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**Folder Title:**

W.H.C. [White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals] State Conference [1976-1977]

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White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

Texas Conference

Proposal for the

Office for Handicapped Individuals

*Let Frieden*

During the fall of 1976 the Texas Conference held five regional forums across the state that attracted more than 1500 handicapped individuals, their families and advocates. The project includes three phases, the Regional Forums, the State Conference, and the White House Conference. At this time the Regional Forum phase is complete and the State Conference was held successfully in early December 1976. This proposal for an office for handicapped individuals for the state of Texas is a direct result of recommendations made by the presenters at the State Conference and Governor Briscoe's very positive response that Mrs. Briscoe head up the Governor's Planning Committee on Handicapped Individuals. This proposed office provides background information on the project, a rationale for its consideration and adoption, the proposed functions of the office and a suggested structure for establishing and administrating the office.

BACKGROUND

The national effort on behalf of handicapped individuals provides a mission statement which can be restated in terms of the current Texas effort. Three specific goals exist:

1. Stimulate a state wide assessment of problems faced by individuals with physical or mental handicaps;
2. Generate a state wide awareness of those problems;
3. Develop recommendations for legislative administrative and community action to allow individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently with dignity and integration into community life.

Governor Briscoe appointed Sam Millsap as State Director and charged him with achieving these three goals for the handicapped citizens of Texas. Millsap named Marolyn Stubblefield and Bob Blase as Assistant Directors. The office of the Texas Conference has been in operation since July of 1976 and was recently recommended for an extension until July of 1977 by Governor Briscoe. This effort is still a cooperative arrangement on the part of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Texas Commission for the Blind. While this effort has an extended

mandate, it is dependent on temporary professional support and a great deal of volunteer effort from individuals from around the state. It is hoped that this very successful nucleus can be stabilized into a state-wide office that will assure attention for the handicapped and their problems. From the State Conference emerged a feeling of cooperation, coordination, and integration of all handicapping conditions. By bringing together people from all over the state it was discovered that many interests were quite similar and a network of individuals as well as structures was developed. By intermeshing existing programs and introducing individuals with common interests, the State Conference served as a catalyst to bring out the best in all those who participated. It is hoped that the impetus of this effort can be continued through a permanent office, the Office for Handicapped Individuals.

### RATIONALE

From the State Conference it became apparent that in this time of accountability, coordination, and evaluation, alternatives in the human service areas must be considered. To encourage effective and efficient delivery of services is not only advisable, it is necessary to clarify resources; to maximize the use of available funds and personnel also became apparent. The encouragement and promotion of a unified approach to dealing with all handicapping conditions was perhaps the strongest recommendation that came out of the State Conference. From the delegates came the message to help us eliminate barriers both structural and attitudinal. The promotion of responsibility and accountability on the part of both the consumer and the provider was brought up at the State Conference. From the groups at the State Conference who worked together very closely for two days came the request for means of sharing knowledge coordinating, and planning and most of all combining efforts for the good of all handicapped Texans.

The thrust of a State Conference for Texas was the involvement of the handicapped individuals themselves. During the planning and implementation of the State Conference handicapped individuals were integrated into all levels of planning and decision making with a great deal of success. It was felt that this type of participation is a process by which the handicapped individuals can fulfill their own needs by participating in that very effort. The acceptance of the need for such a coordinated network of communication and a process of active participation which is crucial to the success of such an effort exist in the State Conference and is encouraged to continue. By working together and by including handicapped individuals the State Conference found its success in supporting efforts on behalf of and by handicapped individuals themselves.

Just as it is recommended that handicapped individuals remain intimately involved in the office for handicapped individuals, it is further recommended that the White House Conference efforts for the state be continued through the office. Through Sam Millsap, the Director, and the efforts of the staff and the volunteers the White House Conference has developed sufficient visibility and credibility to enjoy a fine reputation across the state. It is recommended that this established entity be used to stabilize the proposed new office. In using such an approach, it would reflect immediately a state-wide commitment to handicapped individuals that was developed by the White House Conference. As in any successful effort, the continued impetus and viability of the White House Conference should be assured by formalizing that function for the state of Texas. Within the White House Conference is an established system for regional contacts and as well as an established volunteer leadership. It is recommended that the voluntary effort be retained and strengthened and that on-going professional consultation be encouraged also. Since the leadership abilities and commitment of those individuals involved with the White House Conference has been identified and proven, it is recommended that this effort be continued.

#### FUNCTIONS

The following functions are recommended for the Office for Handicapped Individuals:

1. Information and Referral  
With public information: To strengthen public awareness of the handicapped individuals abilities it is recommended that public information be made available through mass media, individual efforts, and multi-media presentations. It is recommended that public policy information be made available to handicapped individuals, their families and advocates. Through a public policy information system the state could be alerted of public policy decisions and legislation affecting handicapped individuals and services to the handicapped.
2. Service Information  
It is recommended that services both public and private available to handicapped individuals be identified and coordinated through the Office for Handicapped Individuals. By making such information available, the location and description of service centers could be shared immediately with the public. Such service information could describe the availability, the accessibility, the eligibility, and the expense of services. Information concerning design standards for structures and equipment could also be made available.

### 3. Issue Oriented Information

From the State Conference specific areas were pointed out that deserve consideration. These are content specific rather than organizational issues and include the following: alternative living situations; accessibility of services which includes transportation as well as programs in non-metropolitan areas; structural barriers; employment opportunities to include a review of the state merit system, job placement, sheltered workshops, and alternative rehabilitation programs for handicapped individuals for whom competitive employment is not feasible; the Civil Rights of the handicapped; special communication systems; educational programs; recreational opportunities; compliance which would include review interpretation and enforcement of policies legislation. To accomplish the informational functions of the Office on Handicapped Individuals it is suggested that information be shared throughout the state from the office on handicapped individuals. The design of a system to coordinate communication is of the utmost importance. By utilizing modern computer capabilities to establish a system of information gathering, processing and dissemination the public information, service information, and issue oriented information could be shared throughout the state. This communication system could be realized by the establishment of a computer data bank system which would be available to the consumers, family members, advocates and service providers. Such a method would provide a means to assess the needs and numbers of handicapped individuals by a communications network and information system. Specific methods of communication for this include a Watts (inward watts) line as well as a TTY communication system for hearing impaired individuals.

It is recommended that the office for handicapped individuals publish a newsletter by and for handicapped individuals. Volume 1 No. 1 of Handicapped in Texas has been printed and mailed through the courtesy of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. It is felt that this is a newsletter of high quality deserving a permanent place and adequate funding. It is recommended that this newsletter be produced on a quarterly basis and be shared throughout the state.

#### STATE CONFERENCE

It is recommended according to Governor Briscoe's suggestion that an annual conference on handicapped individuals be held on the state level. It is suggested that the state conference be preceded by regional meetings to assure accessibility in the

vastness of what we know as the state of Texas. In this State Conference the consumer thrust and emphasis must be retained to assure its success. It is recommended that this State Conference on Handicapped Individuals be incorporated with the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped to prevent duplication and extend the efforts of both groups.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

By taking a look to the future it is suggested that the office on handicapped individuals emphasize research and development. The state effort would augment the efforts of the National Council for Research and the Handicapped whose purpose is to "produce a coalition of government and private activities needed to develop and to promote implementation of a major national research effort responsible to the needs of the handicapped and their active participation" (page 17, Committee on Sights and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, 1976). Through the office of handicapped individuals state research and development projects could be identified and coordinated with the rare resources of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Significant efforts in this area are being undertaken within our state. The office should cooperate with the stated priorities for research and development of the program performance measures. The state regional and local levels could be a basis for overview. From this office and its resources voluntary assessment upon request to public and private agencies regarding program performance could be offered.

#### STRUCTURE

According to Governor Dolph Briscoe's intention, expressed at the State Conference in San Antonio in early December 1976, it recommended that an Office for Handicapped Individuals be established in the Office of the Governor by executive order. It is further proposed that this office provide program support to assure the proposed functions. Through the state level emphasis relationships with similar level efforts could be assured and could encourage a nucleus for continued planning and development for and by handicapped individuals. It is recommended that the regional structure be retained. It should be noted that the regional boundaries used by the State Conference were rather arbitrary and could be re-drawn along any number of state program regions. It should be kept in mind, however, that the basic thrust of the regional concept was to assure accessibility and participation for consumers. A local structure should be considered similar to the existing Mayor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped. This type of structure would allow for specific advocacy on the local levels which might be of particular interest to local populations. Such a regional and local level organization would encourage participation by maximum amount of individuals. Task forces to deal with the five areas of concern of the White House Conference which include education, employment, social, special, and health concerns should be established on a regional basis with an

interface on the state level. Through these special concern task forces individuals could work on particular areas of concern. This would also establish a mechanism for consumer representation on state level issues. For staffing the Office on Handicapped Individuals it is recommended that a permanent professional staff be established. It is felt that a high caliber of staff is needed to deal effectively with the proposed issues and action. It is recommended that a director who is a handicapped individual with administrative experience be retained and that an assistant director and secretary specifically for this program be hired. These individuals would be part of the office staff employed by the Office of the Governor. As with the White House Conference efforts, it is recommended that the use of professional consultants be maintained. From these individuals comes professional technical assistance on a volunteer basis. It is recommended that each state agency dealing with handicapped individuals name a professional of policy making rank to consult with the Office for Handicapped Individuals.

An Advisory Board of state-wide composition should be established for the Office on Handicapped Individuals. A group similar to that of the White House Conference, that includes consumers, family members, and advocates should be established in the ratio recommended by the White House Conference, i.e. that means 50% consumer, 25% family, and 25% advocate. On this Advisory Board it is recommended that representatives of all disabling conditions in parts of the state be included. This group would be invaluable for policy making and planning.

#### SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Office for Handicapped Individuals be established in the Office of the Governor staffed by handicapped individuals. To guarantee the continued success of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, Texas Conference. It is recommended that the office begin operation on 1 July 1977 when the Texas Conference is scheduled to end. With the help of the Texas Conference a process for smooth transition between programs could be established. It is recommended that this new program be phased in by the continuation of the White House Conference format where it is considered applicable. Of utmost importance is the continued consumer emphasis.

The proposed activities are presented in their essential form and require further consideration. Further details and cost estimates are necessary to round out the program. Further clarification of the functions suggested is necessary by specifically stating goals and objectives for action. The formalization of a program by the Governor and Mrs. Briscoe is necessary to sanction further planning efforts. It is hoped that this support will be evidenced by the naming of an Advisory Board and the announcement of the intention to open the office within the next six months.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D. Millsap, Sr., Director  
Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director

## TEXAS DELEGATION WORKSHOP

Texas Institute of Rehabilitation  
and Research  
Texas Medical Center, Library  
1333 Moursand  
Houston, Texas

May 7, 1977

### I. INFORMATION

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Transportation      | D. Meals and Lodging   |
| B. Hotel Modifications | E. Fiscal Arrangements |
| C. Traffic Flow        | F. Cultural Activities |

### II. WORKSHOP SESSION SIMULATION

Jim Hayes, Moderator

Joanie Fernandes, Timer

#### Resource Panel

Virginia Ernisse  
Linda Hutcheson  
Muriel LeBlanc

J. R. Thompson, Mic Handler

### III. STATE CAUCUS SIMULATION

Sam Millsap, Director

Meeting Place

Millsap Suite  
Sheraton Park Hotel

Delegate Recap:

Alternates:

1. Mary Ann Board, Health & Social I
2. Lex Frieden, Education
3. Gay Rutherford, Special I
4. Sam Millsap, Social II
5. Joanie Fernandes, Health
6. Jim Hayes, Economic

J. R. Thompson, Education

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D. Millsap, Sr., Director  
Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 1977  
TO: Delegates, Delegates-at-large, and Alternates  
FROM: Joan Glance Fernandes *JGF*  
SUBJECT: Orientation Workshops

The Orientation workshops for our state delegation in preparation for the National White House Conference will be held in 3 areas: Fort Worth, Houston and Austin.

The workbooks will have been mailed to you by the national office during the week of April 18. Please read them all, if possible, if not, it is important that you at least are familiar with the workbook from your area.

Regarding the state workshops, financially it was necessary to come to you. Only delegates and alternates who do not live in the immediate area of the workshop will be reimbursed for travel. If this presents any hardship, please contact me.

Enclosed is the workshop schedule with a list of delegates/alternates from each area. Also, I have enclosed additional information that we will discuss at the workshop, so please bring it with you.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Northeast campus of Tarrant County Junior College, 828 Harwood Road, Hurst, Texas 76053 (817) 281-7860 Ext. 333, 337.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D. Millsap, Sr., Director  
Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

<p>North Region (Ft. Worth)</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 3 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>TCJC-NE Community Room, Library</p>
<p>Gulf Coast Region (Houston)</p>	<p>Saturday, May 7 1:30 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Texas Institute of Reha- bilitation and Research Texas Medical Center Library 1333 Moursand Houston, Texas</p>
<p>Central Region (Austin)</p>	<p>Sunday, May 8 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Criss Cole Center 4800 North Lamar Austin, Texas</p>

## DELEGATES/ALTERNATES

### North (Ft. Worth)

#### Delegates

Buffy Fedder  
Lee Kitchens  
Tom Morrison  
Jim Patton  
Mrs Dale Simpson  
Jim Hayes  
Joanie Fernandes

#### Alternates

Glenda Carlock  
Don Drewery  
Trudy Putteet  
Ann Marek,  
    Delegate-at-large  
Mike Rodrigues,  
    Delegate-at-large

828 Harwood Road, Hurst, Texas 76053

### Gulf Coast (Houston)

#### Delegates

Mary Ann Board  
Lex Frieden  
Gay Rutherford

#### Alternates

Virginia Ernisse  
Mary Virginia Griggs  
Linda Hutcheson  
Muriel LeBlanc  
J. R. Thompson

### Central (Austin)

#### Delegates

Bill Flynn  
Pat Pound  
Richard Rubin  
Ralph White  
Willis Williams  
Sam Millsap

#### Alternates

Ruth Cowle  
Don Culwell  
Charles Eskridge  
Efton Geary  
Bud Davidson  
Carol Whitecraft  
Mary Lovey Wood  
Marian Romero  
    Delegate-at-large

(817) 281-7860, Ext. 333,337

TEXAS DELEGATION

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DELEGATES</u>	<u>ALTERNATES</u>
Health I & Social I	Richard Rubin, M.D.	Lynda Hutcheson Mary Lovey Wood, Ph.D.
Health II	<i>JIM HAYES</i>	Ruthe B. Cowl
Education	Buffy Fetter Jim Hayes Jim Patton Gay Rutherford Dale Simpson	J. R. Thompson
Social II	Lee Kitchens Pat Pound	Don Culwell Don Drewery
Social III	Mary Ann Board Tom Morrison Ralph White	Glenda Carlock Trudy Putteet
Economic	Sam Millsap Willis Williams	Mary Virginia Griggs Muriel Le Blanc Carol Whitcraft, Ph.D.
Special I	Joan Fernandes Lex Frieden	<del>Frank Borreca</del> Virginia Ernisse Charles Eskeridge
Special II	Bill Flynn	Bud Davidson Efton Geary

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

## NORTH TEXAS FORUM

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 19, 1977  
TO: Sam Millsap, State Director  
FROM: Joan Glance Fernandes  
SUBJECT: State Directors' Meeting, Washington D. C.  
April 16-17, 1977

Joan Glance Fernandes  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053  
(817) 281-7860

Janie Clements  
RURAL CHAIRMAN  
1906 Elizabeth  
Brownwood, Texas 76801  
(915) 646-6385

Jim B. Grey  
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN  
3400 Hulen  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
(817) 737-6661

D. H. Howell  
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN  
500 S. Ervay,  
Suite 647-A  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
(214) 748-9711

Tom Morrison  
REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN  
7505 Parwald  
Dallas, Texas 75235  
(214) 638-6340

Marti Patterson  
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS  
CHAIRMAN  
401 Franklin  
Waco, Texas 76703  
(817) 756-7494

J. Q. Sutherlin  
NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN  
3726 Dutton Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75211  
(214) 339-3967

Several items have been clarified at the recent State Directors' meeting. The initially gruelling schedule has been modified to result in busy days and evenings paced with "breathers."

I have a mixed reaction regarding the hotel accommodations. The food is of poor quality and grossly overpriced. Comparable meals served in the hotel restaurant are approximately half the price. Also the Conference meals will be buffet style. There was considerable discussion regarding this by the directors, and Moshman and Associates reluctantly agreed to negotiate with the hotel.

The hotel rooms are pleasant and comfortable. As for accessibility there will be problems. The sinks are styled in such a way that a wheelchair could not get close to them. There is a grab bar over the tub and one placed awkwardly behind the commode.

When I questioned Jack Smith regarding it, he said some people wanted it there. When I questioned the hotel management they said it was suggested by the Architectural Barriers Compliance Board. There was no indication that the grab rail would be moved to a useful position.

Although the rooms appear neat and clean, the areas around the kitchen and meeting rooms are not. One state director reported roaches in the kitchen. I personally did not visit the kitchen area.

There seems to be adequate ramping; however the elevator situation may be a disaster. Our delegation will need to be aware of the schedule and plan adequate time to reach the meetings to accommodate the traffic jams. The planning by the White House Staff, Moshman and Associates and the hotel management has been significant, however inadequate. I am concerned with their lack of awareness to the special needs of the participants. They seem to be missing the reality of what will be taking place next month.

Travel arrangements will be made by Moshmans. Delegates will receive prepaid tickets in advance and alternates will have their itinerary planned but prepayment for those tickets needs to be arranged immediately.

TARRANT COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE - NORTHEAST CAMPUS

828 HARWOOD RD. HURST, TEXAS 76053 • 281-7860 • 281-0037 TTY

The overall feeling I have regarding the status of the conference plans is that it is progressing. However what is accomplished during this last month will be critical to the success of the conference.

At the concluding session of the conference three resolutions were proposed and signed by 51 delegates. These requested that:

1. The state directors meet as a group on the arrival day of the conference.
- \* 2. The state directors meet with President Carter for 15 minutes on Friday of that week.
3. The state directors examine and approve the final reports and implementation plan submitted to the President in September.

The requests seemed to be accepted with the proper attitude.

I am excited about the conference despite the problems. I feel that our delegates once prepared (see attached) will share the excitement.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

TO : Texas Delegation

FROM : Marolyn Stubblefield, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Conclusion of Project

DATE : April 25, 1977

Because the planning for the May conference is complete, the Texas Conference of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals no longer requires a full-time office and staff. The office has been closed by Sam Millsap, Sr., State Director, since further extension of the state agency sponsors' good will cannot be justified.

Training for the Washington conference will be carried on "of the Delegates, by the Delegates, for the Delegates" by Joanie Fernandez who also attended the State Directors' meeting. Further information on this effort will come from Joanie.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with so many skilled consumer advocates for handicapped individuals and value the experience of working with this effort very much. The good people, good ideas, and good effort have made the project a success as far as I'm concerned.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington. I can be reached at:

San Antonio State Hospital  
Department of Outreach Services  
Box 23310, Highland Hills Station  
San Antonio, Tx. 78223  
512-532-8811 ext. 571  
TEX-AN 827-1571

MS/rp

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

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D Millsap, Sr. Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 1977  
TO: Delegates and Alternates  
FROM: Sam Millsap, State Director *SRM*  
SUBJECT: Closing of State Office

The State Conference office (1222 N. Main, Suite 711, San Antonio, Tx. 78212) has been closed, effective April 20, 1977. Marolyn Stubblefield will be attending the National Conference as a Participant/Observer and will have limited involvement because of this designation.

Joanie Fernandes will assist me with the orientation and preparation of the delegation. You can contact her at Tarrant County Junior College, Northeast campus, 828 Harwood Road, Hurst, Texas 76053. (817) 281-7860, Ext. 333, 337.

Workshops are being planned and you will be notified as to time and place within the next few days. I enthusiastically anticipate a busy and productive time for our delegation.

Please notify Joanie or me if you have any questions.

Sam Millsap Sr., State Director  
5930 Winding Ridge  
San Antonio, Texas 78239  
512-656-0161

The first meeting of the Texas Delegation to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals was held on March 5, 1977, at the Governor's Mansion.

Those in attendance included Sam Millsap, Chairman, Tom Morrison, Ruthe Cowl, Willis Williams, Lynda Hutcheson, Lee Kitchens, Efton Geary, Richard Rubin, M.D., Carol Whitcraft, Ph.D., Muriel Le Blanc, Lex Frieden, Buffy Fetter, Joannie Fernandes, Charles Eskeridge, Mary Lovey Wood, Ph.D., Mary Ann Board, Pat Pound, Bill Flynn, Jim Patton, Gay Rutherford, Ginny Griggs, Virginia Ernisse, Dole Simpson, Joe Villarreal, J. R. Thompson, Glenda Carlock, and Ralph White. Also in attendance were Caren Phelan, Ph.D., Charles Hoehne, Elaine Roberts, Bob Ferrie, Ruth Millsap, Bob Blase, Richard Gibbe, III, and Marolyn Stubblefield.

Sam Millsap, Chairman, began the meeting by requesting that the group introduce themselves and state their particular areas of interest. Charles Hoehne presented a report on behalf of Burt Risley, a member of the National Advisory Board for the White House Conference. He reported the concerns of the Board about planning the Conference and the strength of the Texas Delegation.

The group informed each other of their efforts. The TRC industrial programs were reported by Carol Whitcraft, Ph.D. who particularly mentioned the Southwestern Bell program. Charles Eskeridge shared a report of all current legislation related to handicapped individuals and discussed the need to be informed and in contact with legislators. Action was urged through legislators and advocacy efforts by Gay Rutherford on behalf of the developmentally disabled, by Efton Geary on behalf of speech and hearing programs for public school students, by Pat Pound concerning insurance for the handicapped, and by Ruthe Cowl concerning DPW's policy limiting payments for outpatient care of handicapped individuals. For further information, MIGHT has reports on the status legislation and Floy Johnson of the Texas Legislative Council can be contacted at 512-475-6447.

During the upcoming consultation trip to Washington, Marolyn Stubblefield was encouraged to explore several issues with the White House Conference staff. These issues include: seeking a clearer definition of "handicapped" in policy guidelines; needing accessibility to legislators, especially the Texas Congressional Delegation, and federal agency heads;

clarifying the role of Alternate Delegates; provisions for interpreters for the hearing impaired; discovering the delegation identification system, and expressing concern about the limitations of space and attendant care and the dates of the conference.

During the time of taking pictures for newspaper releases and viewing slides from the State Conference, the group reconvened to discuss the perceived need to enlarge the Governor's Planning Committee on Handicapped Individuals. Because of the desire to include more geographic areas and handicapping conditions, it was the consensus of the group to include the Delegates plus Ruthe Cowl from the South Region and any Alternates able to come in future meetings of that group.

The group was adjourned until the next meeting which will be held after the State Director's meeting in Washington on April 16 & 17, 1977.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

March 24, 1977

Mr. Jack Smith, Director  
White House Conference  
1832 M Street N.W., Suite 801  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Jack,

Since our short visit two weeks ago, I have been digesting the impressions I got from the planning work for the White House Conference. I would like to share with you - very honestly and directly - both my feelings and those of some members of the Texas Delegation in response to the schedule.

While I realize the need to commit schedules far ahead of such a conference, I would recommend some reconsiderations and pre-advisement of the state delegations. Enclosed is a report of my concerns. I hope this perspective will be of value to you and your staff.

Because of his business commitments, Sam is unable to attend the State Directors' meeting on 16 & 17 April. I plan to be present for that meeting and will arrive in Washington on 13 April to continue planning with the Texas Congressional Delegation. I plan to check in with you and Dennis and will be available for further discussion of these matters.

Sincerely,

*Marolyn*  
Marolyn Stubblefield  
Assistant Director

MS/rp

Enclosure

cc: Texas Delegation  
Dennis Wyant, Ed.D.

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

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

March 24, 1977

TO: : State Delegation

FROM : Marolyn Stubblefield

SUBJECT: Washington Report

Enclosed is a letter to Jack Smith that reflects the essence of my recent trip to Washington. As you can infer, my consultation was met with mixed responses. I feel quite strongly that changes in the schedule must be made to assure effective participation.

The suggestions were made as recommended at our last meeting. Direct and organized participation by the President and human service agency heads does not seem to be planned. The presentation of the summary of issues such as we did does not seem to be entertained. An exhibit hall is planned, and our multi media show will be included if we can afford it. Interpreters for the hearing impaired will be available in all group sessions.

The schedule is grueling - rest up and be ready to work. The Delegates & Alternates can take turns in the sessions to assure coverage, some leisure time for all, and a chance for maximum participation. During the noon hour on Wednesday, the Texas Congressional Delegation will hold its lunch in the Speaker's Dining Room. Because of space limitations, delegates are encouraged to wangle an invitation from their Representative. As a group, we can't monopolize the lunch, but if we're included by our Congressman, well... Congressman Bob Krueger has offered to host

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

a reception in the Capitol for us and the Delegation.  
Firm plans will be made in mid April.

Copies of the issue report forms will be made available to each regional chairman as soon as they are copied. Check in with your chairman if you'd like to see what was forwarded to Washington. A state report is being developed, the bulk of which is a synthesis of the issues that affect the state level. Recommended courses of action will also be included. This report should be published by mid April and made available around the state.

MS/rp  
Enclosure

## WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

### REPORT

On 10 & 11 March I contacted the White House Conference staff to discuss planning for the May conference. Individuals with whom I talked included Jack Smith, Dennis Wyant, Ed.D., Al Emery, and Jim Gelatt. Some areas of concern emerged from the consultation and included the following:

Schedule: From the 7:00 a.m. breakfast to the 9:30 p.m. state caucuses seems to be much too demanding a schedule. The schedule appears to be uniform throughout the week rather than containing events of varying importance. To keep up such a pace will be very difficult for three and one half days and will guarantee complaints and mixed performance, if not increase the probability of illness or injury.

It is recommended that some "safety valves" be built into the program. The organized alternation of members of the Texas Delegation has been adopted by that group. While delegates attend an activity such as the Wednesday lunch of the Texas Congressional Delegation, alternates will represent the state. This rotation will allow the only freedom we could find for resting, recreation, sight-seeing and advocacy with the federal system.

The potential for leisure activities during the week in Washington is great and should be explored. Tours of the White House, Smithsonian Museums, and the Capitol are available and could be encouraged. For many of us a trip to Washington is a very special time that should include many dimensions.

At our State Conference we worked very hard, some well into the night, on a self-imposed regimen. This pace should be set by the delegates themselves rather than structured by the schedule. Performance levels are quite high when folks set their own pace; resentment and lack of cooperation can result from being pushed too hard. We are ready to work hard but feel we must have the opportunity to play hard, too.

Accessibility & Availability: Several members of our delegation have expressed the feeling of being made a "captive audience" by all of the activities happening at the hotel. Alternative activities and sites should be considered.

During my last trip, I conferred with several Congressmen, one of whom registered dismay at the one scheduled contact between delegates and legislators. The scheduled get-together will occur so early in the week that the delegates will have little sense of priorities for lobbying. That week is a short one with a holiday recess; the legislators will be busier than usual and their taking time to go to the hotel seems highly unlikely. Those who will come are probably "on our side" rather than the legislators who need to be made aware of our concerns.

It is recommended that state delegations organize meetings with their legislators. We plan to have a reception in the Capitol in an attempt to contact as many of our Congressional Delegation as possible.

The involvement of top level persons is important in encouraging action on our behalf. It is hoped that the President and Mrs. Carter will be included in a meaningful way. Cabinet level officials should be present to experience the conference and get a sense of what they can do to meet the expressed needs. To miss individuals such as the new Director of the Veterans' Administration would be a loss to us all. Several members of the delegation want to confer with program level officials and will have to take time out of the schedule to seek them out if they are not available.

Autonomy: The format of handicapped individuals' presenting the concerns to Governor Briscoe was quite effective and is recommended for the federal level. No one can speak for the handicapped as well as handicapped individuals themselves. When I suggested this process at our meeting, the fear of a speaker's "grandstanding" was expressed. On the contrary, I feel a handicapped person would be quite effective and responsible in that role. Our Texas Conference is a successful illustration of that trust.

I realize I sound like Cassandra but I feel we must make every effort to prevent an "I told you so" situation for handicapped persons speaking for themselves. The impact of handicapped individuals speaking for themselves, dealing with whatever barriers exist in Washington and experiencing the city fully is great. It is our hope that arrangements can be made to bring out the best in all of us. It is quite a challenge, but, we believe, a possibility.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

March 14, 1977

TO : Texas Delegation  
FROM : Sam D. Millsap, Director  
SUBJECT: March 21 Meeting

Because of the heavy legislative session schedule, Mrs. Briscoe is unable to meet with us on 21 March. That planning meeting is cancelled since we can make little progress without her input. Any information that you would have shared with the group at that time can be sent to the office for distribution. If you have further suggestions for the proposed Office on Handicapped Individuals, send it in.

In Washington, last week Marolyn contacted several people important to our delegation's efforts. She will report on that meeting as soon as she returns from traveling for TDMHMR.

Two Alternates, Criss Cole & Paul Moreno have had to resign because of their heavy professional commitments at the time of the Conference. The next highest votes were held by Trudy Putteet (3610 47th Street, Lubbock) and Don Culwell (2502 Waterford, San Antonio). Trudy & Don will be briefed and included in future meetings. Welcome aboard to them both.

Our next meeting is scheduled for after our return from the State Directors Meeting on 16-17 April. See you then.

Enclosed is some legislative information that you will find of interest.

SDM/rp  
Enclosure

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

The delegates of the Gulf Coast Region would make the following proposal to the delegate body of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

- I The Texas Delegation to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals support the renaming of the Governors Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped to the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Severely Handicapped., and further support legislation for this expansion.
  
- II A Legislative Committee should be created from the delegation representing the following handicapping conditions:
  - (2) orthopedically handicapped
  - (1) visually "
  - (1) auditorally "
  - (1) mentally "
  - 5 total

These 5 people should be elected by caucus within each disability designated...THIS SHOULD BE DONE AT THE MARCH 21st MEETING.

This Committee would study the Bills before the legislature relating to the handicapped ~~and~~ and after committee agreement, disseminate an analysis of these bills with recommendations to support <sup>\*\*</sup> or oppose to the other delegates for appropriate action.

The delegates of the Gulf Coast Region further propose:

The delegates of the Texas White House Conference adopt as one of their priorities the following recommendations.

1. Social Security Disability Insurance benefits be given to the qualified person without penalty for employment. Medical benefits available under SSI should continue under SSDI without interruption.

The White House Conference Staff be directed to research the appropriate legislation addressing this recommendation and on April 23, 1977 provide the delegates with recommendations for amending such legislation to fulfill the recommendation.

\*\*

The Legislative Committee should be reimbursed for expenses, ie:  
Travel & accomodations  
Duplicating  
Mailing  
Telephone  
Other necessary expenses incurred by the committee

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

Sam D. Millsap, Sr., Director  
Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director

April, 27, 1977

Mr. John Hessler, Chairman  
California Conference on  
Handicapped Individuals  
830 K Street Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear John,

Your letter was brought to my attention only recently. I don't believe Texas has responded to your request so I will try to do so. Attached please find list of delegates and alternates and assigned interest groups.

I support your recommendations and am curious if you have received any response.

We look forward to working with you and the California delegation. I can be of any help, don't hesitate to ask.

Most sincerely,



Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director  
Texas Conference on Handicapped Individuals

cc: Sam Millsap, Sr., State Director  
Texas delegation

JGF/db

## **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

Sam D. Millsap, Sr., Director  
Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director

April 27, 1977

Congressman Jim Wright  
House Majority Leader  
2415 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Jim,

As you know, the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is quickly approaching. With President Carter's expressed concern for the handicapped and the soon-to-be-signed 504 Regulations, we look forward to the Conference with great anticipation.

Sixteen delegates, 15 alternates and 3 delegates-at-large will represent Texas, and I hope your busy schedule will accommodate a visit with us. Also, I invite you to visit the work sessions or the Texas State caucus (schedule enclosed.) During these sessions the issues and recommendations that have been compiled from the state conferences will be discussed and prioritized. By September 1, 1977 this Prioritization will be submitted to President Carter with an implementation plan. I feel that under the leadership of our State Director, Sam Millsap, the Texas delegation will have significant input.

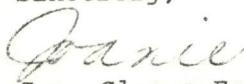
Our State conference brought heartwarming support from Governor and Mrs. Briscoe. The State delegates asked that the Governor continue his support in a state-wide effort. His response was the delegation of our requests to Mrs. Briscoe which resulted in the establishment of the Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the appointment of Jim Grey of Fort Worth to direct it.

Needless to say, we are delighted. We hope the National Conference will be as successful.

I know you have great concern and support for the handicapped and that is why I'd like the Texas delegation to have the opportunity to meet and visit with you.

This is the year of the handicapped. We need the attention and support of our legislators to improve the lives of our handicapped citizens. I know you're on our team. I hope you can join us during this most significant conference.

Sincerely,



Joan Glance Fernandes, Assistant Director  
Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

Encls: 1

cc: Sam Millsap, Sr., State Director  
Texas Delegation

JGF/db

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

March 17, 1977

TO : State Delegation  
FROM : Marolyn Stubblefield, Assistant Director  
SUBJECT: Reimbursement for Expenses

Enclosed is your reimbursement for travel expenses relating to the State Delegation meeting on 5 March. At this time, we can only pay your travel expenses. As soon as the new grant comes in, you can be reimbursed for per diem expenses.

Thanks for understanding our financial plight.

Cheers!

MS/rp  
Enclosure

*for Austin trip*

*reimbursement  
\$52.80*

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

February 17, 1977

The Honorable John Hill  
Attorney General of Texas  
Supreme Court Building  
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: RQ-1547, Employment of the Handicapped  
By State Agencies

Dear General Hill:

As you may know, there will be a White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals this summer in Washington. In the process of identifying issues, recommendations and policy positions to be considered at this national meeting, there have been a series of regional meetings in this state and a Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals was held in San Antonio in December.

More than 3,500 persons, most of them either handicapped themselves or else related to handicapped individuals, participated in these regional and statewide activities here in Texas. It is on behalf of these participants that I would like to relate to RQ 1547 certain of the findings, recommendations and positions which evolved from these White House Conference activities here in Texas.

It is untenable that the Department of Public Welfare should at this late date attempt to develop a job specification which requires a social worker, or for that matter any other employee, to have vision and hearing. There simply is no factual or functional necessity for any state agency to use a visual or hearing disability or any other handicapping condition as a grounds for disqualifying people from state employment as social workers or in related types of positions.

I would like to call two basic facts to your attention. First of all, institutions of higher education have for years been accepting handicapped individuals into programs offering degrees in social work or related professions at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Secondly, there is no way to avoid the reality that blind, deaf and other handicapped individuals are in fact at this time successfully employed as social workers in numerous types of other equally demanding professions (educators, insurance sales, private business, counselling, management, law, etc.). Thousands of handicapped

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

The Honorable John Hill  
February 17, 1977  
Page 2

individuals are successfully employed in relatively demanding positions across this state, and hundreds of those persons participated in the Texas White House Conference activities for the express purpose of urging that unenlightened, insupportable and regressive practices of the type exemplified in the Department of Public Welfare's attempt to establish a sight and hearing requirement for social workers be eliminated in both public and private employment.

Sight and hearing are a convenient asset for social work or for any other type of employment. There are extremely few positions, however, for which sight or hearing are an essential functional requirement. There are many ways in which a person with a sight or hearing problem can cope with and overcome that problem so as to be able to carry his fair share of the workload in any organization. In many cases, the compensatory skills which blind and deaf persons develop, together with their heightened use of other senses, result in work capabilities which more than offset those limitations normally associated with visual and hearing handicaps. The effectiveness of current rehabilitation acumen is hardly restricted to blind and deaf persons; rehabilitation effort is similarly successful in overcoming limitations associated with other handicapping conditions.

In testimony received at meetings throughout this state, handicapped individuals participating in the state activities associated with the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals have consistently urged that government serve as a constructive example to other employers in allowing the handicapped more meaningful employment opportunities. Policies committing the State of Texas to serve as such a model have, of course, been declared on numerous occasions by the Texas Legislature. Most of those policies are comprehensively summarized in Senator Brooks' letter of January 5, 1977, requesting your ruling on the attempted practices of the Department of Public Welfare.

The evidence is overwhelming that state agencies and departments need to take these legislatively declared policies more seriously and to do a more effective job in carrying out these policies.

As Senator Brooks correctly notes in the letter requesting your opinion, a federally supported agency such as the Department of Public Welfare is now legally mandated to take affirmative action to promote improved employment opportunities for the handicapped. Before this had become a specific requirement associated with an organization's receipt and use of federal funds, the Texas Legislature had taken action to enable state agencies and departments to make those administrative adaptations required for improving their records in the area of employing handicapped individuals. Among other things, the Legislature by general statute, not by an appropriations bill provision, authorized state agencies and departments to work out special methods for reimbursing the necessary travel expenses of handicapped employees who might not be able to drive personal automobiles in carrying out their official duties.

The Honorable John Hill  
February 17, 1977  
Page 3

Narrowly and in the short haul, it may well cost a state agency slightly more to reimburse the travel expenses of a handicapped employee who cannot drive a personally owned vehicle in the performance of his job duties. On a broader and more long range basis, it certainly is a more fiscally sound proposition for a state to have a handicapped person working than it is to be maintaining that person in a state institution or on welfare. The advancement of basic social policies through legislation which tends to impact upon the administrative and personnel practices of state agencies and other employers is, moreover, not restricted to the handicapped. Other minorities, veterans, particular types of employees, and particular matters associated with employment in general are all governed by legislation which has some impact upon payroll expenses.

If, therefore, a state agency experiences slightly greater costs by authorizing a special system of travel expense reimbursement for a handicapped employee who cannot drive a personally owned automobile in performing his state work, there is nothing about this expenses which can properly be regarded as unique or exceptional. The expense is in the same nature as the cost of unemployment insurance, costs of workmen's compensation, affirmative action taken in the interest of employment of members of other minority groups, additional leave benefits provided state employees with a senior term of service, preferences accorded to veterans, participation in public service programs to promote the employment of welfare recipients, employee training programs, and related matters which tend to impact on overall payroll expenses.

Obviously, the failure of the Department of Public Welfare to develop an adequate system for reimbursing the necessary travel expenses of handicapped employees who cannot drive personally owned automobiles in performing their work duties is not compatible with the affirmative action requirements of federal legislation or with the state policies summarized in Senator Brooks' letter of January 5, 1977. On a more fundamental level, this failure, particularly when compounded by the functionally insupportable attempt to establish a sight and hearing requirement on social worker positions, represents a curiously inappropriate and unenlightened stance on the part of an agency organized and operated at public expense for the basic purpose of improving the condition of disadvantaged citizens of this state.

The position set out in this letter is extensively supported by the record developed through the state and regional activities conducted as part of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. I am entirely confident, therefore, that all who participated in these activities support me in urging that your good office issue a ruling which definitively requires proper correction of the inequities and deficiencies described in Senator Brooks' opinion request, rather than requiring organizations of handicapped individuals to turn to the courts for relief.

The Honorable John Hill  
February 17, 1977  
Page 4

Thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to present these remarks on behalf of the handicapped people who have been dealing with these issues across the state for the past several months, and thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours truly,

*Sam Millsap*  
Sam Millsap

CC: The Honorable Chet Brooks  
Senate Chambers  
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. Raymond Vowell  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Welfare  
Reagan Building  
Austin, Texas 78711

BCC: Mr. Lex Frieden

This is the text of a speech made by Lex Frieden to the Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Governor of the State of Texas on December 2, 1976 at the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals in San Antonio, Texas.

Governor Briscoe, it is a privilege for me to represent here a number of hard-working and well chosen individuals who, for the past two days, have been working with this conference on areas of special concern to handicapped individuals. Some of my friends have tried to tell me that Special Concerns are those issues that could not be fit into any of the other categories. However, I believe that Special Concerns are those issues which are so important that they must have a category of their own. Those issues include housing for handicapped persons, service delivery systems, civil rights, problems of severely and multiply handicapped individuals, and unique problems of handicapped minorities, handicapped aging and disabled veterans.

We have identified for you a number of problems. We have suggested solutions which, if they were all acted upon, would keep you and the legislature busy for the next two sessions.

We hope that you will at least consider each and every one of these recommendations, and we hope that you will personally assume the responsibility for finding the necessary funding to support the programs which are needed. We hope that you will hold those programs which are now in existence, and which we find ineffective, accountable for providing the services they were mandated to provide. Finally, we hope that you will initiate new programs necessary to fill the gaps between existing programs.

There is no doubt that there is a need for an ongoing dialogue with an agency that can be responsible for meeting all of our needs. We do not need just another office

where someone will listen to our problems and pat us on the heads. We do not need someone to tell us that our problems are not their responsibilities, and send us elsewhere to look for solutions. We need an office, preferably in the Office of the Governor, which has the responsibility for coordinating all of the programs relating to handicapped individuals in the state. We need to know what services are available to us, how to qualify for them, and where to find them. Conversely, many agencies need to know who we are, where to find us, and what our needs are.

Now, in Texas we are fortunate, because we already have a lot of things going for us. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission, for example, is the second largest vocational rehabilitation agency in the United States and it is well respected throughout the States. In fact, most of the problems and criticisms that are directed towards TRC do not even relate to jobs that this agency was mandated to perform. Vocational rehabilitation services are confined to those of us who are of working age and who have the intellectual or physical ability to be gainfully employed. TRC cannot meet the needs of handicapped children, the elderly handicapped, or persons who have progressive or developmental disabilities which make vocational goals unrealistic.

Additionally, many of our problems fall outside the realm of strictly vocational activities. Take, for example, the more obvious problems of routine accessibility and communication-environmental problems that may not relate directly to vocational goals. No one has to tell me that I cannot get up the steps in front of the school house where I am supposed to go and vote. Anyone should be able to tell that a blind person cannot see the lights at a street corner which he wants to cross. It should be obvious that a deaf person cannot hear a fire alarm. These are just examples of some of the obvious problems which frustrate us from day to day and

which no one seems to be doing anything about. Sometimes the answers to these problems are not as obvious as the problems themselves. However, it might not be too difficult to put a ramp in front of the steps at my school, and it certainly would not be difficult to put a bell on the light at the street corner, or a light on the bell of the fire alarm.

Governor Briscoe, we appreciate your being here to listen to our suggestions. This is a significant occasion, for it is the first time that elected representatives of handicapped people from throughout the state have come together to discuss issues that affect them and offer suggestions for implementing solutions. We do not know all of the answers, but we do know most of the problems, because we have to live with them from one day to the next. In the past, you have listened to us individually and have responded appropriately on an individual basis. Now we are gathered before you representing approximately 15% of the population of the State of Texas. We are handicapped individuals who for one reason or another need on-going treatment or care. We are people from all ethnic groups, from all parts of the state, and from every age group, who are united as a class of citizens, and who are being denied our basic rights.

We have certain basic needs which must be met in order for us to be the productive and useful citizens we know we can be. We hope that Texas takes a leadership role throughout the states by insuring that handicapped individuals in this state have their rights protected and their needs met in order that they can benefit as everyone else does, from the fruits of our great society.

# Handicapped In Texas

NEWS FROM AROUND THE  
STATE PUBLISHED  
BY THE STATE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE ON  
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY, 1977

## Governor Responds To HIT Testimony

### Handicapped In Texas Speak Out At 2-Day State Convention

The appearance of Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe highlighted the second day of the State Convention for the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals held December 1 and 2 in San Antonio.

At the noon luncheon on December 2nd, a summary of testimony given at 5 forums held around the state was presented to the Governor and in an enthusiastic and quite emotional response, the Governor answered with a positive promise to look closely at the handicapped needs outlined. He went on to say "It is time to respond to the needs of the handicapped in this State. The person I want to put in charge to see that this is done is someone in whom I have the highest confidence - my wife, Janey."

So, with a strong commitment from the State's leading citizen and with the appointment of the State's First Lady to coordinate an office for finding solutions to our problems, the 66 delegates representing more than 12% of the State's total population left the Alamo City with a new excitement that one observer admitted he had not seen since E & J decided to manufacture the wheelchair.

The 66 delegates were elected at forums held in October and November in 5 Texas cities. During the regional meetings, a total of more than 1500 handicapped citizens testified on issues relating to Health, Special, Economic, Educational and Social Concerns.

The initial process began when Governor Briscoe appointed Sam Millsap of San Antonio to serve as Texas Chairman for the White House Conference. This came about as a result of legislation by the U.S. Congress (and then President



Photo by Lynn Stewart

Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe joke with chairman Sam Millsap (center) during the recent Texas Conference of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals held at the Oak Hills Motor Inn in San Antonio.

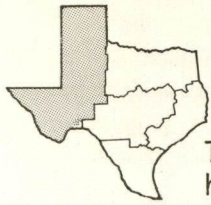
Nixon) with a declared mission: to provide a national assessment of problems and potentials of individuals with mental and physical handicaps; to generate a national awareness of these problems and potentials; and to make recommendations to the President and Congress which will enable individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently, with dignity, and with full participation in community life to the greatest degree possible.

The National Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., May 23-27. More than 2500 delegates, most of whom will be physically or mentally handicapped, will be expected to attend the historical event.

#### WHAT IS HANDICAPPED?

Section 7(6), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended states "The term 'handicapped individual' means any person who (A) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, (B) has a record of such an impairment, or (C) is regarded as having such an impairment."

# AROUND THE REGIONS



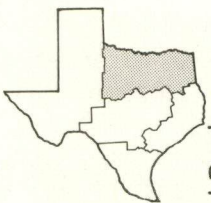
## WESTERN REGION

by Willis Williams

The first regional forum, held in Lubbock on 25 September, got the Texas Conference off to a good start. Sponsored by the Engineering Department of Texas Tech University, the forum was held in the remodeled Student Union which was newly barrier free.

The most active issue group was Special Concerns. In that group, testimony related to transportation in West Texas was expressed. The two hundred participants had solved the transportation problem successfully but were concerned about others who are virtually home bound.

The need for independent living situations was brought up by several young participants who are forced to live in nursing homes because of the lack of alternatives. Structurally accessible apartments were given a strong endorsement.



## NORTH TEXAS

by Joan Glance Fernandes

The North Texas Forum met on the Northeast campus of Tarrant County Junior College in Hurst (Fort Worth). Nearly 600 people attended: 367 of them presented testimony.

I wish to extend my thanks to the college administration for their support and assistance, U.S. Representative Jim Wright, State Representatives Chris Miller, Gib Lewis, and Charles Evans for joining us with their support and U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen for extending his best wishes, to all those who unselfishly contributed their time and energy and especially to those individuals from the 68 county region who saw the opportunity, took advantage of it and joined us to make the North Texas Forum the success it was.

We heard many fine comments at the conclusion of the afternoon series of testimony. One individual who had traveled more than 100 miles that cold

October morning observed, "This sure was worth it all...I'm real excited to find out that I'm not alone in some of my needs."

Many of the deaf felt this Forum was an excellent opportunity to bring to our attention some problems that they have had.

As we all know the deaf have the most difficult time in trying to explain their point of view, since quite often their verbalization is done by someone else and the deaf individual has to count on that other person to interpret accurately what he or she means.

There's no question about it - our Forum focused on some needs that are shared by a lot of people...and all indications seem to be that the Handicapped of North Texas hope this is just a start.



## CENTRAL TEXAS

by Pat Pound

On October 30, the Central Texas Forum of the Texas White House Conference was held at the Joe C. Thompson Center in Austin. Opening ceremonies included an introduction of the conference staff, a slide presentation showing various different handicapped individuals, and an explanation of the election procedures. Among the almost four hundred participants there seemed to be a wide representation of different handicapping conditions in the consumer, parent, and provider categories. Almost most of the participants were from the Austin and San Antonio areas, some came from smaller communities such as Sequin, Bastrop, and Temple. After nominations for the election were completed, testimony in the five concern groups began.

Group leaders in these five concerns were as follows: Social-Doyle Wheeler, Educational-Karen Phalen, Special-Rachael Rodriguez and Julia Young, Health-Bill Henderson, Economic-Tom Foster and Don Collwell.

Assistance in all areas and coordination of the volunteers was handled by Ms. Ellie Selig.

Almost everyone who attended the forum testified in at least one of the concern groups. Many rotated from group to group, expressing their views in each area. One deaf participant spoke of his concern about the lack of mental health services for the deaf. Fair treatment of those in institutions was the input of one mentally retarded lady. Many physically handicapped persons talked about the need for accessible public buildings such as theatres and restaurants, and accessible transportation. Common to all handicapped groups was the expressed need for better and more up-to-date information about existing services, programs, and technical aids which are available. Everyone was excited to have an opportunity to express their needs and solutions to their own problems.

The election for delegates to the state conference was held that afternoon. The delegates met briefly, exchanged congratulations, and obtained the training materials to prepare them for their duties which lay ahead.



#### GULF COAST

by Mary Ann Board

The Gulf Coast Regional forum was held November 6, 1976, at the Holiday Inn in

downtown Houston. Chaired by Mary Ann Board and planned by a diligent working committee, the forum was attended by approximately 350 people interested in the common problems and needs of the handicapped community.

Among the more prevalent topics in the five group sessions were (1) Social Concerns-Attitudes of general public toward the handicapped, particularly the mentally retarded, were discussed by teenage TAR's, several parents of the handicapped, and a cancer patient. The need to educate the public regarding particular diseases, birth defects, and/or injuries was emphasized. A second theme which ran through this session was the need for effective transportation systems for the handicapped. Several organizations presented their viewpoints on this issue including the Coalition for Barrier

Free Living and the Handicapped of Texas (HOT!). (2) Educational Concerns-Speakers in this group were concerned with the training of Special Education teachers and with the educational programs themselves. There is a great need for adequate programming before mainstreaming children into the regular classroom. There was a general consensus on the need for more funding and more information on available programs, including institutional offerings. (3) Health Concerns-This group had several prominent speakers including a representative from the Texas A & M bioengineering department, a doctor from Yugoslavia, and the director of the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research. Topics ranged from the issue of regeneration to an emphasis on the engineering solutions to problems of the handicapped. More funding is needed in direct research so that research can continue beyond building a prototype. The need for a financing agency to provide loans for wheelchairs and/or other equipment was also discussed. (4) Economic Concerns-This group was concerned with the high cost of being handicapped and with job discrimination. Employers need to be educated to the skills and dependability qualities which disabled people possess. Architectural barriers to employment were also discussed. Federal enforcement of Affirmative Action (sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) was emphasized. Institutional costs factors were touched upon in discussion. (5) Special Concerns-Housing needs of the handicapped was the big issue here. Consumers advocated for adequate housing for all disability groups. Representatives from TARC were particularly concerned with institutional care for mentally retarded adults.

Over all, the Gulf Coast Regional Forum was successful. The input was meaningful and important, and the quality of participation was high. Sixteen delegates were selected from this region to attend the State Conference in San Antonio. These delegates examined every inch of testimony from across the state, made recommendations to the Governor of Texas, and were rewarded by many positive comments of support from Governor Briscoe.



SOUTHERN REGION  
by Julian Castillo

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals was welcomed to sunny South

Texas by rain and near freezing temperatures for the last regional forum. Hosted by Pan American University in Edinburg, the forum was held on 13 November and was attended by nearly 100 stalwart handicapped individuals, their families and advocates.

Since South Texas is so vast, participants came from far distances such as

Corpus Christi and Laredo as well as from communities throughout the Valley. The largest group arrived from Laredo in buses chartered by the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center. Their pre-dawn departure did not dampen their enthusiasm or determination to participate.

Testimony was taken in one large group rather than in separate issue groups because of the size of the group and the inclement weather. Issues of particular concern to the Valley were brought up and included problems associated with traveling vast distances for what few services exist and the region's lack of employment opportunities.



GOVERNOR'S PLANNING COMMITTEE  
FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

by Lex Frieden

On Thursday, December 16, 1976, the Director and Assistant Directors of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, the State Conference Moderator, and the Issue Presentors from the San Antonio Conference met with the First Lady of Texas, Mrs. Dolph Briscoe, in the Governor's Mansion in Austin. The meeting was held to discuss the implementation of plans for solving the problems relating to handicapped individuals in the State of Texas. Also present at the meeting and assisting with the plans were Mr. Jess Irwin, Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, and Charles Hoehne representing the State Commission for the Blind.

At the meeting, Mrs. Briscoe reiterated the Governor's interest in the important issues developed at the State Conference. She also expressed her own commitment to working with handicapped individuals who are citizens of Texas in an effort to eliminate barriers which may interfere with their full participation in society.

Each person present agreed to assume certain responsibilities, including the documentation of specific issues which require immediate attention. Since many of these issues involve the legislature, it was suggested that interested individuals approach their respective represent-

atives to develop support for future action involving the handicapped. A decision was made by the group to meet again in late January or early February. Before the meeting was adjourned, everyone present agreed to continue working together with the same commitment and spirit of unity that characterized the first State Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

At the noon luncheon of the State Convention, December 2, six presentors summarized testimony in five areas of concern. Two of the presentations are reprinted in this issue. The remaining ones will follow in future newsletters.

SPECIAL CONCERNS  
by Lex Frieden

Governor Briscoe, it is a privilege for me to represent here a number of hard-working and well chosen individuals who, for the past two days, have been working with this conference on areas of special concern to handicapped individuals. Some of my friends have tried to tell me that Special Concerns are those issues that could not be fit into any of the other categories. However, I believe that Special Concerns are those issues which are so important that they must have a category of their own. Those issues include housing for handicapped persons, service delivery systems, civil rights, problems

of severely and multiple handicapped individuals, and unique problems of handicapped minorities, handicapped aging and disabled veterans.

We have identified for you a number of problems. We have suggested solutions which, if they were all acted upon, would keep you and the legislature busy for the next two sessions.

We hope that you will at least consider each and every one of these recommendations, and we hope that you will personally assume the responsibility for finding the necessary funding to support the programs which are needed. We hope that you will hold those programs which are now in existence, and which we find ineffective, accountable for providing the services they were mandated to provide. Finally, we hope that you will initiate new programs necessary to fill the gaps between existing programs.

There is no doubt that there is a need for an ongoing dialogue with an agency that can be responsible for meeting all of our needs. We do not need just another office where someone will listen to our problems and pat us on the heads. We do not need someone to tell us that our problems are not their responsibilities, and send us elsewhere to look for solutions. We need an office, preferably in the Office of the Governor, which has the responsibility for coordinating all of the programs relating to handicapped individuals in the state. We need to know what services are available to us, how to qualify for them, and where to find them. Conversely, many agencies need to know who we are, where to find us, and what our needs are.

Now, in Texas we are fortunate, because we already have a lot of things going for us. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission, for example, is the second largest vocational rehabilitation agency in the United States and it is well respected throughout the States. In fact, most of the problems and criticisms that are directed towards TRC do not even relate to jobs that this agency was mandated to perform. Vocational rehabilitation services are confined to those of us who are working age and who have the intellectual or physical ability to be

gainfully employed. TRC cannot meet the needs of handicapped children, the elderly handicapped, or persons who have progressive or developmental disabilities which make vocational goals unrealistic.

Additionally, many of our problems fall outside the realm of strictly vocational activities. Take, for example, the more obvious problems of routine accessibility and communication-environmental problems that may not relate directly to vocational goals. No one has to tell me that I cannot get up the steps in front of the school house where I am supposed to go and vote. Anyone should be able to tell that a blind person cannot see the lights at a street corner which he wants to cross. It should be obvious that a deaf person cannot hear a fire alarm. These are just examples of some of the obvious problems which frustrate us from day to day and which no one seems to be doing anything about. Sometimes the answers to these problems are not as obvious as the problems themselves. However, it might not be difficult to put a ramp in front of the steps at my school, and it certainly would not be difficult to put a bell on the light at the street corner, or a light on the bell of the fire alarm.

Governor Briscoe, we appreciate your being here to listen to our suggestions. This is a significant occasion, for it is the first time that elected representatives of handicapped people from throughout the state have come together to discuss issues that affect them and offer suggestions for implementing solutions. We do not know all of the answers, but we do know most of the problems, because we have to live with them from one day to the next. In the past, you have listened to us individually and have responded appropriately on an individual basis. Now we are gathered before you representing approximately 15% of the population of the State of Texas. We are handicapped individuals who for one reason or another need on-going treatment or care. We are people from all ethnic groups, from all parts of the state, and from every age group, who are united as a class of citizens, and who are being denied our basic rights.

We have certain basic needs which

must be met in order for us to be the productive and useful citizens we know we can be. We hope that Texas takes a leadership role throughout the states by insuring that handicapped individuals in this state have their rights protected and their needs met in order that they can benefit as everyone else does, from the fruits of our great society.

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## EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS

by Willis L. Williams

Thank you, Jim, Governor, delegates, and guests.

Governor, we of the education concerns group wish to say "thank you" for "Child Find". This is the greatest thing that has ever happened in the State of Texas for handicapped children.

However, Sir, you have caused some problems.

As a result of "Child Find" parents of handicapped children are expecting an education for their children. Their greatest concern at the moment is to be involved in choosing the type of education their child will receive.

Sir, they want alternatives.

Perhaps the best education for their child would be a special school. Perhaps the best education for their child would be a special school within a local school district. Perhaps the best education for their child would be a special class within a regular school. Perhaps the best education for their child would be sitting in a regular classroom participating in the regular class activities.

Parents of handicapped children want and deserve these alternatives.

Please permit me this personal reference. At this hour my wife is in a classroom with seven 12 year old deaf boys. Deaf persons are frequently in our home. I work with handicapped adults. My two daughters have the distinct advantage over other children in their classes because they have handicapped friends and have a deeper understanding of life.

Thank you again for "Child Find" but it didn't go far enough. We must extend

it to all children up through age 60.

Through various situations, handicapped adults are still hidden in closets and back rooms. Up in my part of Texas they are hidden on ranches.

Our school systems have a mandatory termination at age 21. If it takes 12 years to educate nonhandicapped children, how in the world do we expect to begin with a deaf boy at age 12 and educate him for life by the age of 21?

Some provisions must be made for extending education to handicapped young adults.

Sir, what about those who become a handicapped later in life? We must consider education of handicapped adults geared to vocational training, but to include those skills necessary for independent living.

In essence, Sir, we are talking about support services for the entire educational system. We are talking about readers for the blind, communication specialists for the deaf, attendants and aids as required.

We are talking about professional training and the evaluation of the performance of those professionals.

Now the good Governor ... and he is a good Governor ... has listened patiently, but going through his mind is a question.

"How can we pay for this without raising taxes?"

What we have requested in our reports will cost money.

Governor, I submit to you, Sir, that our only choice is will we pay the costs, or, will our children and our grandchildren pay the costs. The alternatives are to supply what is necessary to make handicapped people self supporting, or, let their brothers and sisters pay the cost of keeping them in nursing homes or other institutions.

The most valuable resource Texas will ever have is her people, and every citizen is valuable.

As the little boy said, "God made me and God don't make no trash".

We realize that this request is political, but the education concerns group has specifically instructed me to

ask, "please, Sir, could we have direct allocation to special education on a local level"?

Football stadiums and field houses are built with tax funds while the needs of handicapped children go unanswered.

Sir, I love football, but we must put first things first.

In effect, Sir, we are asking for your leadership in re-ordering of the funding priorities in Texas ... priorities to provide opportunities for handicapped Texans.

Sir, all children deserve this type of special understanding, and it will be given only as we integrate our handicapped children into the local classrooms.

Parents of handicapped children should have alternatives.

In the previous reports you have heard the plea for removal of architectural barriers. If we are to have a possibility of integrating handicapped children into regular public schools, the buildings must be built without barriers to handicapped children.

This means ramps instead of steps. This means lights to flash with all bells and bells to ring with all warning lights.

This also means that all teachers must have exposure training and professional training to the needs of the handicapped child.

Again, thank you, Sir, for "Child Find" ... but it did not go far enough. "Child Find" should be extended to begin in the pre-natal stage of life ... identifying high-risk infants and their early training.

Communication training for the deaf should start immediately. Mobility training for the visually impaired should begin in infancy. Self care education for the orthopedically impaired should begin as soon as the problem is indicated.

In working with handicapped adults, our biggest problem is the parents of the handicapped person. All parents desire the best for their children, but when there is a handicapped child, often the parents do not know how to cope with the disability and compound the problems.

Attention should be given to parent education.

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San Antonio News

# editorials

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Managing Editor

Page 10-A Tuesday Dec. 7 1976

## Briscoe backs the handicapped

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has taken a much-needed step toward remedying some of the problems faced by the state's handicapped citizens.

Speaking at a Texas Conference on the Handicapped in San Antonio, the governor pledged to create a state office to help meet the needs of handicapped Texans.

Briscoe said that the office would give special attention to removing architectural barriers in public buildings and ensuring that handicapped persons are not discriminated against in state employment.

He proposed to accomplish those tasks through executive orders, legislation and enforcement of existing laws affecting the handicapped.

To emphasize his commitment to the new program, Briscoe has asked his wife Janey to coordinate the initial planning and organization of the proposed office.

The governor's action is the best news the state's handicapped citizens have heard in a long time. Briscoe does not make such commitments lightly. The lot of mentally and physically handicapped Texans is bound to improve with the state's chief politico as their champion.

The governor has given them a well-deserved and undoubtedly long-remembered Christmas present.

## **STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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The State Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals was formed as a result of the Texas Conference, December 1 & 2, 1976. It is designed to coordinate information from the five regions and will serve as an advocate for the physically and mentally handicapped within the Lone Star State. This newsletter is an outgrowth of an initial meeting, under the leadership of Mrs. Janey Briscoe, held at the Governor's Mansion on December 16, 1976.

Questions, comments, and letters for HIT may be addressed to the State Office: 1222 N. Main, Suite 711, San Antonio, Texas 78212 or by calling (512) 223-3831. We enthusiastically welcome your input.

### **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

1222 N. Main, Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

This is the text of a speech made by Lex Frieden to the Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Governor of the State of Texas on December 2, 1976 at the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals in San Antonio, Texas.

Governor Briscoe, it is a privilege for me to represent here a number of hard-working and well chosen individuals who, for the past two days, have been working with this conference on areas of special concern to handicapped individuals. Some of my friends have tried to tell me that Special Concerns are those issues that could not be fit into any of the other categories. However, I believe that Special Concerns are those issues which are so important that they must have a category of their own. Those issues include housing for handicapped persons, service delivery systems, civil rights, problems of severely and multiply handicapped individuals, and unique problems of handicapped minorities, handicapped aging and disabled veterans.

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where someone will listen to our problems and pat us on the heads. We do not need someone to tell us that our problems are not their responsibilities, and send us elsewhere to look for solutions. We need an office, preferably in the Office of the Governor, which has the responsibility for coordinating all of the programs relating to handicapped individuals in the state. We need to know what services are available to us, how to qualify for them, and where to find them. Conversely, many agencies need to know who we are, where to find us, and what our needs are.

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IMPLEMENTING ASPIRATIONS EXPRESSED  
BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
TEXAS WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

AND THEIR TWO PARAMOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) that there be an annual conference of handicapped Texans; and
- (2) that the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped be expanded to include all handicapped.

(Note: It is felt that major implementation efforts should focus on these two recommendations, for, in obtaining these, all other recommendations could be realized.)

IMPLEMENTING ASPIRATIONS EXPRESSED  
BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
TEXAS WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

The response of Governor and Mrs. Briscoe to the observations and recommendations offered by and on behalf of handicapped Texans at the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is both greatly encouraging and deeply appreciated. For they have taken the position that improvements in services for handicapped Texans need not await or be dependent upon the proceedings of the national White House Conference in Washington this summer. Instead, the Governor and his wife have challenged the handicapped, their families, and their friends to determine what can be immediately accomplished in Texas - - and to move forward now.

At a followup meeting on the Texas White House Conference held in the Governor's Mansion on December 16, 1976, Mrs. Briscoe suggested that the recommendations growing out of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals be reviewed to determine which of the recommendations could be administratively implemented at this time without necessity for new legislation or new funding, to identify the action which would require additional legislation, to get started on matters which can be improved upon through immediate administrative action, and to formulate an appropriate legislative program for other matters.

This paper is responsive to the suggestions made by the First Lady of Texas at the December 16 meeting. It is based upon input which has been solicited from many sources, including individuals who participated in the state or regional meetings, and technical assistance from individuals who have in the past been heavily involved in the development of legislation affecting handicapped Texans.

The following thoughts are offered concerning the implementation of major recommendations developed at the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

(1) Funding. The comments offered on funding by Willis L. Williams in this paper on educational concerns are generally applicable to most meaningful action which might be taken to improve services for handicapped Texans. In looking over all of the recommendations, two facts readily became apparent: first, meaningful effort to improve these services in a significant way will require a somewhat expanded investment of public funds but, secondly, unless that investment is made the long-term costs for all citizens of the state will be enormously greater than the cost of funding essential services for handicapped individuals at a realistic and responsible level.

This does not, however, mean that the directors, Advisory Board, and delegates to the Texas White House Conference are urging that the 65th Legislature dramatically increase appropriations for existing programs. There is substantial evidence that a significant amount of the funds already appropriated are not being used as effectively as these funds might be in serving handicapped Texans.

Particularly this is true with respect to educational programs and Title XX social services program--two programs currently being operated in Texas with budgets approaching a half billion dollars in public funds annually.

Those who are associated with the Texas White House Conference will support proposals for realistic and responsible increases in the budgets for programs through which handicapped persons are being served with demonstrable effectiveness. However, there is not any commitment toward increases in appropriations for programs that are supposed to be serving handicapped Texans, that already have substantial budgets which could be used for precisely that purpose, but which have not, to date, demonstrated the inclination or capability to provide such services effectively. What participants in the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals were saying was that a hard look should be taken at all publically funded programs that are supposed to be assisting the handicapped; that those programs which have been effective should be recognized; that alternatives to current funding approaches should be considered; and that adjustments should be made in current allocations of public funds whenever there is a reasonable basis for believing that other approaches to the delivery of services will be likely to get a better job done for handicapped individuals more efficiently.

Two basic implementation actions seem essential. First, the continuation of the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Visually Handicapped should be assured at an early date by approp-

riate action on the part of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House. Secondly, these committees, as well as the staff of the Legislative Budget Board and of the Governor's Budget Office should obtain GCOVH analysis and recommendations on all budget proposals which relate to services for the handicapped. It is felt that this kind of technical analysis by the GCOVH, together with the formulation of recommendations on possible alternative approaches to service delivery (developed with the benefit of input from handicapped individuals), will tend to guarantee significant improvements in the already established level of support for these services. In fact, it is possible that this process of analysis and consideration of alternative approaches to service delivery might well result both in significantly improved services for people who are truly handicapped and significant savings for taxpayers.

(2) Creation of Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped. The nucleus for this is already in place, because of House Bill 1673 and the GCOVH which is established.

House Bill 1673 is an exciting, innovative and inspired piece of legislation. It is, furthermore, a progressive alternative to the traditional approach of simply throwing additional money at identified human problems. This legislation is a model for the entire nation and, in fact, Congress has already tracked various provisions and concepts of House Bill 1673 in recently approved federal legislation.

Handicapped Texans need and want H.B. 1673, including the GCOVH, to be extended to cover all citizens of this state who are disabled by major handicapping conditions. This need and desire was universally and overwhelmingly expressed at every regional meeting and then again at the Texas White House Conference in San Antonio.

Accomplishing this will require legislative action, as well as a modestly expanded appropriation. Specific planning, therefore, needs to be initiated immediately.

That planning should give detailed consideration to all possible types of federal support for the functions of a Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped. It is possible that, if existing federal resources may be utilized, the already existing GCOVH might be extended to all major disability categories without requiring any significant infusion of new state money. Possible sources of such federal funding include client assistance grants under the Rehabilitation Act, support through various titles relating to education, and possible assistance under different provisions of the Social Security Act.

The cost of this undoubtedly will be recouped many times over by improvements in the intermeshing of existing programs, better performance and heightened service outcomes, and the identification of spending proposals which would tend to duplicate rather than interface with service effort already being carried out. For these savings and economies to be maximally accomplished, teeth need to be put into those provisions of House Bill 1673 which relate to accountability, coordination and evaluation. Specific improvements include: (a) placing in the Governor's Office,

review powers to be exercised as a precondition to any state-supported agency's implementation of a services program for the handicapped; and (b) authority to stop an agency from expending public funds on services for the handicapped if those funds are not being expended in strict conformity with the letter and basic intent of existing legislation.

(3) Annual state conference for the handicapped. Everyone is in principle agreed as to the desirability of making an annual event out of something similar to the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. The specific problem with implementation relates to funding mechanisms for the planning, coordinating, conducting and attending of such a conference.

It is noted that a number of annual state conferences are already being held that deal with the problems of the handicapped. The Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has an annual meeting. So too does the Texas Rehabilitation Association, an organization with a membership basically consisting of individuals regularly engaged in providing services to the handicapped. Typically, the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped meets for one day or, at most, a day and a half; meetings of the Texas Rehabilitation Association usually require two or three days to be completed.

One possibility for having an annual state conference on the handicapped would be to consolidate the annual meetings of the Texas Rehabilitation Association and the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped into one annual meeting. The annual conference of handicapped individuals might benefit by being held just before or after such a meeting, to facilitate an exchange of

ideas and information between consumers and professionals. However, it is felt that consumers need to have a right to a separate conference which is dedicated solely to their needs and desires. Travel expenses must be made available to insure consumer involvement.

Implementation would not require legislative action. Discussions of feasibility should therefore be initiated with representatives of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the Texas Rehabilitation Association at an early date.

(4) Followup communications on implementation of action recommended by Texas White House Conference on Handicapped. Plans have already been developed for a periodic newsletter to be prepared and mailed to all who participated in the regional meetings and in the state meeting in San Antonio.

Initially, this is being accomplished through volunteer effort and the work of those staffing the Texas White House Conference. Eventually, this may logically become one of the routine information services of the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped.

(5) Enhancing the quality of the lives of handicapped individuals. Most of the current service effort for handicapped individuals in Texas, as elsewhere in the nation, is directed towards those handicapped individuals for whom employment is feasible, realistic and beneficial. As a result, services for the handicapped continue to be vocationally oriented for the most part.

This is fine for those handicapped individuals who can benefit from vocationally oriented services. There are, however, many individuals whose handicapping conditions or other circumstances

are so extreme that employment is neither realistic, practical or beneficial. In the main, these individuals are now being denied access to the specialized resources, methodologies and acumen of the programs that have been proven to be the most effective in serving the handicapped. Included among this handicapped group are individuals who are aged, who are too young to work, who are profoundly handicapped, or whose economic or family circumstances contraindicate effort to enter the job market.

Great dissatisfaction was expressed about this at both the regional meetings and the Texas White House Conference. It has been stressed in forceful and persuasive terms that special services which reduce the dependency of handicapped individuals are inherently desirable and cost-effective, regardless of whether or not those services might immediately result in the handicapped recipient of such services entering into remunerative employment. The record of the Texas White House Conference is replete with expressions of concern about the need to expand current service effort so as to assist certain severely handicapped individuals in simply developing the capacity for independent living, where employment objectives are not practical or feasible.

Implementation carries no requirement for significant new state legislation; most of the necessary authority is already on the books. Neither would implementation seem to require substantial amounts of additional public funds, providing that resources such as the federal allocation for Title XX social services were used in Texas in a manner more equitable to handicapped individuals.

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission has subsequent to the Texas White House Conference commendably initiated a pilot program for handicapped individuals whose entry into the competitive employment market is not realistic. This pilot project should not only be applauded, but strongly supported, extended upon, and emulated by other service organizations.

Concerns about other issues which bear upon the quality of the lives of handicapped individuals are conspicuous and consistently found in the record of the Texas White House Conference. Among those issues, the matters of adequate housing, transportation services, and architectural barriers are paramount and recurrent.

The housing and transportation problems of the handicapped are so complex and massive that the best approach seems to involve a national policy and the development of significant national resources for dealing with these particular problems. Steps have, however, already been made in that direction. There currently exist a number of federal statutes which address the right of handicapped individuals to certain housing and transportation services and which provide a limited level of federal resources for the development of these services.

The problem is that it is virtually impossible for any handicapped individual, working alone or through a local organization of handicapped individuals, to untangle and make his way through the complex web of these assorted federal programs. Further, in the absence of an effective advocacy mechanism to focus attention upon the special housing and transportation problems of the handicapped, those problems generally do not receive adequate consideration and attention by local authorities responsible for housing and transporta-

tion services. Practicalities of this type, of course, tend to emphasize additionally why advocacy, information, and ombudsmanship services are required through an entity such as the recommended Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped.

Action to reduce problems associated with architectural barriers does not, however, need to await either federal action or leadership by a Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped. For a number of years, Article 678g, V.T.C.S., has required buildings owned by the State of Texas and its various political subdivisions to be barrier-free. Article 678g also requires that buildings leased by state agencies be barrier-free.

Enforcement responsibilities for Article 678g are placed with the State Building Commission and the statute requires the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the State Commission for the Blind to provide technical assistance and support to the Building Commission. The three agencies have attempted to do a thorough and diligent job in carrying out both the specific requirements and basic purposes of Article 678g.

Particular problems and frequent conflict have unfortunately been encountered in relation to space leased by state agencies. Procedures for entering into state leases are set out in Article 666b, V.T.C.S. The administrative responsibility for handling state leases under Article 666b is placed with the State Board of Control.

The Board of Control has adopted rules and procedures which allow bidders for state leases to make their buildings barrier-free after a lease contract has been awarded by the Board of Control. This necessarily tends to defeat one of the more basic purposes of Article 678g: providing incentive to propertyowners to make their buildings

barrier-free as a condition precedent to the right to bid on a state lease.

An attorney general's opinion could be requested on whether or not the Board of Control's rules and procedures on state leases are consistent with the purposes and intent of Article 678g. While it is felt that the ruling would in all probability be to the effect that the Board of Control's rules and procedures tend to frustrate and defeat the basic purposes of Article 678g, an opinion to the contrary would provide occasion for requesting a legislative remedy.

One legislative remedy to be considered might be making the State Building Commission solely responsible for handling everything associated with state leases. The Building Commission has demonstrated sensitivity and enlightenment about the burdens and frustrations which architectural barriers pose for handicapped persons. The Board of Control, on the other hand, has made it abundantly plain that these human problems must in its view be subordinate to the objective of trying to lease state space at the lowest of all possible prices-- regardless of how accessible and useable the space might or might not be for people with handicapping conditions. Given this type of philosophical conflict between state agencies, it seems obvious that it would be desirable to place enforcement responsibilities with an agency committed to the proposition that the State of Texas should provide leadership, incentive and a moral example in the elimination of architectural barriers.

Regardless of whether additional legislation is required to resolve an unwholesome and inadequate situation in relation to state leases, it is understood that legislation will again be considered in the 65th Legislature to extend the barrier-free

requirements of Article 678g to shopping centers and other facilities constructed and operated for frequency by the general public. Approval of such legislation would be totally consistent with the record developed during the White House Conference activities in Texas.

(6) Coordination of information. Regional testimony overwhelmingly highlighted the need for coordination of information. Establishment of an entity such as the Governor's Coordinating Office for the Handicapped would, of course, be responsive to this.

Without question, much can and should be done to exploit modern computer capabilities and high-speed information transmission techniques as part of this process of coordinating and disseminating information. Steps have already been taken in this direction by the GCOVH, through the use of such mechanisms as an incoming WATS line which the visually handicapped can use in contacting that office for information or for assistance in overcoming problems encountered in the receipt of services.

It is possible that federal research and demonstration funds could be used for designing and implementing the information computerization processes discussed during the White House Conference activities in Texas. That possibility should be investigated and, if viable, used for the general advantage of all severe disability categories.

The coordination of information in Texas should, however, complement and elaborate upon related efforts already undertaken or being planned in other places. For example, an Office for the Handicapped is being established in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and one of the defined purposes of the federal Office for the Handicapped will be the coordination and dissemination of certain types of

pertinent information to handicapped individuals. Movement in this direction in Texas should, therefore, be coordinated with similar efforts now being undertaken in Washington.

(7) State Merit System. At all of the regional meetings, as well as the state conference in San Antonio, much disappointment was voiced about the manner in which the procedures of the State Merit System discriminate against and effectively preclude many handicapped persons from entering employment with the State of Texas. This problem is seen as objectionable because of the number of job opportunities denied to particular handicapped persons and is viewed as outrageous because of the negative example the State of Texas thereby provides to other employers.

State officials, however, are not solely responsible for this unfortunate situation. State merit systems are designed for use by a number of state agencies which receive heavy federal financial support. The state merit systems are operated pursuant to standards and guidelines of the US Civil Service Commission.

At this time, the US Civil Service Commission is conducting hearings to revise those standards and guidelines. Strong effort is being exerted to change existing rules so that state merit systems may use an "excepted appointing procedure" similar to that approved for the federal civil service system a number of years ago. Through the use of the "excepted appointing procedure" there has been a dramatic increase in the number of handicapped individuals employed by the federal government.

Along with other interested and concerned parties, the directors of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals have already forwarded to the US Civil Service Commission appropriate

recommendations based upon the record developed during the Texas White House Conference activities.

(8) Placement assistance. The recommended expansion of the use of placement specialist programs would not appear to require new legislation, nor even significant amounts of additional new funding. Implementation of this recommendation might be pursued by a special task force consisting of representatives of the Texas Employment Commission, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the State Commission for the Blind, and consumer organizations.

(9) Special communications services. Action supportive of the special concerns expressed by representatives of such disability groups as the blind and the deaf can currently be pursued before the newly created Texas Public Utilities Commission. This new agency has already demonstrated a certain sensitivity to these problems.

What is required is some mechanism which may be used to alert the handicapped to matters arising before the new agency, and for assuring an adequately coordinated input on these matters. A newsletter directed toward all who participated in the regional meetings and in the state conference is one device which can be used to contribute toward this.

(10) Sheltered workshops employing the handicapped. After review of the extensive amount of testimony received on this, it is felt that many of the identified problems can only be effectively addressed through federal action.

It may be possible, though, to accomplish a number of improvements through immediate administrative action which can be taken independent of any new state or federal legislation. State rehabilitation agencies are already required to periodically review

the cases of individuals closed in marginally remunerative employment. The state rehabilitation agencies are vital links in the conduit through which sheltered workshops receive federal funds. State rehabilitation agencies are empowered to develop and promulgate standards regarding the facilities with which they will do business.

(11) Amendment of the federal Civil Rights Act to include the Handicapped. Obviously, this is a matter beyond state jurisdiction. However, any state legislation relating to civil rights will be examined carefully and specific proposals supportive of this particular recommendation will be made to the authors.

(12) Eligibility of handicapped persons for Medical Assistance Only (MAO) program of Department of Public Welfare. This recommendation has fiscal and programmatic implications of a fairly complex nature. It needs to be pursued with appropriate representatives of the Department of Public Welfare and through appropriate committees of the Texas Legislature to determine exactly what would be involved.

(13) Improvements in educational services for the handicapped. The record developed as a result of the regional meetings and the state conference amply documents the reality that these services continue in many ways to be grossly deficient. It is felt that much improvement could be accomplished administratively, without a need for new legislation, and certainly without a need for as much additional funding as is frequently suggested.

House Bill 1673 provides the basic framework and authority through which many improvements in these particular services could be accomplished.

To date, the Texas Education Agency has not even developed

adequate administrative regulations for implementing House Bill 1673.

(14) Recreational services for the handicapped. It is felt that most of the recommendations consistently offered in this area could be substantially advanced administratively, without requiring significant new outlays of public funds, and with improved utilization of volunteer effort.

To a large extent, improved recreational and cultural activities for handicapped persons require greater public awareness and understanding of the problems and potential of handicapped citizens. Again, a formalized, systematic and effective mechanism for providing this kind of information and advocacy service on a statewide basis would be extremely utilitarian and efficient.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pat Pound*

Pat Pound

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

February 16, 1977

TO : State Delegation

FROM : Sam Millsap, Sr.

SUBJECT: Meeting

A meeting of the State Delegation to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals will be held on Saturday, 5 March at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Mansion in Austin. Mrs. Briscoe has offered generously to host our meeting so we can prepare for Washington. Representatives from HEW and the White House Conference have been invited to attend.

Because of budget limitations, we can reimburse only your transportation expenses. We must request that you make your own arrangements for accommodations.

Enclosed are a list of Delegates and Alternates for your information.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

SM/rp  
Enclosures

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
Criss Cole	6131 Hurst Houston, Tx. 77008	713 - 862-5627
Ruthe B. Cowl	1602 Musser Laredo, Tx. 78040	512 - 723-9403
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
Paul Moreno	550 E. Paisano El Paso, Tx. 79901	915 - 533-8767 533-9641
J. R. Thomson	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

DELEGATES

White House Conference

(Name)	(Address)	(Phone)
Mary Ann Board	8903 C.E. King, Pkwy. #111 Houston, Tx. 77044	713 - 458-0619
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.	1115 Curlew San Antonio, Tx. 78213	512 - 349-1027
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
Ralph White	2504 Bluffview Dr. Austin, Tx. 78704	512- 441-1129
Willis Williams	3838 Pleasanton Road San Antonio, Tx. 78221	512 - 923-7793

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

## ADVISORY BOARD ROSTER

Mary Ann Board  
Coordinator of Handicapped Students  
Univ. of Houston  
2132 Colquitt  
Houston, Texas 77098  
713-852-1741 Tex-An

Mr. Jack Blanton  
Dept. of Public Welfare  
John H. Reagan Bldg.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-822-3555 Tex-An

Mrs. Janie Clements  
State Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities  
1906 Elizabeth  
Brownwood, Texas 76801  
915-646-6385

Mr. Don Culwell  
2502 Waterford  
San Antonio, Texas 78217  
512-824-8618 or 924-7161

Betty Ellis  
5104 Woodmoor Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78721  
512-926-8977

Ms. Joan Fernandez  
Tarrant County Junior College, N.E. Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, Texas 76053  
817-281-7860 ext. 333 or 337

Thomas E. Foster  
15614 E. Country Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78247  
512-653-2222 or 223-3822

Lex Friedman  
9667 Meadow Vale  
Houston, Texas 77713  
713-797-1440

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512-732-1216

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Management Services Associates  
P.O. Box 3750  
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512-327-2680

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Handicapped Program Specialist  
OHD-City Manager s Office  
500 S. Ervay, Suite 647-A  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
214-748-9711 ext. 1403

Ms. Muriel LeBlanc  
Texas Rehabilitation Commission  
2209 Calder  
Beaumont, Texas 77701  
713-855-8235 - Tex-An

Paul Monreno  
550 East Paisano  
El Paso, Texas 79901  
915-533-8767

Tom Morrison, Executive Director  
United Cerebral Palsy  
7505 Parwelk  
Dallas, Texas 75235  
214-638-6340

Ms. Marti Patterson, ED.D.  
TARC Representative  
P.O. Box 1249  
Waco, Texas 76703

Ms. Pat Pound, President  
Mobility Impaired Grappling Hurdles Together  
P.O. Box 686  
Austin, Texas 78767  
512-475-4410

Ms. Caren Phelan, Ph.D.  
TD-MH-MR  
Box 12668, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711  
512-824-4210 - Tex-An

Ms. Rachael Rodriguez  
514 Linden  
San Antonio, Texas 78211  
512-922-6641

Charles Sabatier, Jr.  
Pres., Texas Station Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
3874 Laura Leigh  
Friendswood, Texas 77546  
713-482-0938

Mrs. Marvin Selig  
Box 722  
Seguin, Texas 78155  
512-379-3640

Doyle Wheeler  
7745 Chevy Chase Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78752  
512-452-8192

Willis L. Williams  
Goodwill Industries of Amarillo  
P.O. Box 4005  
Amarillo, Texas 79105  
806-355-2375

Ms. Julia Young  
State Commission for the Blind  
P.O. Box 12866  
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Pan American University  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
512-381-2291

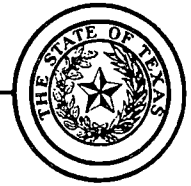
Report of 12/16/76 meeting by Lex Frieden

On Thursday, December 16, 1976, the Director and Assistant Directors of the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, the State Conference Moderator, and the Issue Presentors from the San Antonio Conference met with the First Lady of Texas, Mrs. Dolph Briscoe, in the Governors Mansion in Austin. The meeting was held to discuss the implementation of plans for solving the problems relating to handicapped individuals in the State of Texas. Also present at the meeting and assisting with the plans were Mr. Jess Irwin, Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, and \_\_\_\_\_ representing the State Commission for the Blind.

At the meeting, Mrs. Briscoe reiterated the Governors interest in the important issues developed at the State Conference. She also expressed her own commitment to working with handicapped individuals who are citizens of Texas in an effort to eliminate barriers which may interfere with their full participation in society.

Each person present agreed to assume certain responsibilities, including the documentation of specific issues which require immediate attention. Since many of these issues involve the legislature, it was suggested that interested individuals approach their respective representatives to develop support for future action involving the handicapped. A decision was made by the group to meet again in late January or early February. Before the meeting was adjourned, everyone present agreed to continue working together with the same commitment and spirit of unity that characterized the first State Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

# Texas Rehabilitation Commission



COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION Jess M. Irwin, Jr.

January 17, 1977

BOARD MEMBERS

John D. Simpson, Jr.  
CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Marjorie C. Kastman  
VICE CHAIRMAN

John T. Bean  
SECRETARY

Jack B. Dale, Jr.  
Clifford S. Knape, Ph.D.  
Jerry E. Miller, M.D.

Mr. Lex Frieden  
9667 Meadow Vale  
Houston, Texas 77713

Dear Lex,

Congratulations for being elected as a Texas delegate to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. I am delighted that you were elected because I know you are capable of making a contribution to the national conference and you will represent us with dedication and knowledge. Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding, successful and enjoyable trip to Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doyle Wheeler".

Doyle Wheeler  
Deputy Commissioner  
for General Programs

DW/sah

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

TO: All Delegates to the Texas Conference

FROM: Sam D. Millsap

January 14, 1977

Here is the official list of those elected Delegates and Alternates to the White House Conference. On the reverse side is the complete vote count for all candidates.

Although I reserved the right to appoint Alternates, I did not exercise such privilege and the Alternates listed are the runner-ups with the next highest vote.

Expenses of Delegates will be handled by Washington. There is no provision for expenses of Alternates; however, we will make a concerted effort to find at least a part of the funds for the Alternates. If you will require such assistance, please advise me.

Meanwhile, your names have been submitted to Washington and you should shortly receive information and instructions from there.

It was our plan to hold a meeting of the Texas Delegation, but our funds are so low this is not possible at present, so we will keep in touch by mail.

Plans are underway to send a Newsletter to all persons who registered at the five regional forums with news of the final report and an update on happenings since.

Washington has notified us today that we do not have the authority to name Participating Observers, as we thought, so our Delegation is limited to 32 persons at this time. We will continue our effort to get more positions approved.

Congratulations to the winners and, to those who did not make it this time, a large thank you from Marolyn, Bob, & me.

SDM:vl



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

TEXAS DELEGATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE 1977

I. Handicapped (regulations require at least 50% of delegates be handicapped persons)

<u>DELEGATES</u>		<u>ALTERNATES</u>	
1. Willis Williams, Amarillo	35	1. Jim Hayes, Arlington	21
2. Pat Pound, Austin	33	2. Criss Cole, Houston	19
3. Tom Morrison, Dallas	28	3. Muriel Le Blanc, Beaumont	19
4. Buffy Fetter, Mesquite	27	4. Charles Eskridge, Jr., Austin	15
5. Lex Frieden, Houston	24	5. Don Drewery, Denton	14
6. Lee Kitchens, Dallas	24	6. Paul Moreno, El Paso	13
7. Joe Villareal, Houston	23	7. Glenda Carlock, Granbury	12
8. Ralph White, Austin	23	8. Mary Virginia Griggs, Alvin	12

II. Family of (regulations require 25% be family of handicapped persons)

9. Dale Simpson, Longview	18	9. Jim Thompson, Houston	12
10. Gay Rutherford, Conroe	16	10. Carol Whitcraft, Austin	12
11. Jim Patton, Fort Worth	16	11. Efton Geary, Austin	11
12. Richard Rubin, San Antonio	14	12. Linda Hutcheson, Spring	10

III. Other (with no regulatory requirements, these positions were awarded to persons with the next highest vote)

13. Bill Flynn, Austin	24	13. Frank Borreca, Houston	21
14. Mary Ann Board, Houston	22	14. Ruthe B. Cowl, Laredo	19
15. Joan Fernandes, Ft. Worth	22	15. Mary Lovey Wood, Austin	16
16. State Chairman Sam Millsap, San Antonio		16. Virginia Ernisse, Alvin	13

Complete Vote Count on Reverse

Askew	10
Benavides	2
Board	22
Borreca	21
Bunting	4
Burks	3
Campos	2
Carlock	12
Cawley	7
Cole	19
Cowl	19
Craig	3
Culwell	10
Davidson	10
Davis	6
Douglas	5
Drewery	14
Dunn	9
Ernisse	13
Eskridge	15
Fernandes	22
Fetter	27
Flynn	24
Frieden	24
Fulkerson	9
Gamblin	4
Geary	11
Griggs	12
Hayes	21
Hayhurst	7
Holmes	7
Hughes	7
Hutcheson	10
Johnson	9
Keele	13

Kitchens	24
Law	6
Le Blanc	19
Lee	10
Lerma	2
McCandless	8
McCoy	8
Moreno	13
Morrison	28
Moss	6
Murillo	3
Patton	16
Pope	9
Pound	33
Priest	9
Putteet	11
Rogers	3
Rubin	14
Rutherford	16
Salinas	3
Sharb	2
Simpson	18
Thielmann	9
Thompson	12
Villareal	23
Vinson	4
Virjan	7
Wade	11
Whitcraft	12
White	23
Whittemore	9
Williams	35
Winchester	4
Wood	16

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

December 1, 1976

1:00 p.m.	Delegate Registration	
2:00 p.m.	Opening General Session Sam Millsap Dennis Wynant	Lava A & B
3:00 p.m.	Concerns Workshop I	See Below
6:00 p.m.	Delegate Reception	Lava C
6:30 p.m.	Delegate Dinner	Lava A & B
8:00 p.m.	Concerns Workshop II	See Below

December 2, 1976

7:00 a.m.	Delegate Breakfast	Heritage
8:30 a.m.	Concerns Workshop III	See Below
12:15 p.m.	Luncheon Media Presentation Report to the Governor Jim Grey Moderator Response Gov. Dolph Briscoe	Lava A,B,C

Concerns Workshops:

Health Concerns	- Parlor 112
Economic Concerns	- Regency I
Social Concerns	- Regency II
Special Concerns	- Lava C
Educational Concerns	- Petite

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

## LUNCHEON PROGRAM

INVOCATION  
LUNCHEON SERVED  
WELCOME

MEDIA PRESENTATION  
REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

RESPONSE

BOB BLASE

SAM MILLSAP

DENNIS WYNANT

RICHARD C. GIBBE, III

JIM GREY, MODERATOR

HEALTH - JOE VILLAREAL

ECONOMIC - MURIEL LE BLANC

SOCIAL - MARY ANN BOARD

PAT POUND

SPECIAL - LEX FRIEDEN

EDUCATIONAL - WILLIS WILLIAMS

GOVERNOR BRISCOE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS  
SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED CENTER (UAC) FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN

University Affiliated Facility (UAF)  
Stephen J. Hay Elementary School Building

Diagnostic and Evaluation Center (DEC)  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas

MEMORANDUM

November 30, 1976

TO: Members of the Delegation from the North Central 68  
Counties to the Texas White House Conference on the  
Handicapped

FROM: Doman K. Keele, M.D., Delegate

A check-off sheet was mailed to 84 agencies in the 68 North Central Counties of Texas. A total of 56 family members, 5 clients, and 101 professionals serving the handicapped responded. A copy of the check-off sheet and accompanying correspondence is attached and a list of agencies as well as a summary of the results. A significant number of check-off sheets were not returned by clients. It can be seen that 7 items needing improvement are ranked in the top 10 in 3 groups as being priorities; these include:

1. Prevention in HEALTH CONCERNS
2. Psychological adjustment of Handicapped Individuals and Their Families in SOCIAL CONCERNS
3. Attitudes of the General Public in SOCIAL CONCERNS
4. Diagnosis in HEALTH CONCERNS
5. School Age, 5-21 years in EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS
6. Preschool, 0-5 years in EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS
7. Post School, 21 years plus in EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS.

Others in the top 10 include:

1. Treatment in HEALTH CONCERNS
2. Economic Opportunity in ECONOMIC CONCERNS
4. Research in HEALTH CONCERNS
5. Community & Residential Housing in SOCIAL CONCERNS (SPC)
6. Problem of the Severe and Multiple Handicapped in SOCIAL CONCERNS (SPC)

It is my opinion that the Texas delegation to the White House Conference in Washington should be instructed to rank the needs of the handicapped according to priorities in the above in a similar manner.

DKK:mh

## WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Director of Special Education of:

Plano Independent School Dist.  
Richardson Independent School Dist.  
Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School Dist.  
Irving Independent School District  
Dr. Allen Sullivan, Dallas Independent School District  
Callie Huggley, Lancaster Independent School District  
Texas State Commission for the Blind, Ft. Worth  
Child Guidance Clinic, Ft. Worth  
Speech & Hearing Clinic, TCU  
Easter Seal Soc. for Crippled Children & Adults of Tarrant County  
Tarrant County Day School for the Deaf  
Tarrant County Service for the Hearing Impaired  
Child Study Center, Ft. Worth  
Goodwill Industries, Ft. Worth  
Tarrant County Assn. for the Handicapped  
United Cerebral Palsy, Ft. Worth  
Community Sheltered Workshop, Ft. Worth  
Epilepsy Center, Ft. Worth  
Lighthouse for the Blind, Ft. Worth  
Texas State Rehabilitation Commission, Ft. Worth  
Multiple Sclerosis Society, Ft. Worth  
Muscular Dystrophy Assn., Ft. Worth  
Child Guidance Clinic, Ft. Worth  
Child Study Center, Ft. Worth  
Retarded Children's Serv. of Tarrant County  
Tarrant County MH/MR Center  
East Texas Treatment Center for Handicapped Children, Kilgore  
Essin Clinic, Sherman  
B. Clanton, M.D., Longview  
Longview MH/MR Center  
Sherman Special Education Center, Sherman

In Dallas:

Angels, Inc.  
Children, Inc.  
Children's Development Center  
Dallas Academy  
Dallas Assn. for Children with Learning Disabilities  
Dallas Assn. for Retarded Children  
Dallas Child Guidance Clinic  
Dallas Council for the Deaf  
Dallas County Assn. for the Blind  
Dallas Epilepsy Assn.  
Dallas Rehabilitation Institute  
Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children  
Dallas Society for Crippled Children  
Dallas Taping for the Blind  
Dean Memorial Learning Center  
Goodwill Industries of Dallas  
Grand Prairie Assn. for Retarded Children  
Helping Hand School  
Irving Assn. for Retarded Children  
Loving Care Opportunity Center  
Marbridge House of Dallas  
Muscular Dystrophy Assn. of American, Inc.

National Society for Autistic Children, Dallas  
Notre Dame of Dallas Special School  
Special Care School

**Texas Rehabilitation Commission**

Dallas Central District  
Dallas North District  
Dallas Oak Cliff Dist  
Dallas West Dist  
Dallas East Dist.  
Dallas Crossroads Community Center  
Dallas County Adult Parold Office  
Dallas Caounty Juvenile Dept.  
Garland Dist. Office  
Goodwill Ind.  
Grand Prairie Dist. Off.  
Irving Dist. Off.  
Plano Dist. Off.

**Texas Special Schools for Blind and Deaf**

School for the Deaf  
School for the Blind

United Cerebral Palsy Assn. of Dallas County, Inc.  
Callier Center for Communicative Disorders  
Collin County Assn. for Retarded Citizens

**Ft. Worth:**

Texas State Commission for the Blind  
Child Guidance Clinic  
Speech and Hearing Clinic  
United Cerebral Palsy (Dental Clinic)  
Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children & Adults  
Tarrant County Day School for the Deaf  
Tarrant County Services for the Hearing Impaired  
Child Study Center  
United Cerebral Palsy

RANK	PROFESSIONALS (#101)	FAMILY MEMBERS (#56)	ALL RESPONDENTS (#162)
1.	Prevention (HEC)	Post School, 21 yr.+ (EDC)	Prevention (HEC)
2.	Psychological Adjustment of Handicapped Individuals and Families (SOC)	Treatment (HEC)	Psychological Adjustment of Handicapped Individuals (SOC)
3.	Attitudes of the General Public (SOC)	School Age (5-21 yrs) (EDC)	Attitudes of the General Public (SOC)
4.	Treatment (HEC)	Preschool (0-5 yrs.) (EDC)	Diagnosis (HEC)
5.	Economic Opportunity (ECC)	Research (HEC)	Economic Opportunity (ECC)
6.	Diagnosis (HEC)	Prevention (HEC)	School Age (5-21 yr.) (EDC)
7.	Employment (ECC)	Diagnosis (HEC)	Post School (21 yr.+ ) (EDC)
8.	School Age (5-21 yrs.) (EDC)	Attitudes of the General Public (SOC)	Preschool (0-5 yr.) (EDC)
9.	Preschool (0-5 yrs.) (EDC)	Psychological Adjustment of Handicapped Individuals (SOC)	Research (HEC)
10.	Post School (21 yrs. +) (HEC)	Community & Residential Based Housing (SPC)	Problems of Severe or Multiple Handicapped (SPC)
11.	Research (HEC)	Problems of the Severe or Multiple Handicapped (SPC)	Treatment (HEC)
12.	Problems of Severe or Multiple Handicapped (SPC)	Economic Security (ECC)	Employment (ECC)
13.	Economic Security (ECC)	Economic Opportunity (ECC)	Economic Security (ECC)
14.	Transportation Accessibility (SOC)	Technology (HEC)	Community & Residential Based Housing (SPC)
15.	Community & Residential Based Housing (SPC)	Employment (ECC)	Technology (HEC)
16.	Recreation (SOC)	Recreation (SOC)	Recreation (SOC)
17.	Technology (HEC)	Communications: Techniques, systems, devices (SOC)	Transportation Accessibility (SOC)
18.	Communications: Techniques, systems, devices (SOC)	Unique Problems of the Handicapped Aging (SPC)	Communications: Techniques, systems, devices (SOC)
19.	Architectural Accessibility (SOC)	Civil Rights of the Handicapped (SPC)	Unique Problems of the Handicapped Aging (SPC)

RANK	PROFESSIONALS (#101)	FAMILY MEMBERS (#56)	ALL RESPONDENTS (#162)
20.	Unique Problems of the Handicapped Aging (SPC)	Transportation Accessibility (SOC)	Civil Rights of the Handicapped (SPC)
21.	Service Delivery Systems (SPC)	Unique Problems of Handicapped Minorities (SPC)	Architectural Accessibility (SPC)
22.	Civil Rights of the Handicapped (SPC)	Participation in Cultural Activities (SOC)	Participation in Cultural Activities (SOC)
23.	Participation in Cultural Activities (SOC)	Service Delivery Systems (SPC)	Service Delivery Systems (SPC)
24.	Unique Problems of Disabled Veterans (SPC)	Architectural Accessibility (SOC)	Unique Problems of Handicapped Minorities (SPC)
25.	Unique Problems of Handicapped Minorities (SPC)	Unique Problems of Disabled Veterans (SPC)	Unique Problems of Disabled Veterans (SPC)

HEC = HEALTH CONCERNS

SOC = SOCIAL CONCERNS

ECC = ECONOMIC CONCERNS

EDC = EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS

SPC = SOCIAL CONCERNS

**UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED CENTER (UAC) FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS**  
**SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS**

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UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED FACILITY (UAF)  
Stephen J. Hay Elementary School  
Dallas Independent School District

DIAGNOSTIC AND EVALUATION CENTER (DEC)  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas

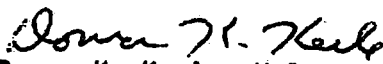
October 29, 1976

**TO:** Agencies dealing with Handicapped Individuals

**FROM:** Doman K. Keele, M.D.  
Director, University Affiliated Center for the  
Developmentally Disabled

**SUBJECT:** The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals: Texas  
Conference

I have been selected as a delegate to the Texas Conference and in order to do a good job, I would like some input from clients, family members, and professionals connected with your organization. Would you help by reproducing the attached form, providing a copy of the attached to clients, family members of clients, and professions in your agency and mailing them to me by November 22nd, 1976. I will use the information for my presentation at the Texas Conference in San Antonio.

  
Doman K. Keele, M.D.

DKK:mh  
encls.

Please, number in consecutive order from 1 to 25 your opinion the area needing the most improvement in the North Central 68 counties of Texas. The item with the highest priority should be given to #1, second highest to #2, etc.

#	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
	<u>HEALTH CONCERNS</u>	
—	Research	
—	Technology	
—	Diagnosis	
—	Treatment	
—	Prevention	
	<u>SOCIAL CONCERNS</u>	
—	Attitudes of the General Public Toward Handicapped Individuals	
—	Psychological Adjustment of Handicapped Individuals and Their Families	
—	Recreation	
—	Participation in Cultural Activities	
—	Architectural Accessibility	
—	Transportation Accessibility	
—	Communications: Techniques, systems, Devices	
	<u>ECONOMIC CONCERNS</u>	
	Employment	
—	Economic Opportunity	
—	Economic Security	



# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

## STATE CONFERENCE

<u>Concern Group</u>	<u>Group Leader</u>	<u>Presenter of Concern</u>
Health	Buffy Fetter	Joe Villareal
Economic	Paul Moreno	Muriel Le Blanc
Social	Tom Morrison	Mary Ann Board Pat Pound
Special	Janie G. Fernandes	Lex Frieden
Educational	Marti Patterson	Willis Williams

Moderator: Jim Grey

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Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals - Texas Conference  
Regional Forum - Houston, Texas  
Subject: Special Concerns Session  
November 6th, 1976

THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CONCERNS AND ISSUES WERE PRESENTED AT THIS  
SESSION IN THIS ORDER:

- 1) Improved employment environment
- 2) Lessen social stigma
- 3) Increase social activities for the severely disabled
- 4) Adequate funding for All programs
- 5) Adequate housing
- 6) Adequate salary
- 7) Educational opportunities
- 8) accessible means of transportation
- 9) Adequate and timely equipment repair
- 10) Right to privacy
- 11) Rights of retarded - 18 years and older
- 12) Natural guardianship of the retarded
- 13) Improved community services
- 14) Total deliver of services
- 15) Funds for extended living facilities
- 16) Right to vote - voting facilities inaccessible to the mobility impaired -  
Absentee voting not desired
- 17) Establishment of a clearing house of services available to the handicapped  
(State-wide, nation-wide) possibly through government or other agencies
- 18) Housing bill in regards to the mentally retarded. This disability group wants  
acceptance and not pity and the right to choose., when feasible, where to live
- 19) More funding for treatment and research of Alcholism - Stress and encourage em-  
ployment of the alchololics
- 20) Visable impairment - Exp~~and~~and rehabilitation act or old american act to provide  
services for age/blind
- 21) Funding and improved services delivery for the juvenile public offender, stress-  
ing community level treatment and adequate assestment of needs including pro-  
vision of much needed residential facilities
- 22) Total rentavation of the present services delivery system <sup>with</sup> of suggestions that the  
system be placed in the hands of handicapped persons as oppossed to the provider
- 23) Suggestions also included changes in policy and state legislation
- 24) More programs for multi-handicapped persons including residential programs early  
child-hood programs and sheltered workshops and a uniform service delivery system  
agency
- 25) Improved transportation conditions on inter-state carriers and intra state carriers  
I.C.C. & F.A.A. Indentification cards in lieu of driver's license in purchase of  
auto insurance
- 26) Inadequate maintenance funds
- 27) Housing inadequate - federal government funds needed for adequate accomodations
- 28) Federal funding for housing for the mentally retarded
- 29) Federal funding for housing for the mentally retarded
- 30) Transportation for mentally retarded, over crowded
- 31) Increased funding, required accreditation, improved services, qualified staff,  
less fragmentation of services - sound program evaluation

- 32) Transportation problems - waivers needed by blind persons, canes restricted, blind persons placed in wheelchairs
- 33) Need public education regarding all handicapping conditions
- 34) Blind persons urged to accept responsible to themselves thereby improving some of their conditions
- 35) Visually impaired persons want rehabilitation services equal to those provided by T.R.C.
- 36) Visually impaired persons prefer separate training facilities
- 37) Insurance - ?
- 38) Needed changes in T.R.C. policies and procedures - Need handicapped people on T.R.C. board
- 39) Increased rehabilitation medical services
- 40) Provision of long-termed service
- 41) Improved services delivery system to insure continuity of services
- 42) Multiple agency involvement hinders services to the disabled person
- 43) Review HEW guidelines for providing housing for more than 2 persons
- 44) Needed individual living facilities with a minimum of supervision and possibly specific and/or tailored vocational training
- 45) Strive to improve relationship between consumer and provider/supplier
- 46) Stress consumer unity
- 47) Encourage cooperation among all disability groups in reference to federal funding
- 48) Cooperation among all disabilities/funding
- 49) Need for central information center for handicapped services and agencies
- 50) Need to utilize services of interested and capable volunteer senior citizens
- 51) Civil rights of handicapped persons - basic human needs and rights as needs of other individuals
- 52) Needed residential facilities with transportation and attendant care
- 53) Suggested consolidation of federal and state agencies/cut cost and improve services
- 54) Lack of cooperation between state and federal governments hinder proper services to handicapped persons
- 55) Agencies quotas ( numbers game) lessens quantity and quality of services to the more severely disabled persons

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

November 22, 1976

TO: Advisory Board  
FROM: Sam Millsap, Sr.  
SUBJECT: State Conference

We have completed the regional forum schedule with great success and participation from more than 1500 interested individuals. We feel the overall experience was very productive, enlightening, and certainly not dull. The initial contacts made across the state have the potential for a first-rate advocacy group.

We are well on the way toward the State Conference. A planning and consultation meeting on 19 November with the regional chairpersons and issue spokespersons was most productive. Check in with them for a report. We need your help on clarifying one particular issue: please let local folks know that the State Conference is open only to delegates, and Gov. Briscoe's invited guests (that includes you). The regional forums were the general public's opportunities to participate and the State Conference is a workshop in which to integrate and prioritize the testimony they presented.

For those of you who are not delegates, we need your assistance in making sure that the State Conference runs as smoothly as possible. We would appreciate your acting as volunteers and being aware of special needs such as acting as sited guides or readers for the blind, being helpful to the mobility impaired, assisting in issue workshops, and being of general good will. Bob Blase plans to enlist an Election Committee from among you, too. Please and thank you.

We look forward to seeing you next week. Cheers.

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

# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

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

November 19, 1976

TO: State Delegates  
FROM: Sam Millsap, Sr.  
SUBJECT: State Conference

For the State Conference on 1 & 2 December, you need to be prepared to deal with the issues brought up in testimony at the regional forums. In the issue workbooks sent to you, study several parts - "Roles and Responsibilities of Delegates to the State Conferences" on page 8; the "Issues" sections following each sub-topic.

The issues should receive emphasis rather than regional differences, delegate selection, and personalities. Without an effort for unity, the Texas program for handicapped individuals will not be effective. To insure this approach, you need to be aware of guidelines established by the state-wide Advisory Board

No electioneering is allowed. No materials or campaign speeches will be used.

The election for White House Conference delegates must be focused on individuals who are willing to represent all handicapping conditions and the best interests of the State of Texas. Ethnic and geographic representation must be taken into account.

At the State Conference, workshops will be held on each of the five concern areas. Each delegate will be assigned to a concern workshop, hopefully of the first choice. Issues will be divided by topic and sub-topic

Page 2

for review by the delegates in small groups. Each piece of testimony will be considered, reported and put in priority order. A report of the concern workshops will be made to the Governor at the final session.

The State Conference is a work session for the delegates and although people might be interested in seeing what transpires there, the meeting is open only to State Delegates and Governor Briscoe's invited guests. The regional forums were for the general public. We trust you to bring forward the issues and I'm sure this belief is well-grounded. If people in your area express an interest in attending, please explain the situation to them.

We're looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio, full of energy and ready to work.

SM/dj

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 19, 1976  
TO: Gulf Coast Region Delegates  
FROM: Mary Ann Board. Chairperson  
Gulf Coast Region *MAB*

Enclosed is a list of all of the delegates from the Gulf Coast Region of Texas. You will be expected to attend the Texas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals on December 1 & 2. If for any reason you will not be able to attend, please let me know immediately so that an alternate can be notified.

The Conference will begin on December 1 at 1:30 p.m. and will conclude on December 2 with the presentation of the issues to Governor Briscoe. The State Conference will be a work session rather than a convention format. Delegates should be prepared to work with testimony from their regions as well as with issues.

The Conference will be held at the Oak Hills Motor Inn near the South Texas Health Service Center in San Antonio.

Further information will be forthcoming. Contact me if you have any questions at (713) 527-9561.

MAB:ca

Enclosure

GULF COAST REGION DELEGATES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Mary Ann Board	8903 C.E. King Pkwy #111 Houston, Texas 77044	713-458-0619
Frank A. Borreca	P.O. Box 13403 Houston, Texas 77019	713-528-6371
Criss Cole	6131 Hurst Houston, Texas 77008	713-862-5627
Jimmie Harold Douglas	810 Marston Houston, Texas 77019	713-523-6741
Virginia Eernisse	719 S. Hill Alvin, Texas 77511	713-331-3813
Lex Frieden	9667 Meadowvale Houston, Texas 77063	713-781-8949
Mary Virginia Griegs	1720 Koster Alvin, Texas 77511	713-331-4169
Lynda Hutcheson	30242 Littlecraft Spring, Texas 77373	713-367-9292
James A. Law	2100 Preston Richmond, Texas	713-342-4681
Gary E. Marple	1502 Robinhood Lufkin, Texas 75901	713-632-7076
Paul McCoy	3334 S. Mac Gregor Way Houston, Texas 77021	713-748-3651
Eleanor Rogers	204 Church Center, Texas 75935	713-598-3571
Gay Rutherford	15 Ravens Worth Conroe, Texas 77301	713-273-1331
J.R. Thompson	7515 Troulon Houston, Texas 77074	713-771-9181

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

Joe Villareal

3519 Link Valley #55  
Houston, Texas 77025

713-665-5450

Glynn Whittemore

5723 Berry Creek Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77017

713-944-1783

# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

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

November 17, 1976

TO: State Conference Delegates  
FROM: Sam Millsap  
SUBJECT: State Conference

The State Conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. on December 1 and will conclude mid-afternoon of December 2 at the Oak Hills Motor Inn in San Antonio. The Conference will be a work session rather than a convention-type fling, so come prepared to deal with the issues!

To insure a smooth program, we would appreciate your returning the enclosed information as soon as possible. Travel expenses, for you and your attendant, if one is necessary, will be paid by The White House Conference. Please keep all receipts to turn in at the end of the Conference so you can be reimbursed.

Thanks for your cooperation. We're looking forward to seeing you soon.

SM/MS/dj

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

November 12, 1976

TO: Advisory Board Members  
FROM: Sam Millsap  
SUBJECT: State Conference

We are well on our way into the Regional Forum schedule and have experienced successful times in Lubbock, Ft. Worth, Austin, and Houston. Since everything is happening so rapidly, we want to thank all of you for your efforts - for what you have done and plan to do.

Since our financial situation has improved, we would like all of you to plan to attend the State Conference on 1 & 2 December. Members who are not delegates will be "Participant Observers", and expenses will be paid. Because of your involvement throughout this project, we feel you will be valuable consultants.

Further information is forthcoming. The State Conference will have a work session rather than a convention format. Delegates should be prepared to work with testimony from their regions as well as with issues.

The Conference will begin on 1 December at 1:30 p.m. and conclude on 2 December with the presentation of the issues to Governor Briscoe. The conference will be held at the Oak Hills Motor Inn near the South Texas Health Science Center rather than at the Hilton. The Oak Hills is preferable for two very important reasons: It has more barrier free rooms and it is less expensive. Please spread the word on the changes.

Thanks for being so helpful - we need you and appreciate you.

SM/MS/dj

November 8, 1976

Mr. Lex Frieden  
9667 Meadowvale  
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Lex:

Well, we managed to successfully pull it off! I wanted to personally thank you for the leadership role you played at the Gulf Coast Regional Forum and to congratulate you on being selected a delegate to the State Conference.

I would like for us to get together a couple of times before the State Conference to firm up plans for the regional chairmens' meeting on November 19th and to solicit your ideas, opinions and recommendations for input into the State Conference on December 1st and 2nd.

Again, thanks for all your help. It wouldn't have happened without you!

Sincerely,

*Mary Ann*

Mary Ann Board  
Chairperson  
Gulf Coast Regional Forum

# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

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

TO: State Conference Delegates  
FROM: Sam Millsap  
SUBJECT: State Conference  
DATE: October 6, 1976

Congratulations on your selection as a delegate to the State Conference on The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. Your regional forum was a lively and successful effort, and I'm sure you will represent your region well.

Enclosed are materials that will inform you further about the Conference. As more information becomes available, we plan to share it with you.

The State Conference will be in San Antonio December 1 & 2 so make plans to attend. Further information will be forthcoming.

We are looking forward to working with you on this important project. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or Marolyn.

SM/dj

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

TO: State Conference Delegates  
FROM: Sam Millsap  
SUBJECT: State Conference

As part of your participation with the State Conference, we need to know one another better. Since all 66 State Delegates will be candidates to be the 15 National Delegates, please send us a short biographical sketch. Send us information about yourself that relates to our work together—your interests, your advocacy efforts, your work, your disability or group you represent. This is a chance to be known as you would like.

Please forward this information to this office as soon as possible so we can include you on the ballot.

Thanks for your cooperation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

KWIK KOPY  
3825 Richmond Ave.  
\*\*\*\*\*

CLAMPITT PAPER CO.  
702 Bastrop  
\*\*\*\*\*

HOLIDAY INN, DOWNTOWN  
801 Calhoun  
\*\*\*\*\*

LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND  
Clerical Classes  
\*\*\*\*\*

GULF COAST REGIONAL FORUM  
ON  
HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS



HOLIDAY INN, DOWNTOWN  
November 6, 1976

GULF COAST REGION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

---

MARY ANN BOARD, CHAIRPERSON

HEALTH CONCERNS . . . . . Joe A. Villareal

ECONOMIC CONCERNS . . . . . Herman Litt

EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS. . . . . Bob Kafka

SOCIAL CONCERNS . . . . . Mary Ann Board  
Dr. Albert Gunn

SPECIAL CONCERNS. . . . . Lex Frieden  
Muriel Le Blanc

STATE DIRECTOR . . . . . Sam Millsap

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR . . . . . Marolyn Stubblefield

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR . . . . . Bob Blase

REGIONAL FORUM PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. General Session  
a. Introductions  
Mary Ann Board, Regional Chairperson  
b. Media presentation

10:30 a.m. Presentation of Issues I

Noon Lunch  
"Brown Bag" or on your own

1:30 p.m. Delegate Selection for State Conference

2:30 p.m. Presentation of Issues II

4:30 p.m. Wrap-Up

5:00 p.m. Meeting of State Conference Delegates

NEW OPTIONS TRANSITIONAL PROJECT  
TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH  
IN THE  
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER  
1333 MOURSUND AVENUE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030  
October 27, 1976

P. O. Box 20095  
Houston, Texas 77025

Telephone  
Area Code 713, 797-1440

Dear friend,

The Gulf Coast Regional Forum of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas State Conference will be held in Houston on Saturday, November 6, at the Downtown Holiday Inn. An integral part of this Forum will be the presentation of issues, needs, problems, and solutions to problems facing handicapped individuals. I have been asked to co-chair a topical session dealing with Special Concerns of Handicapped Individuals. This session is scheduled to be open from 10:30-12:00 and from 2:30-4:30. The meeting room will be marked.

Special Concerns include:

1. Problems of the Severe or Multiple Handicapped
2. Community and Residential Based Housing
3. Services Delivery Systems (Agencies)
4. Civil Rights of the Handicapped
5. Unique Problems of Handicapped Minorities
6. Unique Problems of Disabled Veterans
7. Unique Problems of the Handicapped Aging

Your background and personal experience in these areas make you an authority in the field. I hope that you will join me on November 6, and present your viewpoint on Special Concerns of Handicapped Individuals for inclusion into the record of the White House Conference.

Sincerely,

Lex Frieden  
New Options Research Director

LF/asm

## **Regional Forum Program**

- 9:00 a.m. Registration  
10:00 a.m. Forum Begins  
    Introductions  
    Multi-Media Presentation  
10:30 a.m. Presentation of Issues I  
Noon Lunch  
    "Brown Bag" or on your own  
1:30 p.m. Delegate selection for State Conference  
2:30 p.m. Presentation of Issues II  
4:30 p.m. Wrap-up  
5:00 p.m. Meeting of State Conference Delegates

- Individuals may speak on an issue for three (3) minutes.
- Group representatives may speak on an issue for five (5) minutes.
- Presentations should be made in writing to assure clarity of opinion.
- Thanks for your concern and participation.

## **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

# White House Conference Issue Topics

## HEALTH CONCERNS

- I. Research
- II. Technology
- III. Diagnosis
- IV. Prevention
- V. Treatment

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

- I. Attitudes of the General Public Toward Handicapped Individuals
- II. Psychological Adjustment of Handicapped Individuals and Their Families
- III. Recreation
- IV. Participation in Cultural Activities
- V. Architectural Accessibility (Structural Barriers)
- VI. Transportation Accessibility
- VII. Communications: Techniques, Systems, Devices

## ECONOMIC CONCERNS

- I. Employment
- II. Economic Opportunity
- III. Economic Security

## EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS

- I. Preschool (0-5 years)
- II. School Age (5-21 years)
- III. Post School (21 years plus)

## SPECIAL CONCERNS

- I. Problems of the Severe or Multiple Handicapped
- II. Community and Residential Based Housing
- III. Services Delivery Systems (Agencies)
- IV. Civil Rights of the Handicapped
- V. Unique problems of Handicapped Minorities
- VI. Unique Problems of Disabled Veterans
- VII. Unique Problems of the Handicapped Aging

CUT HERE AND RETURN

## REGIONAL FORUM PARTICIPANT PREREGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY ZIP

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE) NUMBER

Mail To: The Texas Conference  
Sam D. Millsap, Sr. Director  
1222 N. Main, Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

### AREA OF INTEREST:

- CONSUMER\*  
 FAMILY MEMBER OF HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUAL  
 PROVIDER\*\*  
 ADVOCATE  
 OTHER

### ETHNIC GROUP:

- AFRO AMERICAN  
 ANGLO AMERICAN  
 AMERICAN INDIAN  
 MEXICAN AMERICAN  
 ORIENTAL  
 OTHER

### SEX:

- MALE  
 FEMALE

\*IF YOU ARE A CONSUMER, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PARTICULAR DISABILITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*IF YOU ARE A PROVIDER, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSION AND AREA OF WORK:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I ALLOW THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

## **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

Texas' role will be to advocate for the mentally and physically handicapped individual by stating the problems facing the handicapped and by recommending solutions to those problems.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is comprised of three goals:

- To provide a national assessment of problems and potentials of individuals with mental or physical handicaps;
- To generate a national awareness of these problems and potentials;
- To make recommendations to the President and Congress which, if implemented, will enable individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently, with dignity, and with full participation in community life to the greatest degree possible.

### **Delegate Election and Requirements**

Texas has been allotted 16 delegates to the White House Conference, plus 16 alternates.

At least 50% of the delegates must be handicapped, another 25% must be parents, siblings or guardians of handicapped individuals, and the remaining 25% friends of the handicapped. At the Regional Forums held in Texas prior to the State Conference, each region will elect delegates in the above ratio to attend the State Conference in San Antonio, Dec. 1st and 2nd.

At the State Conference, the 16 delegates and 16 alternates in the prescribed ratio are to be elected to attend the White House Conference in Washington, D.C., May 25-29, 1977.

The White House Conference will pay all expenses for delegates. However, expenses for the alternates must be paid by their sponsoring agencies, or by the individuals themselves.

## Regional Forum Schedule

### WESTERN AREA: LUBBOCK

25 September, University Center, Texas Tech University  
Contact: Willis Williams; (806) 335-2375

### NORTHERN AREA: FT. WORTH

23 October, Center Corner, Tarrant County Jr. College, NE Campus  
Contact: Joan Fernandes; (817) 281-7860 ext. 333

### CENTRAL AREA: AUSTIN

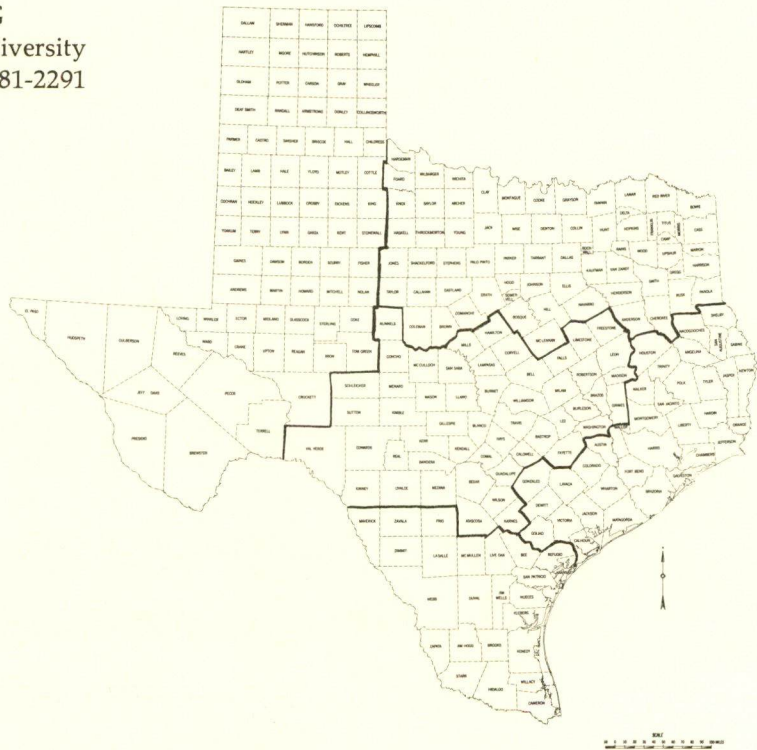
30 October; Joe C. Thompson Conference Center  
Contact: Pat Pound; (512) 475-4410

### GULF COAST AREA: HOUSTON

6 November; Downtown Holiday Inn  
Contact: Mary Ann Board; (713) 527-9561

### SOUTHERN AREA: EDINBURG

13 November, Pan American University  
Contact: Julian Castillo; (512) 381-2291



# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

## Role of Issue Group Facilitators

- ...be objective, be fair, be courteous, be firm.
- ...time each presentation. Federal guidelines state 3 minutes for an individual, 5 minutes for a group representative.
- ...take up written testimony; record verbal testimony.
- ...no discussion is allowed, just statements.
- ...each presentation is given equal consideration.
- ...everyone is allowed to have his/her say; disagreements can be dealt with between persons later rather than during conference.
- ...record topic of issue on large sheet; post outside room as page is filled.
- ...issues from this forum will be presented by regional delegates (10 of 66) State Conference during 1 and 2 December, and by state delegates (16) to White House Conference during 25-27 May, 1977.
- ...return all materials to regional chairman at conclusion of forum.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! WE APPRECIATE YOU!

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

## REGIONAL FORUM PARTICIPANT FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SEX:  MALE  
 FEMALE

ETHNIC GROUP:  AFRO AMERICAN  
 ANGLO AMERICAN  
 AMERICAN INDIAN  
 MEXICAN AMERICAN  
 ORIENTAL  
 OTHER

AREA OF INTEREST:  CONSUMER\*  
 FAMILY MEMBER OF HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUAL  
 PROVIDER\*\*  
 ADVOCATE  
 OTHER

\*IF YOU ARE A CONSUMER, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PARTICULAR DISABILITY:

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\*\*IF YOU ARE A PROVIDER, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSION AND  
AREA OF WORK:

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I ALLOW THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE  
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED

# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

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

TO: Advisory Board Members

FROM: Sam D. Millsap, Sr.

SUBJECT: Board Meeting

We are looking forward to meeting with you on Thursday, 26 August 1976 for a planning session for the State Conference and regional forums. As representatives of all parts of the state, all handicapping conditions and advocacy groups, we need to learn your concerns and get your help before final plans are made for the conferences.

Two names need to be added to your list of members, J. Q. Sutherlin of Dallas and Gwendel Butler of Austin. Their names were inadvertently left off of the mailing list and I'm sure their participation will enhance the work of the board.

Since the selection of delegates to the State and White House Conference is of great interest, further information regarding this process is enclosed.

Reservations are available at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel and you need to inform them of your room requirements. If you need attendant care, that individual's expenses can be assumed by the White House Conference. Because of budget limitations, the conference is able to pay for only the night of 25 August preceeding the meeting.

We are anticipating a good meeting with you and look forward to seeing you at 10:00 a.m. in the La Vista Room of the Hilton. Lunch will be served to our group and the meeting will adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

See you soon.

TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH  
IN THE  
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER  
1333 MOORSUND AVENUE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

P. O. Box 20095  
Houston, Texas 77025

Telephone  
Area Code 713, 797-1440

September 13, 1976

Mr. Sam D. Millsap, Jr.  
Director, The White House  
Conference on Handicapped  
Individuals  
Texas Conference  
1222 N. Main St.  
Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Dear Sam,

I sincerely expect our State Conference to produce a model set of progressive recommendations for the White House Conference, as well as a knowledgeable and committed group of representatives. In order to insure a smooth and successful meeting, we must plan now to meet the needs of all handicapped individuals in attendance.

Pursuant to our conversation following the Advisory Board meeting on August 26, I should like to reiterate my concerns about the State Conference location. I believe persons in wheelchairs should be able to safely use all public facilities and conveniences in the host hotel (including bathrooms, bars, lounges, restaurants, telephones, drinking fountains, etc.) in addition to their sleeping rooms. I believe a ramp should be added to the curb in front of the entrance, a ramp should be added to the River Walk, and the slope of the ramp to the front door should be extended so that the grade or slope does not exceed the Federal Standards of 12 feet per 1 foot rise or 8% (P.L. 90-480). It is our responsibility not only to insure access to the Conference but also to set an example for others to follow.

If the Hilton Hotel cannot accommodate us in these matters, then we must find one which can. In either case, it would be wise now to identify additional truly accessible hotels in San Antonio so that observers who are handicapped may be directed with consideration.

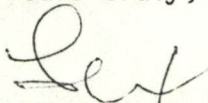
In anticipation of further logistics problems, I suggest that barrier free

-2-

transportation be identified and contracted for use by Conference participants during their visit to San Antonio. I suspect that individuals with mobility impairments will need to get back and forth to the airport and I doubt that many would care to be confined to the host hotel because they are unable to use taxis or public transit. In the same vein, I believe an accessibility guidebook to the city should be available for use by our guests.

I hope my comments are well taken and constructive. I am convinced that you and your staff are putting forth an honest effort to make ours the best State Conference in the nation and I support you in this endeavor.

Yours truly,



Lex Frieden  
New Options Research Director

LF/asm

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

September 7, 1976

TO: Advisory Board  
FROM: Sam Millsap, Sr.  
SUBJECT: Follow-up of Board Meeting

Our meeting was a great delight as well as a productive time to me. I think the group is energetic, dedicated and competent, a rare and successful combination.

Since our meeting several items have become further developed. The coverage of the media - newspapers, radio and TV - will be handled from our office with professional consultation to insure uniformity. Information regarding this important part of planning will be forwarded to regional PR representatives with guidelines. We still need the Board's participation in local media presentations, so keep your act together.

Space requirements are important to establish as soon as possible for a brochure with time and place of the regional forums. Be sure space is barrier free and large enough to accommodate all comers. More information will be shared with the regional space representatives.

Bob Blase is finishing the delegate selection process to assure conformity to federal requirements

Page 2

as well as uniformity throughout the state.

Enclosed is your expense check from our first meeting, if you applied for reimbursement.

If you want consultation on your regional planning meetings, feel free to contact Marolyn. Call her collect and she'll make arrangements to get with you.

SM/MS/dj



## Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston

3530 WEST DALLAS

P. O. BOX 13435

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

527-9561

September 17, 1976

Lex Frieden  
9667 Meadowvale  
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Lex,

I recently talked with Marolyn Stubblefield, Assistant Director of the Texas White House Conference, about our next planning meeting for the Regional Forum. We have tentatively changed the date and time of that meeting from October 1 at 3:00 p.m. to Monday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m., at the Lighthouse for the Blind, 3530 W. Dallas. Ms. Stubblefield's schedule would not allow her to be present at the October 1 meeting. Both of us feel that the committee members should have an opportunity to ask direct procedural and operational questions of a top representative from San Antonio; thus the change of date and time.

If the change is not conducive to your schedule, please let me know immediately. I hope that everyone can be present.

See you soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mary Ann Board'.

Mary Ann Board  
Chairperson  
Gulf Coast Regional Forum

MAB:ca

Mr. Sam D. Millsap, Director  
The White House Conference on  
Handicapped Individuals  
1222 N. Main, Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Dear Mr. Millsap,

I have received, from Mr. James L. Jackson, a copy of the memo Texas Re-  
habilitation Commission sent to Regional Directors concerning the White  
House Conference in San Antonio in December, 1976. This was sent after  
several conversations with Texas Rehabilitation Commission, with Mr. Irwin  
and Mr. Jackson concerning their services to the handicapped and proposed  
changes in the commission.

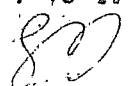
Since receiving that communication I have visited with all of the Special  
Education directors served by the Region VII Service Center. This re-  
presents approximately 150 independent school districts. We, collectively  
and individually, are very interested in your conference and the outcome.  
I have been asked, by this group, to see about attending and reporting  
back to the, since none of the advisory board comes from the Deep East  
Texas Area. Will it be possible for me to get more information so that I  
can plan to participate and perhaps even involve some of the other directors  
from this area?

We are very interested in the changes and programming that is taking place  
for handicapped individuals and want to be as involved as possible to try  
and provide the best possible service.

Thank you for your concern for handicapped people and all of the continuing  
efforts that are bringing our children better opportunities and providing a  
better place to live.

Sincerely,

Al Strickland



AS/11  
cc: Ms. Mary Ann Board  
Ms. Muriel Le Blanc  
Mr. Lex Friedman

September 10, 1976

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# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

September 7, 1976

Mr. William Hunter, Manager  
Hilton Palacio Del Rio  
200 South Alamo  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mr. Hunter:

The meeting of the Advisory Board of The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals had a very pleasant and successful meeting at your hotel on 26 August. At that time several suggestions were made relative to the State Conference planned for 1 & 2 December at the Hilton.

Because of the very nature of the Conference, at least 50% of those attending the State Conference will be handicapped individuals. It was pointed out that the Hilton does not have a curb cut for the mobility impaired at the front entrance. It was further noticed that, while the Hilton has some rooms especially equipped for the mobility impaired, the existing rooms will not be adequate in number for the December meeting.

It is hoped that the Hilton will be more suited for the handicapped by becoming barrier free by the

Mr. William Hunter  
September 7, 1976  
Page 2

time of the meeting. We suggest this action strongly  
to insure an effective meeting.

Please let us know your plans as soon as possible  
so we can inform the concerned consumers. Your assistance  
in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*MS*  
*Sam Millsap*

Sam Millsap, Sr.  
Texas Conference Director

*Marolyn Stubblefield*

Marolyn Stubblefield  
Assistant Director

SM/MS/dj

# **The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference**

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

## Delegate Election and Requirements

Texas has been allotted 16 delegates to the White House Conference, plus 16 alternates.

The White House Conference has set up strict guidelines for selection of delegates. At least 50% of them must be handicapped, another 25% must be parents, siblings or guardians of handicapped individuals, and the remaining 25% providers and other advocates for the handicapped.

Regional forums are to be held in Texas prior to the state conference. Each region will elect delegates in the above ratio to attend the State Conference in San Antonio, Dec. 1st and 2nd.

At the state conference, the 16 delegates and 16 alternates in the prescribed ratio are to be elected to attend the White House Conference next spring.

The White House Conference will pay all expenses for those chosen as delegates. However, expenses for the alternates must be paid by their sponsoring agencies, or by the individuals themselves. If, however, any of the chosen delegates cannot attend, an alternate will be chosen to replace the delegate, with all expenses paid.

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

Dear Friend of the Handicapped,

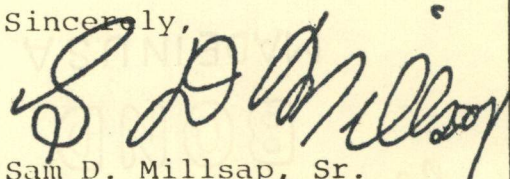
Plans for The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals are well under way. With your involvement this effort to assess the needs of handicapped individuals will be effective. Please notify your organizational affiliates across the State and encourage their participation in the regional forum in their area.

Enclosed is a description of the Conference in the planning stage. As more information becomes available, we plan to share it with you. If you have particular concerns, feel free to communicate them to this office.

In an effort to involve as many advocates for the handicapped as possible, we would appreciate your assistance. Please send a directory of your organization's offices throughout the state. If you have information concerning other consumer groups of which we should be aware, please share that also.

We appreciate your concern for the handicapped and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Sam D. Millsap, Sr.  
Texas Conference Director

SDM/dj

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

August 2, 1976

Mr. Sam Millsap, Sr.  
The White House Conference on Handicapped  
Individuals  
1222 N. Main Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Dear Mr. Millsap:

I am honored to be appointed to your Planning Board. I am tentatively planning to drive to San Antonio on August 25 and return to Houston on August 27. Please inform me if I should make my own hotel reservations for the 25th and 26th.

Also, please correct your mailing list and master files as my last name is correctly spelled FRIEDEN and my zip code is 77063.

Sincerely,

Lex Frieden  
New Options Research Director

LF/asm

# The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals Texas Conference

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

*Hi, Liz*  
TO: Advisory Board Members  
FROM: Sam D. Millsap, Sr.  
SUBJECT: Conference Planning Meeting

We are pleased to announce your appointment to the Advisory Board for The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. As a citizen concerned with the well being of the handicapped, we know you will be an effective advocate. Your willingness to participate in this venture is indeed appreciated.

Enclosed is a general description of the conference in the early planning stages and a roster of the Advisory Board Members. The role of this group is to advise the Texas Conference Director concerning the planning of the regional forums and the State Conference. Representative of all parts of the state and disabilities, your involvement and consultation will assure a successful program.

A meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, August 26, 1976 in San Antonio. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel. Reservations are available at the Hilton and your travel expenses can be paid by the conference. Please write the conference office to confirm your plans to attend.

We will be in touch with you to share further information. We look forward to working with you in this important effort.

*So pleased to have you serving  
with us on this board  
Sam*

## Plans for State Conference

Firm planning has begun for the State Conference on the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. Sam D. Millsap, San Antonio businessman appointed by Governor Dolph Briscoe as Director of the State Conference, says it will be held in San Antonio, December 1 & 2.

Millsap has also announced that A. J. Bob Blase, Executive Director of San Antonio Goodwill, has been appointed Assistant Director of the State Conference, and Marolyn Stubblefield, Coordinator of Outreach Services at the San Antonio State Hospital, has been named to serve as Assistant Director and Coordinator.

The office of the state conference will be in Suite 711 of the Cypress Tower, 1222 N. Main, San Antonio, in space loaned to them by the State Commission for the Blind. Further support is being offered by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission located in the same building.

The state conference is one of 56 to be held in the different states and territories, and will gather information from handicapped individuals and people who work with the handicapped in each state. Their input will then be prepared and taken to the national conference next year in Washington, D. C..

Mrs. Stubblefield stressed that they are earnestly trying to listen to suggestions from all people concerned. She says they are hoping not to be a sounding board for complaints and gripes, but more of a sympathetic listener to assess the needs of people who have real problems, and to take suggestions on what might be done to alleviate or solve those problems.

The Act of Congress which set up the National Conference listed three specific goals:

1. Stimulate a national assessment of problems faced by individuals with physical or mental hardships:
2. Generate a national awareness of those problems:
3. Develop recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to allow individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently, with dignity, and with integration into community life.

Mr. Blase says a series of forums will be held in various sections of the state during the next few months. This should make it easier for concerned people to be on hand in person to make their views known.

And the staff is making a concentrated effort to find each handicapped person or group in the state, to inform them of the conference. They are trying to locate each group that works with the handicapped, so the people with whom they are working can be informed.

Mr. Millsap emphasizes that this is not an effort by a few people with PhD's to sit down and solve everything. The purpose of the state and national conference is to gather suggestions from people who actually face the problems daily, whether it be trying to find a way to get to and from work, or taking the constant rebuff of job turndowns because of a disability of some kind. All types of media will be used in an effort to publicize each of these forums well in advance so people can make plans to attend.

These forums will deal with a number of concerns of the handicapped in the fields of health, social, economic and educational concerns, as well as a wide range of special concerns. At the regional forums delegates will

be elected to the state conference in the same manner as state delegates will be elected to the national conference.

Everyone interested in making known his problems and suggestions should make plans to attend the forum nearest his home when it is announced. He should also keep in touch with the organization with which he normally deals, such as TRC, the State Commission for the Blind, Goodwill, State Hospital, Association of the Deaf, and other groups. These organizations will be informing their members and clients about the forums and plans for the state conference.

More information can be obtained by writing the State Conference, 711 Cypress Tower, 1222 N. Main, San Antonio, Texas, 78212.

The information from all these sources will be gathered, processed, then prepared for the national conference in Washington, D. C., in the spring of 1977.

Texas will be allocated 16 delegates to the national conference. They will be selected at the State Conference in December. At least 50% of them must be handicapped, another 25% must be parents, siblings or guardians of handicapped individuals, and the remaining 25% providers and other advocates of forward strides for the handicapped. Texas may also select 16 alternates, who will be eligible to go in place of delegates unable to attend, or they may go at their own expense, if they so choose. Or their sponsoring agency may pay their expenses.

The findings of the various state conferences will be studied and used in determining the agenda and priorities for the national conference, which was authorized in an act of congress signed by President Ford in 1974.

The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare has appointed a 28 member National Planning and Advisory Council. It includes nationally known educators, rehabilitation specialists, medical personnel, social workers, government officials, families of handicapped individuals, and consumers-- meaning the handicapped themselves.

Planning for the state conference continues at a brisk pace. Mrs. Stubblefield will be handling the primary planning for the state conference, so any questions or suggestions should be addressed to her at the State Conference headquarters in San Antonio.

It is hoped to have plans for the regional forums throughout the state completed soon, with publicity ready to go out shortly thereafter.

In addition to the job of planning the conference, the problem of getting everyone, including the public, informed of this program occupies a high priority. Newspapers, consumer publications, TV, radio, company house organs and the like will be used, and Mr. Millsap, Mr. Blase and Mrs. Stubblefield may be heard or seen on some of the radio and TV talk shows across the state as time for the forums approaches.

The White House Conference  
On Handicapped Individuals  
Texas Conference  
1222 N. Main, Suite 711  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
(512) 223-3831

June 21, 1976

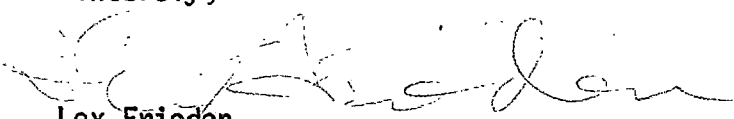
State Conference Director  
White House Conference  
Mr. Sam Millsap  
5930 Winding Road  
San Antonio, Texas 77329

Dear Mr. Millsap:

It was a pleasure meeting you on the telephone last week and I am anxious to visit with you in person. I am enclosing a copy of the agenda I have planned for Jack Smith's forthcoming visit to Houston. I hope you can join us, and I would appreciate knowing of your plans in that regard.

Congratulations again on your appointment as State Conference Director. Let me reaffirm my desire to assist you in any way on this important project.

Sincerely,



Lex Frieden  
New Options Research Director

LF/asm