates who are representatives of either State or Local Organizational members, or individual members.
1. Each Organizational member shall choose, in whatever manner it so desires, its delegate and alternate delegate to serve for a one-year term.
 2. Prior to the Delegate Council, ten or more individual members may caucus and elect one delegate and one alternate who shall have one vote at the Delegates' Council. All organizational members and individual member caucuses shall communicate in writing the names of their delegates and alternates to the Secretary not less than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting of the Delegates' Council.
- C. **Representation of Organizational Member Delegates:**
1. **Term:** Organization member Delegates shall be appointed for a one year term.
 2. **Vacancy:** A vacancy among the organizational member Delegates shall be filled for the unexpired term by the organizational member.
 3. **Removal:** A Delegate may be removed from the Delegates' Council at any time with or without cause by the organizational member that the Delegate represents. A delegate can be removed for cause, and after due process, by a 2/3's vote of the Delegates' Council.
- D. **Voting:** Members of the Coalition shall be assigned the following voting privileges:
1. State Organizational Member - five votes -
 2. Local Organizational member - three votes
 3. Individual members shall have voting privileges as set forth in Section B of this Article.

There shall be no voting by proxy allowed at the annual Delegates' Council. All voting shall be open and recorded and shall otherwise follow the standard Roberts Rules of Order, Revised except that when upon approval

of a 2/3's vote of the Delegates' Council voting may be by secret ballot.

- E. Quorum: A majority of the voting members of the Delegates' Council shall constitute a quorum and unless otherwise provided the vote of the majority of the Delegate votes present and voting at any meeting shall be required for action by the Delegates' Council.

Article V Board of Directors

- A. Composition: The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the Coalition, the President who shall be chairperson, the immediate Past President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and six members of the Board who shall be elected by a vote of the Delegates' Council from a slate presented by the nominating committee.
- B. Term: The term for officers shall be for one year. The term for Board members shall be for two years, except for the first year, where the Board members elected to even numbered positions shall be elected for only one year.
- C. Power: The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management of the business and affairs of the Coalition as delegated by the Delegates' Council during the interval between Council meetings exercising all powers of the Delegates' Council within the policies established by that body. The Board shall when necessary have the power to establish policies consistent with the Delegates' Council except that it shall not commit the Coalition to any expenditures in excess of the approved budget. The Board of Directors may pole the Delegates' Council for the Delegates' Council direction. The Chairperson of the Board shall report on actions of the Board to the Delegates' Council.
- D. Meetings: Quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President. Notice of the Board meetings must be given at least fourteen days prior to the holding of that meeting. Emergency meetings of the Board may be called by the President upon request of any three members.
- E. Dismissal: Any member of the Board who fails to attend any two Board meetings within each calendar year of his/her term shall be reviewed by the Board for dismissal. The Board shall be empowered to act in accordance with the results of said review. The Board members shall be notified

D. Associate members shall be organizations with an interest in persons with disabilities but which do not meet the qualifications of state or local organizational membership or an organization which wishes to support the work of the Coalition (Dues for associate members shall be \$75. annually.)

E. All applications for membership other than individual membership shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for action. An application membership other than for individual membership shall be submitted to no less than 2/3's of Board of Directors and must be approved by the majority of the Board of Directors present and voting. Membership after acceptance by the Board of Directors shall be effective upon payment of dues. All memberships approved by the Board of Directors shall be reported to the Delegates' Council at its next meeting. All membership applications must be accompanied by a check for payment of dues which, if application is not approved, will be returned. Applications for individual membership shall be accepted by the Secretary who shall periodically report to the Board of Directors the number of such members.

F. Membership status shall cease when:

1. A member no longer meets the requirements for membership as set forth in this Article and determined by a 2/3's vote of the Board of Directors.
2. Membership of any member may be terminated when that member acts contrary to the purposes of the Coalition. The concerned member shall be afforded due process and can only be removed thereafter by a 2/3's vote of the Delegates' Council.
3. A member may resign from the Coalition upon written notice and return of all property belonging to the Coalition. This property should be returned to the Board.

in writing via certified mail of said action at least 30 days before the next Board meeting when as the first order of business a fair hearing will be held. The results of the Board's action shall be submitted to the Delegates' Council.

Article VI Officers

- A. Designation: The officers of the Coalition shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary who shall be elected from a slate presented by the nominating committee and additional nominations from the floor at the Delegates' Council assembled. Officers shall be voting members of the Coalition. The President and Vice-President shall also be persons with disabilities. The President shall not be eligible for more than two consecutive terms except under such circumstances as outlined in Section B below. All terms of office shall commence upon election or designation and acceptance shall continue until their successors are elected regardless of other restrictions in these by-laws.
- B. Vacancy: A vacancy in any office or Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired term of the office except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President..
- C. Removal: Any officer elected by the Delegates' Council may be removed from office with cause after due process by a vote of 2/3's of the entire Delegates' whenever in its sole judgment the best interests of the Coalition will be served thereby.
- D. President: The President shall be the principal officer of the Coalition, the Delegates' Council, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, voting only in case of a tie, and official spokesperson of the Coalition. The President shall be an Ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Delegates' Council and the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for making an annual report to the Delegates' Council on the affairs of the Coalition.
- E. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall have such duties as the Board of Directors shall see fit to assign, and shall serve in the absence of the President.
- F. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be the chief fiscal officer of the Coalition and shall disburse the funds of the Coalition

as directed by the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall render, in an annual report to the Delegates' Council an accurate accounting of all fiscal transactions of the Coalition during that year. Further the treasurer will provide an accurate accounting of fiscal transactions to all appropriate local, State and Federal governmental bodies required.

- G. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend and keep accurate records of all meetings of the Delegates' Council and the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to the Coalition as requested by the President.

Article VII Meetings

There shall be no less than one regular Delegates' Council meeting within the fiscal year. Notice of regular meetings of the Delegates' Council given at least one month prior to the date of the meeting. Emergency meetings of the Delegates' Council shall be called by the President upon request of 2/3's of the Board members or a majority of the Delegates' Council.

Article VIII Committees

With the exception of the Nominating Committee the President shall appoint whatever committees are necessary to conduct the business of the Coalition. The Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors and will have responsibility for preparing a slate to be presented to the Delegates' Council by mail no less than one month prior to the annual meeting.

Article IX Dissolution of the Coalition

The Coalition may be dissolved by the affirmative vote of 2/3's of the full voting membership at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Upon dissolution of the corporation any assets remaining will be distributed to a nonprofit organization having similar purposes and chosen by the Delegates' Council.

Article X Finance

- A. Ownership: All assets and funds of the Coalition shall be owned exclusively by the Coalition.
- B. Primary Support: The Coalition will seek financial support from both public and private sources in addition to its dues revenue.
- C. Additional Support: The Board of Directors acting for the Coalition may accept gifts, grants or contracts and may make contracts in connection with its operation.

Article XI Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the Coalition shall be from October 1 through September 30th of the following year.

Article XII Amendment Procedure

These bylaws may be adopted by a majority vote of those in attendance at the first Delegates' Council and may be amended thereafter by a 2/3's vote of the assembled Delegates' Council. A proposed amendment must be mailed and postmarked to the members at least one month prior to the meeting of the Delegates' Council.

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

Whereas:

Cross-disability cooperation is both a goal to be achieved and an instrument of tactical value, and;

Whereas:

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is a cross-disability coalition concerned with full access to all civil rights for all citizens

Therefore Be it Resolved:

That the attached document establishes a foundation and platform of Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, from which future specific issues and activities will be developed and undertaken.

Submitted by Lee Kitchens
Date: 10/1/78
And Approved Unanimously by the
 Delegate Assembly

Overview

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF 1977 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Basically, this proposal calls for legislative action in Texas in 1979 that is coordinated with and supportive of Federal action to make a reality of the implementation plan that has been developed in response to the major findings and recommendations resulting from the 1977 White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

To a large degree, the recommended national improvement contains features that have for some time been in place in Texas or that were called for following the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

Twelve centrally important basic areas are addressed. These include:

1. An integral part of the planning process for the programs that address issues concerning disabled Texans shall be a system of meaningful consumer input beginning in the development stages and containing throughout the implementation of such programs.
2. Investigate the feasibility of a state-wide advocacy system for all disabilities. This can be accomplished by expanding existing advocacy systems or establishment of a new system which includes all disabilities.
3. Reaffirmation of state policies concerning handicapped individuals.
4. More adequate support and financing for state agencies whose sole focus is upon services to handicapped individuals (e.g., Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Commission for the Blind, Commission for the Deaf, and Department of Mental Health-Mental Retardation, Department of Human Resources).
5. Reduction of architectural and environmental barriers.
6. Promotion of public awareness and acceptance.
7. Improvements in social services, expanded recreation opportunities, and broadened cultural experiences
8. New, improved and more meaningful employment opportunities for handicapped individuals
9. More adequate and more relevant transportation services; and
10. Housing services responsive to individual needs and consistent with the principle that handicapped individuals should live in their least restrictive living alternatives.

11. Effort to implement existing legislation.
12. Full access to the civil rights of all citizens in the voting process through the elimination of architectural, attitudinal, communication and bureaucratic barriers.

CENTRAL STATE-WIDE COORDINATING MECHANISM

Basic functions of a State-wide Mechanism should include:

- a. information and referral service
- b. general advocacy and ombudsmanship
- c. coordination of the direct service effort of other organizations, to assure more effective use of available resources and improved service outcomes or impacts
- d. objective evaluation and independent reporting on the performance of organizations legally responsible for providing direct services, so as to assure greater accountability
- e. general leadership in the stimulation of public information effort in behalf of individuals with severe disabilities
- f. assuring meaningful input by individuals with severe disabilities in processes of policy formulation and execution on matters vitally affecting their daily lives -- to be accomplished through methods that include, but are not restricted to, annual regional conferences of individuals with disabilities followed by an annual state meeting

REAFFIRMATION OF STATE POLICY

The Texas Legislature should reaffirm previously declared state policies concerning individuals with disabilities. This redeclaration of state policy should recognize the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, respect their individuality and human potential, commit the state to progressive service programs that tend to ensure that individuals with disabilities, achieve their potential more fully, and otherwise encourage individuals with disabilities to participate fully and adequately in the daily lives of the communities in which they live.

EFFECTIVE GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING LEGISLATION

The Texas Legislature should take effective action to ensure the better execution and administration of landmark legislation that has already been passed, in which the basic rights of individuals with disabilities are declared and protected.

The following legislative processes should be used to advance this basic objective:

1. Legislative oversight, to include the testimony of representatives of state agencies before the proper committees of the two houses of the Texas Legislature
2. Refinement and strengthening of existing state laws
3. Via the appropriations process

Specific areas for priority by emphasis in this effort should include:

- a. Improved state compliance with Title V of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, with Article 4419e (state statute forbidding discrimination against individuals with disabilities); Article 678g (requiring public buildings in Texas to be barrier free), and related state laws
- b. P.L. 94-142 and A.B. 1673 (concerning educational rights of disabled children and youth) and
- c. housing and transportation services

IMPROVED FUNDING FOR STATE AGENCIES THAT
HAVE AS THEIR SOLE FOCUS SERVICES TO
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Because of current funding problems confronting direct service agencies, many individuals with disabilities currently are not being served at all, or are being served inadequately, or are receiving inappropriate services.

During the next session, the Texas Legislature should make adequate and responsible levels of financial support available for those state agencies organized for the sole purpose of serving individuals with disabilities. Those agencies include the proposed state-wide advocacy system, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, The State Commission for the Blind, the Texas Commission for the Deaf, and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Not only should state funding for established programs such as vocational rehabilitation be improved, but the appropriations process also should ensure that the state is in a position to move forward rapidly and substantially in implementing new programs currently being approved by the congress, such as the independent living rehabilitation program.

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS

The state's commitment of the establishment of a barrier free environment for individuals with disabilities must be strengthened. More adequate administration and tighter enforcement of state law requiring public buildings and facilities to be fully accessible are essential. Through legislation a state comparable to the soon-to-be strengthened federal Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board should be established in Texas. State Organizations such as the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and Texas Commission for the Blind should be heavily involved in administration of the statutes. Accessibility issues should not be simplistically restricted to such matters as building design; instead, particularly in-so-far as public buildings are concerned, the issue of accessibility should be extended to such things as whether or not the building site is safely and conveniently accessible for handicapped individuals who rely upon public transportation. Elected public officials in Texas should vigorously oppose the ill-advised effort currently being exerted in some circles nationally to obtain a moratorium on the implementation of recent laws requiring the reduction of architectural and other barriers.

EMPLOYMENT

More adequate and meaningful career opportunities must be made available for individuals with disabilities.

In part, this should be accomplished through renewed effort and improved resources on the part of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the State Commission for the Blind.

To a degree, this general objective also should be facilitated through the tightening of existing laws, through more effective administration of existing laws, and through a public information effort that reduces attitudinal barriers.

Specific areas do, however, need to be addressed.

For example, the Texas Legislature should establish programs and priorities which ensure a continuum of educational opportunities tailored to needs of disabled persons regardless of age and which enable such persons to achieve their maximum potential, whether it is education of self in order to promote healthful, enjoyable living, or whether it is vocational in order to increase options for becoming economically independent.

Other specific action steps should include, but not be limited to:

1. revision of job descriptions for public service positions, so as to eliminate archaic and unnecessary barriers to public service employment on the part of individuals with disabilities;
2. modernization of standards and procedures used by the state merit system; and
3. aggressive administration of affirmative action programs for individuals with disabilities.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE

An intensive and effective program of public information dissemination needs to be launched, in order that elected public officials, other policymakers and the general public become better informed and more sensitized to the problems and potential of individuals with disabilities.

Throughout the public information campaign, appropriate emphasis needs to be placed upon the economic and human waste that results when proper and relevant services are unavailable, inadequate or not extended on a timely basis.

This public information effort should be generally spearheaded by the State-wide Advocacy System.

IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

In close coordination with any related effort to be initiated at the national level, the Texas Legislature give careful consideration to proposals that tend to improve the quality of the daily lives of individuals with disabilities.

Some of the specific actions that should be taken involve the following:

1. The Title XX program of social services should be legislatively assessed and addressed to bring about greater recognition of and provision for individuals with disabilities, with attention to such specifics as --
 - a. group eligibility on the basis of disabling condition, with eligibility for Title XX social services for individuals with disabilities not being conditioned upon narrow economic criteria;
 - b. legislative action to assure a more equitable allocation of Title XX funds for pertinent specialized services to individuals with disabilities; and
 - c. greater accountability on the part of agencies involved with the Title XX program of social services.
2. The improved use of volunteers should be investigated, and improved liaison should be established with individuals employed in such areas as public recreation services, management of cultural resources, etc.
3. A major lead in this particular initiative should be assumed by the proposed State-wide Advocacy System.

TRANSPORTATION

In Texas, individuals with disabilities are confronted with special transportation problems. The state does not have a well designed policy on public transportation services. To the extent that improved transportation services for handicapped individuals have been achieved in the state, such improvements have primarily resulted from local initiative fragmentedly and isolatedly exerted at the communication level.

Education, health, employment and related services for individuals with disabilities are of marginal value if there is no accessible transportation system between the individual and the service. Public transportation systems are of little value if not accessible by individuals with disabilities.

In concept with related federal effort, a meaningful and comprehensive state policy needs to be formulated relative to this problem. Once the policy is formulated, administrative responsibility for its execution must be clearly and appropriately pinpointed.

HOUSING

A comprehensive state policy on housing services for individuals remains to be legislatively articulated in Texas. During the next session, this should be done by the Texas Legislature.

The right of individuals to live and receive services in least restrictive and culturally oriented environments should be emphasized in the policy declaration.

Independent living, and support of alternative living arrangements must be treated as a compelling necessity.

There should be the legislative devinition of a basic goal of providing living places in communities with adequate support and rehabilitative services -- all promoting integration into normal living situations.

PHONE NUMBERS (PARTIAL LISTING)
TEXAS COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>AREA CODE</u>	<u>OFFICE PHONE</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>
ELLIOTT, STEPHEN	HOUSTON	713		464-1455
EVANS, LARRY	SAN ANTONIO	512	661-8243	TTY
FETTER, BUFFY	DALLAS	214	746-3297	327-0845
FLORES, MARGIE	EL PASO	915	747-5438	772-1696
FLYNN, BILL	AUSTIN	512	471-4161	474-5259
GEYER, BOB	HOUSTON	713	522-3955	661-5707
GOLDEN, MARILYN	HOUSTON	713	529-1421 529-1422	529-9023
GONZALEZ, ORLANDO	EL PASO	915	562-3308	566-3425
JOHNSON, LARRY	SAN ANTONIO	512	349-5127	344-0925
KITCHENS, LEE	RICHARDSON	214	238-5591	231-1728
MOORE, MIKE	AUSTIN	512	475-2492	TTY
POUND, PAT	AUSTIN	512	454-4721	345-4981
ROBERTS, ELAINE	AUSTIN	512	441-8244	477-6515
STEWART, DEBORAH	HOUSTON	713	661-2053 X304 323-2476 X31 PAGER	669-0263
WHITE, RALPH	AUSTIN	512	447-0294	TTY

Margie Flores
223 North Concepcion
El Paso, Tx 79905

Sonny Contreras
4313 Yolanda
Corpus Christi, Tx 78416

George Partin
Route 1
Tuscola, Tx 79562

Martha Arbuckle
6215 Brookside
Austin, Tx

Curtis McKee
Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center
4800 North Lamar
Austin, Tx 78756

Mike Moore
12904 (Box)
Capitol Station
Austin, Tx 78711

Virginia Roberts
1915 Santa Clara
Austin 78757

Orlando Gonzales
3500 Taylor Ave.
El Paso 79930

Ralph White
TRC

118 East Riverside

Austin Tx. 78704

Bill Flynn } same
Dora Wheeler } as
 } white
 } TRC

Steve Elliott
10902 Wickwild
Houston, Texas 77024

Mike Moore
Texas Commission for the Deaf
Box 12904 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
telephone: work, 512-475-2492

Lex Freiden: telephone: work, 713-797-1440
home, 713-781-8949

Virginia Roberts
1915 Santa Clara
Austin, Texas 78757
telephone: work, 512-475-6210 or 475-2432
home, 458-2437

Bill Flynn
Texas Rehabilitation Commission
118 East Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

Bob Kafka: home 713-522-9516

Charles Eskridge: home 453-6969

Margie Flores: home 915-772-1696

11511 Fast Horse
Austin, Texas 78759
March 19, 1978

Dear Coalition Members,

Although I have contacted many of you by phone, I felt that a letter to up-date everyone might be beneficial. The first board meeting for the Coalition is still slated for April 15, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, 4800 North Lamar, Austin, Texas. Anyone is welcome to come, board member or not. Agenda items now include committee structure and what various cities are doing with the issue of voting rights. Suggestions for additional agenda items would be appreciated.

Enclosed is a copy of the ACCD ACTION. Individual membership in ACCD entitles you to this monthly publication. If you are not already a member I suggest you become one, as knowledge of the happenings within ACCD will be helpful in our work here in Texas.

TCCD was chosen to participate in a survey directed by the Undersecretary of H.E.W. concerning the Social Security Administration. Enclosed is a copy of the questionnaire filled out during the interview which I had with them. I hope it adequately portrays the information I gathered from you. Comments would be appreciated.

Also enclosed is a partial up-date to the partial address and telephone rosters you now have. Lex has volunteered to compile a complete roster, so if you have any corrections, send them to Lex. Meanwhile, perhaps this list will help.

Should anyone attending the board meeting need assistance with transportation or lodging, please let me know.

The Bylaws Committee has received bylaws from two other state coalitions. If anyone is interested in seeing copies of these, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Pat Pound

DISABILITY ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

CLIENT ADVOCACY GROUPS

H.E.W. CONTACT NAME: Ron King

SITE LOCATION: REGION III STATE Texas CITY Austin

1. Name of client group: Texas Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

*continued
last page*

2. What interest does your organization have in the disability programs of the Social Security Act? TCCD wants to be aware of what is lawfully available & if it does not meet our

3. What, if any, direct role does your organization play in assisting clients with their disability claims?
- Disseminate/interpret program information
 - Referral of potential clients to SSA
 - Advice and assistance to clients in pursuing claims
 - Legal representation at hearings
 - Other _____

equal

Could you rank these from most to least important?

4. How do most clients learn about the disability programs?
- SSA public information activities (Radio, TV, Newspapers)
 - 2 Public assistance caseworkers
 - Other government referrals
 - 3 Client advocacy groups *but not enough done for the deaf*
 - 1 Someone receiving benefits
 - Other _____

Could you rank these from most to least important?

5. How well would you say you understand the operation and policy of the disability programs?
- very well moderately well adequately Very poorly

6. How well do clients understand program requirements, benefits and their potential eligibility prior to filing an application?
- Very Well Adequately Very Poorly
- 1 2 3 4 5

*Mainly due to the
difficult language in
written materials
+ lack of
interpreting
services*

7. Do SSA District Offices adequately explain the Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income Disability programs to clients? yes no

8. Do SSA District Offices discourage clients from pursuing their claims? yes no
If yes, How? *They sometimes apply their own value judgments instead of a legal interpretation*

9. Are the eligibility requirements to receive disability benefits under the Social Security Act
Very Lenient? 1 2 3 4 5 Very Severe?

10. Do you feel you have a sufficient understanding of the functions of District Offices, the State Disability Determination Services (DDS) Agency and Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) to be able to rate the quality of disability services they provide?
 yes no

(If yes ask 11 through 15; otherwise skip to 16)

~~11. At the District Office level~~

~~a) Are claims handled in a timely manner?~~

~~Very Promptly 1 2 3 4 5 Very Slowly~~

~~b) Are service personnel sensitive to client problems?~~

~~Very Sensitive 1 2 3 4 5 Neutral Insensitive~~

~~c) Are service personnel well-trained?~~

~~Very well trained 1 2 3 4 5 Very poorly trained~~

12. At the State DDS level

a) Are claims handled in a timely manner?

Very Promptly 1 2 3 4 5 Very Slowly

b) Are service personnel sensitive to client problems?

Very Sensitive 1 2 3 4 5 Neutral Insensitive

c) Are service personnel well-trained?

Very well trained 1 2 3 4 5 Very poorly trained

13. At the ALJ level

a) Are claims handled in a timely manner?

Very Promptly 1 2 3 4 5 Very Slowly

b) Are service personnel sensitive to client problems?

Very Sensitive 1 2 3 4 5 Neutral Insensitive

c) Are service personnel well-trained?

Very well trained 1 2 3 4 5 Very poorly trained

14. In terms of overall service satisfaction which level would you rate best? _____ Worst? _____

15. What improvements are most needed at the District Office level?

State DDS level?

ALJ level?

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making appointments - lack of qualified interpreters for the deaf - lack of one visit by SSA - lack of availability of people to fill out forms for the blind - fluency of language of written materials -

16. What inconveniences, costs or hardships, if any, are repeatedly experienced by clients in pursuing their claims? *Procedure of not*

17. Why do you think the rates of client appeal of DDS initial determination and reconsideration denials have increased?

- Poor quality of DDS decisions
- Advocacy groups and others advise appeals
- General knowledge that favorable decisions are more likely at higher appeal levels
- Other _____

18. How much difference does it make whether claimants have attorney representation at an ALJ hearing?

Don't know

Significant Difference	Some Difference	No Difference
1	2	3
4	5	

19. What are the reasons why ALJs reverse significant numbers of DDS disallowances?

Don't know

- Judges are first face-to-face decision maker
- Attorney representation strengthens client claim
- New/additional medical evidence developed
- Client conditions grow worse pending decision
- Other _____

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20. What factors influence client acceptance or rejection of vocational rehabilitation services? *Those who reject services*

state it is because the services offered are not adequate or do not meet their needs.

21. Are these services generally useful and worthwhile?

yes no *but still need improvement*

continued last page

22. Are there any other problems or suggested improvements you wish to discuss with me?

In order of priority they are:

- ① Removal of disenchantments to work.
- ② Suggest placing one or more employees in each SSA office who knows all the programs & all disabled people ~~that~~ would channel thru this employee

2) needs to see what changes can be made within the system to better meet the needs. Also concerned that people know their rights now but also future changes in the law & to be informed in a medium they can use.

16) Runaround or referral of a client to several employees in a SSA office. Suggest one or more employees in SSA who knows all the programs thru which all disabled persons would be channelled. - Clericals sometimes answer questions by phone instead of referring to professional employees. - People feel there is too much turnover in the SSA office, thus losing technical expertise. Suggest Braille & recorded information re SSA be available at the local office. Also large print material.

o) Often services are not rejected, ^{perse} but clients ask for a job paying enough to warrant going back to work, in consideration of not only the monthly benefit but also health insurance.

2) I communicate with the ^{low} ~~low~~ ^{needed} ~~needed~~ ^{part} ~~part~~ ^{needed} ~~needed~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~be ^{high} ~~high~~ ^{enough} ~~enough~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{attract} ~~attract ^a ~~a ^{person} ~~person~~. The salary would be high enough to attract a person.~~~~~~

3) Qualified interpreters ^{at} ~~at~~ ^{all} ~~all~~ ^{phases} ~~phases~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{SSA} ~~SSA~~ ^{process} ~~process~~.

4) Adequate assistance in SSA offices thru improved procedures which would provide appointments, information materials for the blind (Braille, large print & recorded material) assistance in filling out forms, availability of info. by phone thru ~~teletype~~ ^{teletype} for the ~~deaf~~ ^{deaf}, Home visits when necessary. 5) Ongoing informational contacts with consumer groups, particularly the deaf. 6) Informational literature needs be written in simple, understandable terms.

AMERICAN COALITION
OF CITIZENS WITH
DISABILITIES



ACCD
ACTION

Vol. 1, No. 3, January, 1978
Published monthly for members

ACCD 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036 (202)785-4265

"...AND A DREAM DEFERRED TOO LONG"

In 1978, disabled people and their representatives will face unprecedented opportunities for joint action to consolidate and advance the rights of America's estimated 36 million men, women, and children who have physical, mental, sensory, and emotional impairments. The next six months in particular are critical. Major decisions must be made on six emerging issues: Executive Order 11914, Section 501, Section 503, Section 504, Public Law 94-142, and Vocational Education. This issue of ACCD ACTION summarizes the current status in each area, advises advocates of alternatives for action, and requests guidance from them on what steps the Coalition needs to take. By the time summer turns to fall, disabled people may be well along the way to a fuller realization of the promises inherent in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, the Education Amendments of 1976, and related legislation. Or they may, with Langston Hughes, "see what happens to a raisin in the sun and a dream deferred too long."

Executive Order 11914.

Issue: Just published guidelines direct some 30 Federal agencies to draft rules consistent with those promulgated by HEW for implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Disabled people must mobilize to monitor rule-making efforts by these agencies and ensure consistency and coherence in the final regulations.

Action: Advocates may join with ACCD's coordinating committee, secure copies of the guidelines directly from HEW, and establish contact with agencies most relevant to their aims.

The dramatic and successful action taken by disabled people and their representatives last spring to force HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., to issue prompt and potent rules for implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marked the first step in fulfilling the promise of the statute's broad mandate. This spring some 30 departments and agencies, including Commerce, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Justice, State, Defense, Interior, Treasury and others, must develop proposed rules for applying Section 504 to their grant and other fiscal assistance programs. The guidelines required by Executive Order 11914, issued by then-President Ford in 1976 and intended to structure HEW's action as "lead agency" on Section 504 implementation, were released by the Department 4 January.

Concerned leaders of organizations of and for disabled people have raised these points:

The departments and agencies involved typically have had little experience in work with disabled people. More than likely, the people preparing the rules for these governmental bodies will require substantial assistance from disabled people and their representatives in identifying what constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability in their programs, how accommodation may be effected, what costs are likely to be incurred, and where assistance is available.

The rules issued by the different departments and agencies must be consistent and coherent. If they differ markedly from each other and from HEW's regulation, the result will be chaos both for recipients and for disabled people themselves. A typical, oft-repeated example: most large urban areas receive funds from several departments. If one set of action will bring the city into compliance with all grantors, these steps are likely to be taken. However, if a multiplicity of conflicting and confusing procedures is required, it is more likely that litigation and delay will result.

The departments and agencies will be preparing rules even as recipients of HEW funds seek clarification on their obligations and responsibilities under the rules Califano signed last April. The current confusion (please see "Section 504," below) may have an adverse effect; consequently, advocates must work concurrently to bring HEW programs and activities into agreement and compliance and to ensure prompt and potent rules from other departments and agencies.

The fact that virtually every major Federal department is required by the E.O. and the recent HEW rule to develop similar regulations on removing discrimination on the basis of disability provides an unprecedented opportunity for disabled people and their advocates to secure from the Federal Government a coherent and consistent policy. And because virtually every aspect of modern American life is subsidized at least in part by Federal funds this policy will have a massive impact upon the lives of disabled Americans.

Alternatives for Action. ACCD has formed a central coordinating committee to monitor implementation of the Executive Order. The joint effort is seen as needed due to the large number of agencies developing rules concurrently and to the limited resources available among organizations of and for disabled people. Anyone wishing to participate in the committee, submit suggestions or ideas to its members, or receive information it generates is urged to contact ACCD immediately.

Disabled people and their representatives may also wish to write directly to each department and agency requesting information about plans to develop rules for implementing section 504. For copies of the recent HEW ruling which provides guidelines for these departments and agencies, write to: Anne Beckman, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 300 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20201. If you wish to advise the White House on implications of consistent v. conflicting rules emanating from each department, write to: Mr. Stuart Eizenstat, Special Assistant to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500.

⊙ Section 501

Issue: Rather than accept proposed rules drafted by the Civil

Service Commission for implementing section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act, disabled people and their organizations have drafted much broader and more powerful rules which have been submitted to the Commission for consideration. Strong consumer support for the suggested rules is needed.

Action: Letters endorsing the suggestions and documenting the urgent necessity for action may be sent to CSC. Advocates may obtain copies of the suggested rules and make comments which may be incorporated into subsequent drafts.

On 7 December 1977, the Ad Hoc Coalition on Employment of Handicapped Individuals in the Federal Government, co-chaired by Deborah Kaplan, Director of the Disability Rights Center and Reese Robrahn, Director of Research and Government for ACB, submitted to Commissioner Ersa Posten of the Civil Service Commission a set of recommendations related to the Proposed Rules, Prohibition Against Discrimination Because of a Physical or Mental Handicap (Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 180, Pages 46541-2, Friday, September 16, 1977).

The recommendations are potent, broad, and very much needed. Included are a definition of "handicapped person," a proposed policy on employment of such individuals, suggested rules on accommodation, hiring criteria which appear feasible, guidelines on pre-employment inquiries, suggested standards on accessibility, and proposed procedures for handling complaints from applicants and employees.

ACCD contributed to and endorses the recommendations. Twenty-five other groups and individuals supported the proposals sent to Commissioner Posten.

Alternatives for Action. Disabled people and their representatives are urged to write letters of support to Commissioner Posten at CSC, 1900 E. Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20415, with copies to Ms. Kaplan at DRC, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036, and ACCD.

Copies of the recommendations may be obtained from Ms. Kaplan or Mr. Robrahn.

Advocates may also wish to call to the attention of supporters and representatives of mass media the facts that: employment of disabled people in Federal Government has actually declined by 4,000 while total Federal employment has increased by 56,000 since the Rehabilitation Act was signed in 1973; HEW, ostensibly the most sensitive agency to the abilities of disabled people, has a record of employment of disabled persons that stands at 1.41% of its workforce; and a substantial number of those disabled people who have been hired by Federal agencies are employed under Schedule A procedures as "temporary" personnel, benefiting from few of the perquisites of governmental employment. All of these facts point to the urgent need for the steps recommended by the Ad Hoc Coalition.

These recommendations assume added force as they are the first and most far-reaching proposals from disabled people and their organizations to merit the attention of the three CSC Commissioners. Ms. Posten has pledged prompt and careful review of the proposals. The steps being suggested are the most progressive possible under current legislation; if they are not adopted, much weaker steps likely will be taken.

Section 503

Issue: Reorganization of Labor's contract compliance program may have important implications for implementation of section 503. Yet much more is needed and the time for action is now.

Action: Advocates may obtain copies of documents relating to the proposed reorganization and comment directly to the Department of Labor. They may also wish to cooperate in litigation relating to section 503 and similar statutes being mounted by INSPIRE.

The Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, which is responsible for implementing Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, has announced a proposed major reorganization of its work in this area. OFCCP plans to rely less upon complaints from disabled persons employed by firms receiving Federal contracts and more upon compliance reviews. This is a welcome first step, we believe, but much more is needed.

Specifically, the regulations governing enforcement of section 503 appear to be lacking in several important respects and to reflect less than was intended in the legislation. There is also an urgent need for the Department, as it develops its section 504 rules (please see the following story), to make the requirements under the two Sections coherent.

Alternatives for Action. Advocates may wish to write to OFCCP Director Weldon J. Rougeau and DOL Assistant Secretary Donald Elisburg at the Department, Washington, D.C. 20210, addressing the above two issues and requesting copies of the recent publication, "Preliminary Report on the Revitalization of the Federal Contract Compliance Program," which forms the basis for the changes now being planned. In addition to the new stress upon compliance reviews, which DOL hopes will be made at random at the rate of about 300 annually, the Report recommends that the enforcement and compliance procedures for section 503 be altered to agree more fully with those followed by the OFCCP in its other civil rights work, specifically section 402 of the Vietnam Era Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 and Executive Order 11246, as amended. The E.O. prohibits discrimination by Federal contractors on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Advocates are also advised that the Institute for Public Interest Representation, popularly known as INSPIRE, at the Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, is preparing to file a class action suit on behalf of individuals who have been discriminated against by firms subject to section 503. Organizations wishing to become plaintiffs in the case and individuals who wish to have their problems addressed in the suit are urged to contact Charles Hill at INSPIRE. For reasons of economy, persons from the Washington, D.C. area are being sought more than those from other areas. The Institute is also investigating the claim by DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (O.S.H.A.) that no complaints have been received from disabled persons concerning lack of access to places of employment. Support for INSPIRE's efforts from organizations and individuals, particularly those aware of instances of discrimination because of inaccessibility in private businesses and those interested in supporting litigation in this area, are urged to contact Mr. Hill immediately.

The issue related to section 503 are critical because almost all private businesses in the United States are subject to its provisions due to the unusually low dollar figure above which all contractors are liable (\$2,500) and because

implementation of the statute has been hindered by industry perceptions that DOL is "not really serious" about enforcing nondiscrimination and affirmative action on behalf of disabled people.

Section 504

Issue: The Pratt decision, announced 29 December 1977, provides a major boost to section 504 compliance and enforcement efforts by HEW, yet much more is required.

Action: Advocates may wish to support suggestions made to HEW by ACCD and other organizations by writing to the Department.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reached agreement out of court with three plaintiffs to settle suits relating to the Office for Civil Rights which were before U.S. District Court Judge John Pratt on 29 December. The agreement commits OCR to hiring 898 more staff members, eliminating the backlog of cases by 30 September 1979, and conducting more compliance reviews. Section 504 is specifically covered in the agreement, a significant development.

Disabled persons and their representatives urged the Office for Civil Rights in HEW at the 22 December Ad Hoc Advisory Committee meeting to take three steps immediately to hasten compliance by recipients of funds. The steps are seen as necessary because recipients claim, with some justification, that OCR does not know what it wants, that its representatives at the national and regional levels offer conflicting interpretations of the regulation, and that no guidelines on cost-effectiveness of alternatives for compliance are available. These complaints have been made with increasing fervor and their continuation threatens the HEW enforcement effort while at the same time jeopardizing progress by other agencies in developing section 504 rules. The three suggestions were: (1) develop, with consumer, recipient, and Congressional input, alternatives for solving common problems, put these alternatives in writing, communicate them to all HEW officials responsible for advising recipients on compliance and to recipients and consumers themselves; (2) provide assurance for recipients that if such steps were taken in a timely and appropriate fashion they would be in compliance, at least with respect to those particular steps; and (3) determine the likely cost-benefit ratios of alternative steps. The consumers and advocates present at the meeting also stressed that until such steps were taken, legislative proposals to provide recipients with funds for compliance efforts were premature. Before such legislation can be drafted, they commented, it is necessary to determine what must be done to bring a program or activity into compliance, how much different steps would cost, and whether funds to support such steps were available in existing authorizations and appropriations or in other sources.

Three new efforts by private organizations are expected to assist recipients to better understand the requirements of the law. At George Washington University's Institute for Educational Leadership, a project supported by the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped is training decision-makers on the national, state, and local level with respect to the implications of section 504 and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. Directing the project is Ms. Lisa Walker, formerly with the Senate Committee on Human Resources. Ms. Walker has long been a strong and vocal advocate for disabled people and under her leadership the IEL project likely will have a marked effect. She is inviting selected disabled leaders from across the country to the workshops; if you are interested in participating, contact her at IEL, 1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20005.

Indices, Inc., a nonprofit information, training, and research organization located at 3110 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA. 22207, is developing self-evaluation guides for institutions subject to section 504. Indices also has a strong capability in consultation with schools, colleges, and private firms on disability issues. The other new effort, headed by the American Council on Education's National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), is drafting guidelines for colleges and universities to follow in making their programs and facilities accessible. Mr. G. Richard Biehl of NACUBO may be reached at One Dupont Circle, Washington, D. C. 20036. Advocates may wish to obtain copies of materials generated by these three programs for use in consultation with HEW fund recipients.

ACCD is working closely with its member organizations and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia to train disabled people in their rights under section 504 and other civil rights statutes. For information about PILCOP's new workshops on section 504, contact James Raggio, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, 1315 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. ACCD developed a manual, "Accommodating Programs to People with Disabilities," under contract from the Office of Public Affairs of HEW. It, together with three publications of that Office---"Your Rights as a Disabled Person," "Your Responsibilities to Disabled Persons as a Health Care of Social Service Administrator," and "Your Responsibilities to Disabled Persons as a School or College Administration," is available at no cost from OPA, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Alternatives for Action. Advocates may wish to contact the Office for Civil Rights in support of the suggestions made at the 22 December meeting. Address your comments to Mr. David Tatel, Director, OCR, 300 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201. Suggestions to ACCD on how it might best advise disabled people on their rights are most welcome.

o Public Law 94-142

Issue: Compliance by the States is uneven. Strong action now by advocates will likely have a marked positive effect.

Action: In addition to national organization pressure upon HEW to follow strict procedures with non-complying States, state and local organization efforts to ensure improved plans and procedures within States are essential.

ACCD convened a meeting 14 December at the request of member organization Council for Exceptional Children to discuss alternatives for encouraging the states to come into compliance with the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (P.L. 94-142). Messrs. Fred Weintraub and Joe Ballard of CEC may be reached at 1920 Association Drive, Reston, VA. 22091. The meeting, held at the American Council of the Blind at the invitation of Mr. Reese Robrahn, surfaced the fact that substantial numbers of states have yet to submit satisfactory plans to the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped despite the fact that these plans were due 1 October. Action within the states is essential to urge the state education agencies to submit plans which will satisfy the requirements of the law. The following states have submitted plans, which while partly satisfactory, have yet to receive full approval of the Bureau: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South

Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Trust Territory, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, West Virginia. More serious, the following states have submitted unsatisfactory plans or are not listed by BEH as approved even in part: Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Alternatives for Action. Disabled people and their representatives, particularly those associated with groups in states listed above, are urged to contact their state education agencies and state boards of education to hasten appropriate plans. CEC has agreed to serve as coordinator of the effort. Please advise Messrs. Weintraub and Ballard, as well as ACCD, of your work and indicate how CEC and ACCD can be of assistance.

Vocational Education

Issue: Federal officials responsible for vocational education are considering revisions in regulations which would have serious adverse effects upon disabled youth and young adults. While genuine problems with fiscal disbursement procedures are cited by officials as reason for the proposed change, the plan appears to be a classic case of the medicine killing the patient.

Action: Advocates are urged to write immediately to the responsible officials and may also cooperate with ACCD and Council for Exceptional Children in a joint effort.

The Bureau of Occupational and Adult Education (BOAE), which is responsible for implementing the vocational education provisions of the Education Amendments of 1976, is considering revising its regulations concerning "excess costs" in the face of strong pressure from state agency personnel. The proposed changes are serious and would greatly weaken the just-beginning efforts to provide disabled youth with appropriate vocational education opportunities. Specifically, BOAE is proposing to substitute the language at (B) below for that in (A):

- (A) The current rule reads: "Alternatively, if the handicapped... student is placed in a separate program, Federal, State, and local funds may only be used to pay those costs which exceed the average per pupil cost for vocational education for nonhandicapped...students."
- (B) The proposed rule reads: "Thus, to the extent a specialized program is separate from the regular vocational training, the program may be funded in full from the Federal and matching State and local funds under section 110 (a)"

The proposed rule would offer a Federal financial incentive to segregated programs for disabled students, would appear to be in violation of P.L. 94-142 and section 504, and most important, would not afford handicapped students equal educational opportunities. The rule also appears in violation of the language of the Education Amendments of 1976 (P. L. 94-482) itself, as section 110 (d) states that to the maximum extent possible the matching funds be used to assist handicapped students participate in regular vocational education programs.

The issue is especially serious because according to a study done in 1974 by the Olympus Research Corporation fully 70 percent of handicapped students enrolled in vocational education classes supported by Federal funds were in separate classes. According to official Bureau figures, only 1.74 percent of the total

number of students in supported programs were handicapped.

Alternatives for Action. Advocates are urged to write to Charles H. Buzzell, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Occupational and Adult Education, Bureau of Occupational and Adult Education, U.S.O.E., Washington, D. C. 20202 and to Ms. Mary Berry, Assistant Secretary for Education, HEW, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20202. Please advise ACCD of your action.

Your Ideas, Please

We want to know what your thoughts are about these and other issues of concern to you. Please write to ACCD, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Specifically, do you agree or disagree with the positions proposed by the Coalition? Do you believe we should be acting on other issues? If so, which issues and what action? Let us hear from you.

o

Join or Renew Now

Members of ACCD receive several important benefits for their annual dues. ACCD ACTION, a monthly publication for members, is oriented toward advocacy, presenting issues and suggestions for action. Its focus is entirely upon effecting united and concerted action by disabled people and their representatives. THE COALITION, a quarterly publication, provides enduring and significant information about disability-related programs and activities. Membership dues also support the advocacy-programs of the Coalition, including efforts to enhance the human and civil rights of disabled people. ACCD staff is also available for assistance in securing information, obtaining swift action, and referring requests for specific problems to responsible officials.

Contributions are tax-deductible and always welcome.

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Delegate Assembly Set for April 30 - May 2, 1978 in Washington, D.C.

The fourth annual ACCD Delegate Assembly will be held at the Sheraton-National Hotel in Washington, D.C., 30 April to 2 May 1978. The meeting is scheduled for the three days preceding the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped annual conference, also planned for Washington. The Delegate Assembly is responsible for approving new organizational memberships, officially adopting the budget of the organization, electing members of the Board of Directors, selecting officers, and establishing overall Coalition policy. Representatives of active members and individual members are eligible to vote on resolutions presented to the Delegate Assembly. Last year's meeting was the largest in ACCD's history, attracting more than 400 participants from across the country. This year's plans are even more exciting.

The Coalition will sponsor two intensive, six-hour training institutes focusing, respectively, upon civil rights activism and coalition development. The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP) will conduct its highly praised workshop on section 504 advocacy. This Civil Rights Leadership Institute will be held 30 April. Registration will be limited to no more than 70 individuals on a first-come, first-serve basis. Concurrently, ACCD Director Dr. Frank Bowe and members of the Coalition Development Committee will lead a Coalition Leadership Institute focussing upon techniques and tactics of cross-disability coalition building, fund-raising, effecting change, conducting membership drives, and monitoring agency implementation of legislation

The Delegate Assembly will be held during the proposed rulemaking development period as some 30 agencies in the Federal government draft regulations for section 504. Monday's workshops will focus upon section 504 rules in the Departments of Labor, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. The officials in each department responsible for drafting the regulations will be available to discuss issues of concern to ACCD members and other interested persons. This is an opportunity for participants to influence the development of important regulations.

ACCD's annual banquet, always a sell-out attraction, will again feature delicious dining and entertainment. The Coalition is inviting a nationally known speaker to headline its program at the banquet. A cocktail hour will precede the dinner and will feature special entertainment as well.

Registration packets may be obtained from the ACCD home office by completing the form below. Interested persons are urged to obtain the packets and register as soon as possible in order to participate in the full program being planned this year.

American Coalition of
Citizens with Disabilities
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. #817
Washington, D. C. 20036

Please enroll me as an individual member. I enclose \$5.00 dues and \$___ as a contribution to support the work of ACCD.

Please send me a registration packet for the annual Delegate Assembly.

Please send me information about (please specify):

NAME _____
 First Middle Last

ADDRESS _____
 # St., Apt.

City State Zip Code

TELEPHONE () _____
 Area Code Number

Hi Lex,

Here are the names I promised. If you need more stationary just let me know.

Pat

Mr. Bob Pyle
Box 7762
Austin, Tx 78712

Mr. Steve Carrier
University of Texas
Student Services Building
Room 111
Austin, Tx 78712

Mary Lovey Wood
Austin Speech and Hearing Center
1209 West 34th Street
Austin, Tx 78705

Roster of Parts

*Other parts
Alternate parts
and other Cuts*

D. H. Howell —

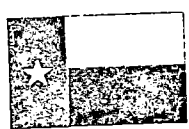
6151 Richmond Ave

Dallas, Tx

75214

824-3999

Mr. Charles W. Plunkett
(Tracy)
210 Evondale #1
Houston 77006



**Bexar County
Democratic Party**

JOYCE PETERS
DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Morris K. Bldg. / 214 Dwyer / Suite 205
San Antonio, Texas 78204 / 512/223-9481



*Fight House Arrest and Architectural Barriers
Free the Unconvicted Disabled*

PETER CHERRY
Texas P.V.A. Legislation Committee Member

733-8939 78228 537 E. Sunshine
San Antonio, Texas

WHILE YOU WERE OUT
MILTON
FROM: M Sylvia Garcia
112 F. Wayne
Universal City
781148
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Washington, D.C. 20036



American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities Inc.

December 29, 1977

Mr. Lex Frieden
9667 Meadowvale
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Lex:

I enjoyed speaking with you on Sunday, December 18, 1977, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

On my recent jaunt in Texas I met several persons who expressed great interest in working on state and local coalition matters. I feel that they should be invited to your conference in February, as they would be an asset. You will find their names and addresses on the attached sheet.

Also, add the name of Christina Pacetti, 345 Laurel Wood Drive, San Antonio, Texas. Telephone: (512) 533-0166.

Have a happy and prosperous new Year!

Sincerely,

Eunice Fiorito





Eunice Fiorito
President
AMERICAN COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH
DISABILITIES

EF/ls

DELEGATES

White House Conference

American
Coalition of
Citizens with
Disabilities
Inc.

(Name)	(Address)	(Phone)
Mary Ann Board	1300 Wood Hollow #6001 Houston, Tx. 77057	713 - 781-3080
Joan G. Fernandes	6000 Winn Place West Ft. Worth, Tx. 76134	817 - 293-9494
 Buffy Fetter	Eastfield College 3737 Motley Mesquite, Tx. 75150	214 - 746-3297
 Bill Flynn	404 W. 13th Street Austin, Tx. 78701	512 - 471-4161
Lex Frieden	9667 Meadowvale Houston, Tx. 77063	713 - 781-8949
 Lee Kitchens	938 Blue Lake Circle Richardson, Tx. 75080	214 - 231-1728
Tom Morrison	7505 Parwelk Dallas, Tx. 75235	214 - 638-6340
Jim Patton	3716 Wedghill Way Ft. Worth, Tx. 76133	817 - 640-1880 589-0587
 Pat Pound	11511 Fast Horse Austin, Tx. 78759	512 - 345-4981 454-4721
Richard Rubin, M.D.	5833 Dan Duryea San Antonio, Tx. 78240	512 - 684-6054
Gay Rutherford	15 Ravens Worth Conroe, Tx. 77301	713 - 273-1331


DELEGATES

White House Conference

(Name)	(Address)	(Phone)
Dale N. Simpson	800 Dudley Longview, Tx. 75601	214 - 753-5664
Joe Villareal	3519 Link Valley #55 Houston, Tx. 77025	713 - 665-5450
<i>2</i> Ralph White	2504 Bluffview Dr. Austin, Tx. 78704	512- 441-1129
Willis Williams	3838 Pleasanton Road San Antonio, Tx. 78221	512 - 923-7793
<u>CHAIRMAN</u>		
Sam D. Millsap, Sr.	5930 Winding Ridge San Antonio, Tx. 78239	512 - 656-0161 223-3831



ALTERNATE DELEGATES

White House Conference

(Name)	(Address)	(Phone)
Frank A. Borreca	P. O. Box 13403 Houston, Tx. 77019	713 - 528-6371
Glenda Carlock	Port Ridglea East #260 Granbury, Tx. 76048	817 - 326-4775
Ruthe B. Cowl	1602 Musser Laredo, Tx. 78040	512 - 723-9403
Don H. Culwell	2502 Waterford San Antonio, Tx. 78217	512 - 824-8618
Don Drewery	3407 Oriole Denton, Tx. 76201	817 - 382-1656
Virginia Eernisse	719 S. Hill Alvin, Tx. 77511	713 - 331-3813
 Charles Eskridge, Jr.	4500 Edendale Court Austin, Tx. 78756	512 - 452-5424
Efton F. Geary	2614 Lazy Oaks Austin, Tx. 78745	512 - 442-0480 475-5484
Mary Virginia Griggs	1720 Koster Alvin, Tx. 77511	713 - 331-4169
Jim Hayes	260 Davis Hall UT Arlington Arlington, Tx. 76010	817 - 273-3361

ALTERNATE DELEGATES

White House Conference

(Name)	(Address)	(Phone)
Linda Hutcheson	30242 Littlecraft Spring, Tx. 77373	713 - 367-9292
Muriel LeBlanc	5415 Seale Road Beaumont, Tx. 77705	713 - 835-2511 Tex-An - 855-8235
 Trudy Putteet	3610 47th Street Lubbock, Tx. 79413	806 - 799-0648
J. R. Thompson	7515 Troulon Houston, Tx. 77074	713 - 771-9181
Carol J. Whitcraft, Ph.D.	7745 Chevy Chase Austin, Tx. 78752	512 - 452-8192
 Mary Lovey Wood, Ph.D.	2825 Hancock #100 Austin, Tx. 78731	512 - 454-4225

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D. Millsap, Sr. Director
A. J. Bob Blase Assistant Director
Marolyn Stubblefield Assistant Director

T O: All Texas WHC Delegates

Here is your official Ballot Packet to vote for the 15 Texas delegates to the Washington conference in May 1977. Enclosed are 4 items---

1. biographical sketches of all 69 delegates in last-name alphabetical order followed by home city, relationship to handicap, and personal information
2. BALLOT with instructions at top and control number with instructions at bottom
3. small white "ballot envelope"
4. stamped return envelope

Verification: this packet has been sent by U. S. Certified Mail with return receipt to confirm that it was received by you. Your ballot has been given a control number to verify that your vote is returned and counted.

Secret Ballot: to assure secrecy of your vote, remove control number and seal your ballot in the small envelope; on receipt the ballot and control number will be separated and your ballot will be opened only by the CPA-supervised official counters.

Instructions: Voting instructions are at the top of the ballot. After making your choices, remove control number from ballot, place loose control number and sealed ballot in return stamped envelope and mail at once.

Winners: the 8 handicapped individuals receiving the most votes will be elected/ the 4 family representatives receiving the most votes will be elected/ the remaining 3 positions will go to the individuals with the next highest vote. By regulation, Mr Millsap is the 16th delegate.

MORE ON REVERSE

1222 N. Main Suite 711 San Antonio, Texas 78212 (512) 223-3831

Alternates: should one of the elected delegates be unable to serve in May, the next highest vote will determine the replacement delegate.

If---in addition to the 16 expense-paid voting delegates---Texas is allowed its expected 16 non-voting alternates, traveling at their own expense, Mr Millsap reserves the right to name this second group from the runner-up list.

Time: the vote will be opened and counted on January 8, 1977. Ballots received after that date will not be considered.

Notification: all voters will receive mail notification of the winners by approximately mid-January.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES of delegates to the Texas White House Conference

For sake of brevity, certain abbreviations have been used.

ARC is Association for Retarded Citizens

NRA is National Rehabilitation Association

TRA is Texas Rehabilitation Association

TRC is Texas Rehabilitation Commission

Gerald Askew, Dallas---provider/administrator

My professional work follows: Counselor for TRC, Ft. Worth: Director of Public Relations, Goodwill Industries of Lubbock: Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services at Dallas Work Opportunity and Retraining Center: Charter member of the Texas Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities, a proposed computer base, crossmatch between business and qualified handicapped persons: Founded the Dallas Alliance for Employment of the Handicapped, a consortium of business, rehab, insurance, management and private sector to advise on issues related to Sec. 503 of the Rehab Act of 1973. Presently, I am serving as the Associate Director of Children, Inc., where I have implemented an adult workshop for the adult MR, and provide contract services to four Dallas County ISDs.

Edward Benavides, Laredo---deaf.

I have been totally deaf since age 3. I attended the Texas School for the Deaf for five years, where I learned hand talk. I attended Sunshine Cottage in San Antonio for nine years, where I learned some speech. I attended Martin H. S. from 1972 to 1974. This is my first opportunity to take part in a program to help the handicapped.

Mary Ann Board, Houston---polio, confined to wheelchair

After a bout with polio at age 2, I have been confined to a wheelchair for 24 years. I am concerned about all categories of disabled persons because we all face common problems and a human need for love and recognition. I have worked with all disability groups. As Coordinator of Handicapped Student Services at the U of Houston, I initiated special projects for the blind, the deaf, and the spinal cord injured, as well as provided services for the entire handicapped population at U of H. Now, through my position as Coordinator of Volunteer Services at the Houston Lighthouse for the Blind, I work on projects and problems of transportation, recreation, housing and service delivery problems for the blind population. I was the presenter in the Social Concerns category at the Texas Conference in San Antonio.

Frank A Borreca, Houston---parent of MR.

I am Executive Director of the Harris County Center for the Retarded, Houston, serving in that post for the past 20 years. The Center is a service organization which provides direct services to 1,000 handicapped persons daily. As Executive Director, I was named to serve on the First Governor's Task force to combat mental retardation; I am a member of the State Developmental Disabilities Council and a member of the Mentally Retarded Persons Act Task Force. I am also a member of the Advisory Council to the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped. I am past vice president of the American Association of Mental Deficiency and now am a member of the Houston TARC.

Mrs. Ima T. Bunting, Austin---stroke victim

With children in school, I went back to school to get my degree in elementary education, graduated from Pan American University and taught school. In 1964, at age 44, had first surgery of my life, and a stroke followed. I was completely paralyzed on the left side, and although I have made a good recovery, I am still partially paralyzed. In 1972, began working with the Austin Stroke Club. In 1973, cancer claimed my husband. Also in 1973, I began part time work with the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, as their stroke club coordinator. We now have 22 Stroke Clubs across the state which we sponsor, and I work with each.

Janie Burks, Austin---MR.

Attended Austin State School 1970-1974. Was employed at Burnet Rd Barbecue, Austin. Married, May 1974 to Lenny Burks. I currently do babysitting, am enrolling daughter in nursery school and considering part-time employment.

Mrs. Delia Campos, Laredo---parent of CP child.

I have been actively involved with the PTA's in our school district as well as other community projects to aid the children of our city. My youngest child is attending classes at Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center where she is also being given therapy (speech, physical and occupational). I organized a PTA for the Center to aid the children there. We work to assist the teachers in the classroom, volunteer time to take the handicapped children on field trips and raise funds for school materials much needed by the school, and which is not provided for by the Center, because of a lack of funds.

Glenda Carlock, Granbury---deaf.

I am a senior at Texas Christian University, in the teacher training program of the Deaf Education Department. I tutor deaf and hearing impaired children at our clinic two days a week. I am also a volunteer of the Goodrich Center for the Deaf in Ft. Worth, where I work with the deaf senior citizens. I am a member of the Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired, the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf, Trinity Valley Interpreters of the Deaf, Treasurer of the Coalition of Texas Organizations Serving the Deaf. I am a member of a professional teacher honor society at TCU, Kappi Delta Pi, and an officer in our student for deaf awareness organization. I work part time at the Ft. Worth Children's Hospital. I am a trained dental technician, assistant, and nurse. I have a 13 year old hearing son. Since my hearing impairment, I have a completely new and rewarding life. I have begun work on a class for young deaf girls in nursing, which is one of my primary goals in the future. I would very much like to become the first administrator of a retirement center for the deaf. I served 3½ years in the U. S. Air Force, and worked at the Pentagon.

Luis Cawley, Laredo---multi-handicapped

I attended St. Augustine High School, the same school where I now work as a Spanish teacher and assist in guidance counseling. I got my BA degree this May, with a major in Spanish and minor in psychology. I am very interested in working for the handicapped since I am one of them and aware of many of their problems.

Criss Cole, Houston---blind

Served as Marine in World War II. Received law degree from U of H; elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1954, and to Texas Senate in 1962. Received numerous honors from organizations concerned with military, veterans, rehabilitation, including the 1969 legislature's naming the new rehabilitation center for the blind the Criss Cole Rehab Center. Elected President Pro Tempore of the senate in 1969. Legislative record includes better state services for all handicapped persons, including support for State Commission for the Blind and required public buildings to be accessible to and usable by the handicapped. Member--Board of Directors, Lighthouse for the Blind; Past VP of Texas Air and Water Resources Foundation, Past State Advocate of Knights of Columbus. State General Chairman for Texas Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Past member of Study Committee and Citizens Advisory Board on vocational rehabilitation planning. Past President of the Hope Center for Youth. Appointed in January of 1971 as Judge, Harris County Juvenile Court No. 3.

Ruthe B. Cowl, Laredo---director of rehabilitation center

Organizer and founder of the comprehensive rehab facility in Laredo named in her honor in 1970. It provides both medically and vocationally oriented services as well as pre-school, and primary education for multiply handicapped children and clinical training for physical and occupational therapists. It was the first outpatient facility in Texas to be accredited by the Joint Commission and one of the first 12 in the U. S. I have served as full time director for almost 18 years (with no salary, expense account or financial reimbursement). Most of my energies have been devoted to developing and delivering services to all handicapped individuals, including the dependent, neglected or deprived. Some of the honors: Lady of the year, 1961. Mother of the Year, 1968. Finalist--Lane Bryant Volunteer Award--1970. Past President of Anti-Poverty Program of Laredo and Webb County. Organizer and charter member of the Laredo Methadone Program, Planned Parenthood Association. Among others, member of NRA and TRA, Board member of nursing school of Mercy Hospital, and Laredo Junior College Nursing School Curriculum Development Committee.

Wendell R. Craig, Austin---learning disabled with non-sensory auditory disorder. (Also has 13 year old son with the same handicaps).

Interested in seeing realistic and appropriate educational programs for children and Effective vocational training for young people and adults, so they will not have to suffer the frustrations and emotional programs he has suffered. Also interested in areas of more public awareness, especially of insurance and employment for the handicapped. I represent the Texas Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, a group of parents and professionals working together to promote the interest and welfare of persons with learning disabilities.

Don Culwell, San Antonio---mentally restored (manic-depressive psychosis)

M. A. in guidance and counselling from St. Mary's University. Employed from 1952 to 1957 as field worker with DPW handling services to the blind, dependent children and elderly. From 1957 to present, employed as employment counsellor with the Texas Employment Commission. Served as local office handicap specialist. Member of many organizations, including Recovery, Inc., the association of nervous and former mental patients. Reclamation, Inc., Volunteer Service Council of State Hospital, Goodwill Rehabilitation Service. Awarded Governor's Citation as outstanding handicapped state employee, named "Advocate of the Year" by the San Antonio Association for Retarded Citizens, Governor's Citation for outstanding service toward employment of the handicapped, and the Amy Burrows Award, presented by the Mental Health Association for service to the mentally ill.

O. C. "Bud" Davidson, Austin---blind.

I have visual acuity of 20/300 in both eyes since birth, a 95% loss of vision. Graduate of St. Mary's U in San Antonio. I have been employed 19 years with the Texas State Commission for the Blind; seven years as placement specialist developing new fields of employment for the blind and placing blind persons in gainful employment; four years vocational rehabilitation counselor, and eight years as director of field services. I am now serving as deputy director in the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped. My primary responsibility is that of "ombudsman". It is my responsibility to represent blind and visually impaired individuals to make sure they are provided services which they need and are entitled to, and to help develop programs when such do not exist.

Regina Rena Davis, Ft. Worth---deaf

I am deaf and currently a student at Tarrant County Jr. College, working for the Service Center for Opportunities to Overcome Problems (SCOOP). I am also a SCOOP student and receive note taking and interpretation services. I lost my hearing in my right ear before I was three years old, and the loss in my left ear occurred overnight at the age of 13. I now have a 110 plus db loss in my right ear and a 75 db loss in my left ear, where I wear a hearing aid. In high school, I did office volunteer work and graduated from Haltom High School. I worked for the district's teacher for the hearing impaired, and the Easter Seal Society. I also began taking sign language as a senior. I am a member of a group called "Deaf Consumers of Ft. Worth", president of OFHA (Organization for Human Awareness), serving as publicity chairman, and historian. My major is counseling for the deaf. I have attended and/or worked in various workshops and panels, booths and awareness programs for the deaf and handicapped, done a SCOOP television commercial, a deaf awareness TV interview and a handicapped awareness radio interview.

Jimmy Harold Douglas, Houston---MR

My age is 23, live at Harris Cty Ctr for Retarded and work as teachers aide at Special Ed school at The Center. 5'11" tall I could never participate in sports due to poor coordination. I love working w/the handicapped.

Don Drewry, Denton---double leg amputee

BS degree in physical education from North Texas State. Master's candidate in therapeutic recreation, Texas Women's U Employed by TWU on Bureau of Education for the handicapped project on physical education and recreation for the handicapped. Member, Texas Recreation and Parks Society, presidential nominee of therapeutic recreation branch. Member National Therapeutic Society. I work for the handicapped, especially in the area of architectural barriers, physical education and recreation, and education. I recently made the contracts and started the work on Project ABE (Architectural Barrier Elimination) at TWU.

I was originator and first president of "Not Psyched Out Club" an organization for handicapped persons at Eastfield College, Dallas. We worked to remove barriers, both architectural and attitudinal. I organized Dallas Raiders Wheelchair Basketball team. Worked to provide recreational and social opportunities for handicapped persons. I am an advocate for all handicaps, and feel we must see that all have the quality of life to which we are entitled.

Mrs. Myrtle Dunn, San Antonio---parent of three mentally handicapped sons.

Active in volunteer work for MR 19 years. Past Board Member and VP of San Antonio ARC, member of TARC and NARC. Honored by Mayor of San Antonio and City Council by a resolution for community volunteer work; State responsibility committee at Austin State School; State board member and President of San Antonio Area unit of PART (Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas); Member of advisory board of Bexar County MH/MR; Organized San Antonio TARS (Teens Aid the Retarded) and also state TARS advisor. Initiated and sponsored, with the help of TARS, the first Texas Special Olympics in San Antonio. Organized bus tours resulting in more than 1,000 persons touring our state schools for the retarded; Served on several legislative committees pertaining to legislation for the mentally handicapped. Received the "Volunteer of the Year" award from the San Antonio ARC.

Mrs. Virginia Eernisse, Alvin---parent of MR.

I have been active for a number of years in volunteer work for persons who are mentally retarded. I am currently serving on the State Affairs Task Force (Welfare Committee) for TARC; Board of directors, special olympics; legislative affairs chairman, Houston ARC; and Advisory board, Alvin Community Living School. I serve as advocate for two multi-handicapped individuals, monitoring public school programs and wading through the maze of red tape in securing services for persons with varying handicaps. Although my work is primarily with MR, I also assist in obtaining services for persons who are emotionally disturbed, alcoholics and drug abusers. I am also active in local politics, serving as precinct chairman, election judge and secretary for two county political organizations and one district organizations.

Charles S. Eskridge, Jr., Austin---post polio, residual paralysis

Graduate of University of Texas. Past President and legislative consultant for MIGHT. Human Relations Commissioner for the City of Austin. Member, past chairman of special populations advisory board for Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Member of Texas Recreation and Parks Society and National Recreation and Parks Association (Therapeutic Branch). Lecturer on consumer--advisory for the handicapped. Free lance journalist and legislative consultant.

Joan Glance Fernandes, Ft. Worth---provider/educator

Masters in Educational Guidance from TCU. Completed internship in Department of Continuing Education at Gallaudet College. Now Director of Service Center for Opportunities to Overcome Problems (SCOOP) Tarrant County Junior College, NE Campus, 1971 to present. Graduate assistant, Educational Guidance, TCU, 1975. Consultant on developing programs for the physically handicapped in college and universities, 1974-present. Media specialist, art teacher, Callier Hearing and Speech Center, Dallas, 1971-1972. Basic Sign language teacher Continuing Education, TCJC, fall 1972 and spring 1973. Interpreter/Manual Sign Language, adult basic education classes for the Deaf, Dallas, fall 1970. Art consultant-producer, Texas Media Center for the Deaf, Austin, Summer 1971. Art Teacher, Texas School for the Deaf, Austin, Feb. 1970 - June 1971. (Joan was also group leader in the Special Concerns area at the Texas White House Conference.)

Buffy Fetter, Mesquite---paraplegic

Coordinator, Services for Handicapped Students, Eastfield College, Mesquite. At age 17, traumatically injured by tree fall. Continued college. Have M.A. in counseling psychology from U of Illinois. Got initial skills here in sign language for the deaf. Interned at National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y. 3 years as counselor at Center on Deafness at Calif. State U, Northridge. Also completed National Leadership Training Program at this school. Have view from both sides, having growing up with mentally retarded boy three years younger than I. Have worked extensively with all types of handicapped. Buffy was also a group leader in the health concerns area at the Texas White House Conference.

Bill Flynn, Austin---rehabilitation counsellor

Been working with persons with handicaps since 1964. In 1970 I resigned from the air force to enter graduate school and become a rehab counsellor. Since 71, I have served mentally restored persons, ex-offenders and mentally retarded persons as a counsellor. I assumed my present teaching duties with the UT Rehab Counsellor Education Program and the Staff Development Section of TRC in 1974. My responsibilities include course work dealing with severe disabilities, adjustment, counseling techniques, attitudes, placement and casework problems. My special interest centers around the involvement of consumers in the design, implementation and evaluation of service delivery systems for persons with handicaps. I have published three articles dealing with advocacy, stigma and attitudes. I have also learned sign language in an attempt to receive input from deaf members of the community.

Lex Frieden, Houston---quadraplegic

Currently serving as Director for the New Options Transitional Living Project at the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston. A graduate of Tulsa University, and have done graduate work in social and rehabilitation psychology at Tulsa U and U of Houston. I am past secretary of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, and now chair their Governmental Relations Task Force. I am also active in the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living and the Council of Consumer Members of NRA. I am presently serving the Committee on Science and Technology of the US House of Representatives as Consultant in a study of programs to aid the handicapped. Have published several papers on independent living, and edited the background paper on Community and Residential-Based Housing for the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. Also served as presenter in the Special Concerns at the Texas Conference in San Antonio.

Mrs. Margaret Fulkerson, Lubbock---totally blind.

I lost my sight at age 14. I graduated from the Arkansas School for the Blind in Little Rock and Arkansas Tech in Russellville. After moving to Texas, I went to work for the Texas Commission for the Blind in 1957 as a rehab teacher in the Lubbock district office. In 1961, I became certified as a rehab teacher of the adult blind by the American Association of Workers for the Blind. I became aware of the need for a sheltered workshop and rehab center for the blind in Lubbock, conducted a survey, initiated the formation of a board of directors, and established the Lighthouse for the Blind in 1964. I served as executive director until 1971, at which time I went to the Central office of the Texas Commission for the Blind in Austin to serve as rehab teacher consultant. In December of 1974, I returned to Lubbock to again work as a rehab teacher in Lubbock and 14 surrounding counties.

Rudy D. Gamblin, Amarillo---deaf and husband of deaf person

I have been deaf since age 3. I graduated from Texas School for the Deaf and Gallaudet College. Now have disability retirement from U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Served as president of Texas Association for the Deaf for five years. Presently member of the board. Member, Coalition of Texas Organizations Serving the Deaf. Founded Texas Society of Interpreters of the Deaf. Member National Assoc. for the Deaf. Hall of Fame, American Athletic Association of the Deaf. I strongly believe that the handicapped should write to the Legislature and Congress to let them know we are no longer a weakling segment of the population, and no longer a minority.

Efton F. Geary, Austin---Parent of multi-handicapped pre-school child.

Employed by the Texas Department of Public Welfare. On board of Austin ARC, Master's Degree in Human Resources Management. Have written a book "Reflections of a Black Man". I am a firm believer that the programs for the handicapped are too fragmented, and that it will take a united voice to correct this situation.

Mary Virginia Griggs, Alvin---MR

20 years old, and until she was 15, she attended public school classes for the trainable mentally retarded. She then received vocational training the next four years. She has been employed at the Alvin Community College for the past one and one half years, and has received three raises. Besides working full time, she keeps house for her semi-invalid father and 10-year-old sister. Since the death of her mother last year, she has been painting the family house. She is multi-handicapped, and feels concern about the fragmentation of services, education and employment opportunities.

Jim Hayes, Arlington---diving accident, confined to wheelchair

I am coordinator of the Educational Support Service Office of UT Arlington. About 9½ years ago I was involved in a diving accident which shattered the sixth and seventh vertebra. I found myself paralyzed from the mid-chest down. After a month in the hospital and six months recuperation, I went to work for a local manufacturing firm as a bench assembly of digital print-out devices. I then decided on college, and entered Tarrant County Junior College. I was elected president of Student Government Association two years in a row. I then transferred to UT Arlington as a pre-law major. I was instrumental, as a member of the Handicapped Student Association, in getting several pieces of legislation through the student congress to benefit handicapped students. We also drafted a model campus plan for the physically impaired and asked for and received a grant from the TRC to implement it. UTA is now the best campus among 4 year schools in N Central Texas. We also submitted a proposal to TRC for a grant for the Educational Support Service Office, and I was named director. In 9 months, UTA has become the leader in the state among four year institutions of higher learning. We served over 200 handicapped students with readers, note-takers, test-takers, transcription services, pre-registration, library assistants, rest-room assistants, wheelchair pushers and live-in attendants. (Jim was also group leader in the Education Concern area of the Texas White House Conference in San Antonio).

Roy F. Hayhurst, Amarillo---disabled vet himself, parent of three handicapped children, 1 semi-paraplegic and two mentally retarded.

I am a member of the Amarillo Association for Retarded Citizens, the Texas Assoc. and the National Association. I have been very active on the local level. While in the service in Florida, I was scout master for a troop of boys there, and since returning to Texas, I have been associated with scouting for both handicapped and retarded boys.

Liz Holmes, Garland---parent of multi-handicapped son.

Before I had a handicapped son, I took education for all children and adults for granted. I assumed all their needs would be met. A whole new world of education and therapy has opened up to me now that I have a "special" child. I realize that the only way our children's needs will be met is to stand up and be heard. People can't help if they don't know what is lacking for our children.

Dianne L. Hughes, Stafford---parent of child with Cystic Fibrosis.

I am working with parents to encourage them, with their children, to participate in medical research programs when research doctors require samples of body tissue, fluids, etc.. I have also been involved in a special summer camp for handicapped, and various fund raising activities. Especially satisfying has been opportunities to speak on behalf of Cystic Fibrosis in regards to educating the public. I've talked to high school classes, appeared in several local TV shows to promote understanding and early diagnosis, and when asked by my social worker, have shared my experiences with parents of newly diagnosed children. Several years ago my family was selected to be in a nationally televised special concerning fatal diseases entitled "The Killers". We were filmed in our home, showing much of the therapeutic regimen which our son requires daily to maintain his health.

Mrs. Lynda Hutcheson, Spring---parent of mentally retarded child.

I am a true advocate of all the mentally retarded. My concern began when my son was born in 1960, and my actual work started when he was enrolled at the Marshall Day Care Center. At age 7½, he passed the tests necessary for admission into special education at Cy-Fair ISD. Although James was severely retarded with cerebral palsy, I left no stone unturned in efforts to enrich his life and make him have a more meaningful and productive life. I was instrumental in organizing the first TARS group in the area, and worked with the special olympics and day camps. I am President of the Parents Assoc. of Richmond State School, member of State Parents Assoc. for the Retarded of Texas, have been asked to be a part of several committees under the auspices of TDMHMR. I am a member of HARD and TAMD and have attended many professional conferences on mental retardation, both locally and nationally.

Rosemary Johnson, Dallas---parent of partially paralyzed child.

Son Keven broke his neck 2½ years ago in a diving accident when he was 17. He is partially paralyzed. I graduated from New Mexico University with a degree in dramatic art. During the 1950's I was woman's editor for WFAA, where I wrote and broadcast three shows daily. In 1973, I received my master's degree in social work from the UT Arlington. Since that time, I have been with the Children's Medical Center, the Dallas pediatric branch of Southwestern Medical School. I have worked with the families of developmentally disabled or delayed children, children with heart and kidney diseases, cystic fibrosis, growth problems and diabetes. An article based on a study made for my master's was recently published in the Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling. It was entitled "Private Agency Response Toward the Physically Handicapped Applicant in a Wheelchair", and tested the attitudes and behaviors of private Dallas employment counselors. I visited 50 employment agencies. At 25 I appeared myself, normal. At the other 25, I was disguised as a wheelchair patient. The finding of significant discrimination toward the wheelchair applicant suggests that architectural barriers should still be attacked, as should the myth of increased insurance costs. More effort must also be made to locate companies willing to hire the handicapped.

Doman K. Keele, M.D., Dallas---pediatric physician

Professor at Southwestern Medical School, Dallas. Attending staff, Children's Medical Center. Director, University Affiliated Center, department of Pediatrics. UT Health Science Center of Dallas. Present Committees include. Professional Advisory Committee, Dallas Cty Board of MH/MR; Professional Advisory Committee, Dallas Association for Retarded Children; Chairman, Committee in Learning Disabilities Southwestern Medical School. Professional Advisory Committee, Dallas ISD. Regional Consultant for Handicapped Children, Head Start. Chairman, Professional Advisory Committee, Dallas Society for Crippled Children. Received Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Statewide Professional, 1968, Texas ARC. Distinguished Service Award, Dallas ARC, 1972. Author of many publications dealing with mental health and retardation.

Lee Kitchens, Richardson---dwarfism.

Graduate of SMU, registered professional engineer. Member of several engineering associations, and hold patents on several inventions. I have worked for the past 24 years for Texas Instruments. I have a strong interest in civic affairs, serving on the first Goals for Dallas program, as Technical consultant to the Pilot School for the Deaf, Curriculum Consultant on Digital Electronics for Eastfield College, and scoutmaster for several years. Since 1960, I have been a director, vice president and president of the Human Growth Foundation. I have been a director and officer of the Little People of America, for 16 years, serving as president for four years. I also served as director and president of Little People of America Foundation. I have an understanding of many handicaps. I learned to lip read as a teen due to a loss of hearing. I spent many weeks without sight while recovering from 12 eye operations. My main problem is reaching things. I am 4 feet 1 inch tall.

James A. Law, Richmond---superintendent Richmond State School

Became superintendent in July. For two years prior to that, I was assistant Supt. at the Brenham State School, and for three years before that, Director of Special Education, TDMHMR. Served in numerous positions, mainly dealing with mental health, dating back to the early 1960's. Among many other activities, I am past president of the Southwest Texas State Chapter, Council for Exceptional Children, and past president of the Texas Association of Rehabilitation Residence. Also past board member, Austin ARC. I have also served on various teams in evaluation programs that provide service to several handicapping conditions. I have served as a board member of the local ARC and now serving as Treasurer of the Texas Association on Mental Deficiencies.

Muriel LeBlanc, Beaumont---spina bifida, hypoglycemic

My work experience includes 10 years with Beaumont ISD as teacher of MR students in elementary and Jr. High School, and a vocational adjustment coordinator with special ed. I also worked with the Economic Opportunity Commission of Jefferson County as Counselor, Psychological evaluator, teacher and community relations coordinator to summer program for disadvantaged youth. I am now employed by the TRC as a Vocational Rehab Counselor, and also work as employment specialist counselor for the same agency. I am President of the Golden Triangle Rehab Assoc., a board member TRA and a member of the Texas Job

Placement Division of NRA; a member of the advisory committee on Employment Specialist Program of TRC. I also serve as liaison persons in the employment of handicapped persons by state agencies program, and am a member of the local Employee Relations Council and membership committee of the Texas Public Employees Association. I am a member of the Texas Delegation to "76" National Rehab Conference. (Muriel was a presenter in the Economic Concern area at the Texas White House Conference in San Antonio.)

Robert D. (Bob) Lee, San Antonio---amputee

Five years on executive staff of Goodwill Rehab Service, San Antonio. Currently deputy executive director. National Goodwill Worker of the year, 1971. San Antonio Jaycees' outstanding Young Man of 1972. Employed by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, 1972-73, Harold Russell Chairman. I am Ruling Elder of Yorktown Presbyterian Church.

Elena Lerma, Laredo---parent of child with learning disability

A licensed vocational nurse, and attended night classes at local college to fulfill requirements for degree in psychology. As program coordinator of a comprehensive rehabilitation Center, I'm deeply involved in all phases of rehabilitation for both physically and emotionally handicapped individuals. I have worked at the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehab Center for the past 17 years, the first eight years as a physical therapy aide, then personnel supervisor and now as program coordinator. I also work at Mercy Hospital on weekends.

Willa Mae McCandless, Amarillo---polio, confined to wheel chair since age of 17 months.

I have worked in and for the public most of my life. Part of this time I operated my own business--a watch repair and gift shop, and I hired many handicapped people who had never worked for the public since becoming handicapped. This gave them their first chance to try again. I am a member of the Indoor Sports Club, I assisted in organizing District 8, which includes Texas and Shreveport in Louisiana, and have served on many committees and offices in all three levels. I organized the first wheelchair square dance group in Texas and organized the Amarillo Chapter. I was also elected and served in ISC as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, director, and on most committees, including public relations for the chapter. On the National Level, I was national director, national vice president, president and membership secretary. I have worked tirelessly for legislation benefiting the handicapped everywhere, and serve on many committees in this field. In the American Business Women's Organization I served one year as chairman of the scholarship committee, the award that year for a nurse specializing in the care of handicapped children.

Paul McCoy, Houston---dyslectic individual with urticaria, asthma and binocular fusion difficulty.

Attending UT Austin graduate school in public administration and the law. I was director of special projects for the re-election of US Congressman Bob Eckhardt. Director of competitive sports for the City of Houston's "Fun Company". Co-meet director for the Jesse Owens National Track Meet in 1975. I am very concerned with the discrimination sometimes suffered by handicapped persons in educational and job opportunities and feel they should unite as a group to solve these and other problems facing them.

Paul C. Moreno, El Paso---wheelchair disabled veteran (Korea)

Practicing attorney and member of the Texas legislature. Helped organize first CYO in El Paso. 1947-48 president of Tepeyac Youth Club. 1948, President CYO Affiliated Clubs. Active in Cub Scout activities in Austin while attending law school. Former Member of board of directors and organizer of El Paso Legal Assistance Society. Former member, Governor's Committee for the Study of Handicapped Texans. Member Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Segura McDonald VFW Post 5615. Named outstanding disabled veteran for Texas in 1966. Now serving 4th term, Texas House of Representatives. Secretary--Mexican-American Legislative Caucus. Member, American Judicature Society. (Paul was a group leader in the Economic Concern area at the Texas White House Conference in San Antonio.)

Tom Morrison, Dallas---cerebral palsy

Completed course work required--leaving only dissertation and residency--for Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration at UT Austin in 1974. Employment: March 1968 to present as Executive administrator of all programs offered by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Dallas County. Feb., 1964 to March, 1968. Director of Rehab &

Adjustment Counselor with UCP Dallas County. June, 1959 to February of 1964: director of personnel and vocational training for Goodwill Industries of San Antonio. Memberships include...Member National and Texas Rehabilitation Association: Council for Exceptional Children; Member of the board and officer in the Association for the Disabled in Dallas; Member of the board and officer in the Variety Club Care-Van Transportation System. Member of the board of the Committee for Removal of Architectural Barriers: Member of the City of Dallas Committee on Goals for Dallas. In 1975, received the Presidential Award from the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy as the nation's number one person who, in spite being disabled by CP, has shown outstanding performance in citizenship.

Helen Moss, Lubbock---parent of child with spinal bifida.

My experience as a parent of a child who has earned a high school and college degree while maintaining mobility on crutches and functioning with other physical and medical problems has given me a special interest in the needs of the handicapped, their families and those providing services to them. I have been a special education teacher with the Lubbock Public Schools and am currently employed as a special education counselor with the S.E. Lubbock County Organization at Slaton, Texas. A son is a counselor with the Texas Commission for the Blind, and my mother is employed at the Lubbock State School.

Linda Murillo, Laredo---mother of Mongoloid twins (Downes Syndrome).

Six year old twins in Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center in Laredo. I teach in Laredo School District. Formerly taught in Harlandale District in San Antonio. Am now member of Parent Teacher Council at Cowl Rehab Center. While in S. A., was member of Bexar County MH/MR, helped with outpatient work at Santa Rosa hospital by visiting parents of newly diagnosed Downes Syndrome children to counsel with them. Was charter member of "Up With Downes Syndrome Club" in San Antonio.

Jim Patton, Ft. Worth---parent MR son, Downes Syndrome.

President, Ft. Worth ARC. Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, TARC. Director of Marketing, Drown Molding Division, American Liberty Oil Co., Civil and Mechanical engineer by profession.

Roy Pope, Lubbock---wheelchair, post polio.

I had polio in 1951, and for a time was in an iron lung 14 hours a day. I have been quite active in working for the betterment of handicapped people in Lubbock. I was one of the founders of a local handicapped club called "The Curb Eliminators". This group succeeded in having the building code of Lubbock revised so all buildings built from that time would be accessible to the handicapped. I also worked toward retaining \$20,000 from the Federal Community Development Fund for ramping certain areas in Lubbock. My main goal is better housing for the young physically handicapped adult. I am now living in a nursing home, but am working toward better life in an independent life style for all handicapped.

Pat Pound, Austin---blind

I teach math at Criss Cole Rehab Center in Austin. My students are not only blind but have other handicaps as well. For three years I worked with a consumer organization for the handicapped, MIGHT, which was instrumental in obtaining accessible transportation for the handicapped. I have been involved in efforts for better library services and better recreation services for all typed of handicapped. I have participated in the development and evaluation of several technical aids for the blind, including the braille writer and a machine to produce raised line drawings. I also use the new talking calculators for the blind. I support a united approach to services for all types of handicapped. I was a presenter in the area of Social Concerns in San Antonio.

Ione Priest, Lubbock---deaf interpreter, rehab director

Presently Rehab Director of Goodwill Industries of Lubbock. Responsible for work adjustment, personal and social adjustment, and skills training of handicapped with placement in competitive employment. Work with all disability groups, including the blind and the deaf. Previously employed as counselor of the deaf with TRC. Served internship as project for the hearing impaired at Lee College in Baytown. Responsible for providing interpreters for the deaf at meeting of Lane Denton's (House of Representatives Committee on Social Services) regional survey on needs of the deaf. Made arrangements for interpreters for many regional forums of White House Conference. Coordinated joint interpreter programs in

Lubbock for Goodwill and Texas Commission for the Deaf. Participated in Heart of Plains Registry of interpreters for the Deaf. Member Texas Society for Interpreters of the Deaf. Served as First vice president 1975-76. Member Texas Association for the Deaf, NRA-TRA, and National Rehabilitation Counselors' Association.

Trudy Putteet, Lubbock---Paraplegia, confined to wheelchair

Work Experience--Nov. 1970 to June 1971, full time secretary to a Lubbock construction firm. Then injured in auto accident. January 1974 to October 1974, Public Relations Director, Goodwill Industries of Lubbock. April 1975 through fall of 1975, worked with physically handicapped child for Lubbock Public School System to prepare her to enter regular classroom in fall. Activities include...Recipient Lubbock Women's Club Scholarship; Chosen little sis--Alpha Phi Omega--one semester--promote their efforts to eliminate architectural barriers, barriers study resource. Charter member and former president "Curb Eliminators", local and area group now nationally chartered. Past president, Handicapped Students Association. Miss Wheelchair Texas 1975, and runner-up Miss Wheelchair American 1975.

Eleanor Rogers, Center---stroke victim

At age five I was stricken with a rare bone disease which left part of the bone in my right leg sticking through the flesh. Living in poverty in a rural area, I did not get the medical attention available today. I finally was able to walk with two crutches to a country school. Able to walk with one crutch, I finished high school, but there was no money for further education until a kind man told me if I would take a business course, he would give me a job. I went day and night until I learned to type. The next year, at age 24, I announced for Shelby County public office and was elected over two opponents in the post at each camp where he was stationed. After his discharge, and with little money, we secured a government loan and went into business upholstering and repairing furniture, now in our 30th year, and we employ handicapped men and several retarded people. My husband is disabled and has suffered three heart attacks. I am president of my Sunday School class for the second year, and am a director of the Center Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Rubin, M.D., San Antonio---parent of physically and mentally handicapped child. Representing San Antonio ARC; fellow in child psychiatry, Health Science Center and San Antonio Children's Center. Formerly chief resident, Dept of Psychiatry, U of New Mexico Hospitals; Falk Fellow of American Psychiatric Assoc; Professional Advisory Board, Albuquerque Childbirth Education Assoc. Interested in family-centered services and community advocacy for the handicapped. Wife teacher for pre-school multiply handicapped children at Cardenas Center, Edgewood ISD, San Antonio.

Mrs. Gay Rutherford, Conroe---parent of multi-handicapped son.

I have been a member of the Houston ARC for the past nine years, and during that time, served in various offices including three terms as president. I am currently a member of TARC board as Region 9 vice president and a member of the state affairs task force--education area. I also worked with the Richmond State School to obtain a program for deaf-blind children. I am a member of the Harris County MH/MR Mental Retardation Advisory Council. Served 3 years on the board of governors for the Harris County Center for the Retarded; Interagency committee for Pre-Vocational Deaf/Blind Project at Richmond State School; Texas' parent representative at National Workshop in New York entitled "The Pediatrician and the Deaf/Blind Child"; Presented paper at National Conference at Richmond State School; helped establish Camp Cougar, a residential camp for handicapped and/or MR children operated jointly by HARC and the U of Houston. I have served as personal advocate for individuals needing services from community facilities and state schools. In 1976, I received the TARC State Award of Local Appreciation for outstanding work in my community.

Adelaide Salinas, Sullivan City---orthopedic handicap

I had polio when only 10 months old, affecting me from my neck to my lower extremities. I needed an iron lung until I was 5 years old. I spent the years until I was 17 in various hospitals in Texas and Louisiana. While living with my family, I managed to engage in some of the activities that young, able-bodied children enjoyed. I would get to play baseball if I used my crutch as a bat and cheerleader for the team if I did not make a home run. At 17, I was discharged from the Shriner's Hospital in Louisiana. I finally went to high school in LaJoya, graduating in 1968. I then entered Texas A & I, Kingsville. In 1970, I was in a car accident while enroute home from Kingsville. I

was in a coma for five months, suffering multiple fractures and a punctured aorta. After recovery, I resumed classes at A & I, but was shortly transferred to Pan American in Edinburg in order to be closer to my family. In 1975, I graduated with a BA in Spanish and drama. I am now pursuing an MA in Spanish Education from Antioch College through Jaurez-Lincoln in Mission, Texas. I strongly advocate equal representation for the handicapped in the professional areas, such as jobs, as well as in the area of social involvement.

Susan Sharb, Dallas---Spinal Bifida/MR

Spinal bifida causes me much difficulty in walking and also causes me to be mentally retarded. I have had many operations since birth to try to correct this handicap. I attended several public schools and graduated from Irving High School in special education. I am now and have been a resident of Pilot Home for Girls in Dallas for the past year and a half. I hope to graduate to their Phase III or semi-independent apartment living program. I have been employed for the past six months at the Vircaya Co., which makes medical aids.

Dale N. Simpson, Longview---parent of mentally retarded child

Son Steve, at age three, in 1960, had viral encephalitis due to allergic reaction to Salk vaccine. He was left with severe brain damage and is classified as profound, severely mentally retarded. My work on behalf of the handicapped include: Charter member of Gregg County ARC, board member, chairman of every major committee, president three consecutive years, sponsor and advisor to TARS. TARC board member 1966-1970, regional vice president 1967-1970. State adviser for Texas TARS 1967-1968. Member of Mayor's commission to combat Mental Retardation, member of first state task force for special education and chairman of Presidential Advisory Committee for Mental Retardation for Gregg County. Currently, Executive Director of GCARC, administrator of HOPE House Residential facility for young men, member of the Developmental Disabilities council, State Advisor for Texas TARS, Chairman of the Texas Chapter of the National Conference of executives of Associations for Retarded Citizens, member of TARC task force for Organizational Development. Serve as conservator and/or guardian to several developmentally disabled persons.

Doris Thielman, Austin---acting director Austin ARC

Since July 15, 1976, I have been serving as Acting Director of the Austin ARC. I am a member of the Texas Consortium for Developmental Disabilities, representing TARC. I am a member of the Public Responsibility Committee for the Austin State School, and have been coordinator of the Citizens Advocacy Program since 1972. This program deals with the rights of mentally handicapped persons. I have lead and been a part of several workshops and training sessions for professionals and parents on advocacy, rights of mentally retarded persons, and citizen advocacy. I have been a member of TARC committee on advocacy for over two years.

James R. Thompson, Houston---parent of autistic son.

I am vice president of the Greater Houston Chapter for Autistic Children, and past member of the board of directors: Member of the Houston, Texas and the National Society for Autistic Children; Member of the Board of Trustees and treasurer--Texas Treatment Center for Autism; Member of Houston Coordinating Council for the Handicapped; Member of the Houston, Texas and National ARC; Member of the Special Services Advisory Committee (Dept of Special Ed) in the Houston ISD in Houston's Appraisal and Treatment Center at Fondren Elementary School (HISD).

Joe A. Villareal, Houston---paraplegic confined to wheelchair

Founder of the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living (CBFL), Coordinator of plan that brought public transportation to the handicapped in Houston. Initiator of Guidebook to Houston for the Handicapped. Architect of activities with the City of Houston Department of Community Development to have curb cuts in all of the central business district. Named member of the year by CBFL. Organizer of efforts that led to price reduction for handicapped individuals at the Summit Sports Arena in Houston. Established CBFL's newsletter, Freewheeling. Acted as presenter in the Health Concern area at the Texas Conference in San Antonio.

Louie Vinson, Houston---blind.

I attended Michigan State School for the blind. Then worked for the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind at Saginaw, where I furthered my education and served as dean of the men's dormitory. I moved to Houston in 1944. I worked at various jobs, including

foreman of a broom shop that employed blind workers and I served as instructor in the shoe repair department of Walls and Hammond Trade School. Later, I was in business for myself operating a mop shop. Then, I was employed at the Houston Lighthouse for a number of years and upon retirement, I was appointed to the staff as consultant to management and labor. I am a lifetime member of the Houston Citizen Chamber of Commerce. I am a member of the Policy Development and Consultation Committee of the State Commission for the Blind.

Linda Virjan, Laredo---Cerebral Palsied

I am 18 and a graduate of Nixon High School. I plan to go to college to become a speech therapist. I have had cerebral palsy since birth. I had 12 operations before it was possible for me to begin physical therapy, which I am getting now. I hope to help the handicapped more by becoming a delegate.

Garland Wade, Austin---parent of deaf-blind multi-handicapped daughter.

Consultant Architect, Texas Dept of Health Resources. Board member & past president, the Deaf-Blind Multi-handicapped Assoc of Texas; Board member, capital Area Rehab Center in Austin; President, Policy Board for Governor's Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped; Past member, Advisory Council for Deaf-Blind Regional Center. Participant and observer, numerous workshops and seminars over the nation related to special education for the handicapped, the Deaf-Blind Multi-handicapped, etc. Efforts aimed toward achieving early intervention and adequate education for all deaf-blind Multi-handicapped individuals, and to assure activities toward proper post-educational programs.

Carol J. Whitcraft, Ph. D., Austin---parent of dyslexic retarded son.

Doctorate in Special Education, M.A. in communication. For five years I have been Director of Research for TRC. Currently I am a board member and past president of Austin ARC; Treasurer and task force chairman of Texas ARC; Vice chairman for region five of American Assoc on Mental Deficiency; Secretary of the Southwest Region of National Rehab Assoc; Genetics Counselling Coordinating Committee; Facilitating Committee for Texas School-Age Parents; Advisory Committee for Arkansas Rehab R & T Center; Program Evaluation Committee of Council of State Administrators of VR and the first NRA Mary E. Switzer Memorial Fellow. I prefer to speak on economic issues because they affect all handicapped persons.

Ralph H. White, Austin---Hearing impairment

Program Specialist, Hearing Impaired Program, Texas Rehab Commission, for nine years. Attended Gallaudet College, UT Austin and California State at Northridge. Previous professional experience as teacher, guidance counsellor. Among other activities: President elect, National Assoc of the Deaf; Board member, Professional Rehab Workers with the Adult Deaf, and chairman, Section of State Coordinators of Vocational Rehab Services for the Deaf. First chairman of the Texas Commission for the Deaf; founder of Coalition of Texas Organizations Serving the Deaf. Member of many national and state advisory councils on educational, rehab and social programs for deaf people. Writer of numerous articles relating to problems of deaf people.

Glynn Whittemore, Houston---hearing impairment

Lost all auditory capabilities at age six due to spinal meningitis. Graduated from Austin School for the Deaf in 1945 as Valedictorian. Attended Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C. for one year. Moved to Houston in 1947. Worked as printer in various shops, and for past 22 years with the Houston Post. Received a BA in Special Education from U of H in 1975. Now working part time as supervisor for deaf services at Houston Community College. Have been representative of the National Assoc of the Deaf, secretary, president and on the board of the Texas Association of the Deaf, and numerous positions with many other organizations for the deaf.

Willis L. Williams, Amarillo---cerebral palsied.

Executive Director of Goodwill Industries of Amarillo since June 16, 1975. Moved to San Antonio in 1955 as Goodwill personnel director, and became public relations director in 1958. Prior to coming to San Antonio, was in staff training program at the Dallas Goodwill for ten months. Activities: Member Amarillo Kiwanis Club and NRA. An accredited member of Public Relations Society of America. Past President of the San Antonio Toastmaster Club. Voted outstanding club speaker and club member in 1969. Member Natural Gassers Toastmasters Club, Amarillo.

Honors: Citation for Meritorious Service, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, 1973. Chosen Outstanding College Student of Southern Baptist Convention in Spring of 1952. Chosen by faculty and student senate for San Angelo College Hall of Fame. Eagle Scout and first in the Concho Valley Council recipient of Scouting's God and Country award. (Willis was a Presenter in the Education Concern area at the Texas White House Conference in San Antonio.)

Marjorie Winchester, Dallas---MR

I live alone in an apartment in Dallas. I am not employed at the present time because of a back injury. But I am active in the Dallas ARC, involved in the citizen advisory program and in an adult recreation club called "Where The Action Is". I have recently been appointed to represent MR consumers on the Developmental Disabilities Advocacy and Protective Service System, organized by the State Bar of Texas. My favorite job was working as a teen age volunteer at Camp Seroptimist, which serves persons with a variety of physical and mental handicaps.

Mary Lovey Wood, Ph.D., Austin---speech pathologist

A Co-Director of the Austin Speech, Language and Hearing Center. She has been employed at the Austin Cerebral Palsy Center, UT speech and hearing clinic, and serves as consultant to the Infant-Parent Program for developmentally delayed children, the Adult Activity Center for the severely retarded, the Criss Cole Rehab Center, the Deaf-Blind annex of the school for the blind and numerous public school special education programs. Recently elected to the legislative council of the American Speech and Hearing Assoc the Executive Council of the Texas S & HA, is a member of several committees of the American, S & HA, and is on the Inter-Agency Task Force in Austin.

Dale Hutchinson

469-2584

