

MACOMB-OAKLAND REGIONAL CENTER



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GROUP HOME CONVENTION

Response was so positive last year that a second group home convention will be held April 3, 1984, at the Sheraton Southfield Hotel.

The theme of this year's convention is, "Personal Best: Enhancing Your Impact As Direct Care Staff." Jerry Provencal, director of MORC and Wayne Community Living Services, will give the keynote address.

The convention will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The guest luncheon speaker will be Quarterback Eric Hipple of the Detroit Lions.

There will be seven concurrent workshops during the day. Back by popular demand is Lynn E. Medow, assistant director of the Jewish Association for Retarded Citizens with "Bitch, Bitch, Bitch--The Art of Creative Complaining." Ruth Ann Zeigler, MSW, director of Special Projects, Macomb County Community College, will present, "You've Only Just Begun," a workshop to help you recognize skills you are acquiring that will enhance your life, further your goals, and give you some pointers on how to set goals and plan for your future.

Russell Reeves, Ph.D. Candidate, program director, Michigan Services for the Developmentally Disabled, will present, "Hopeless But Not Helpless: Coping With Distress," a summary of methods for handling daily distress; Jerry Jones, ACSW, social worker, Warren Consolidated Schools, "How to Defeat Self Defeating Behavior," a prescription for getting yourself out of the rut;

John McCaffrey, residential program supervisor, the Jewish Association for Retarded Citizens, "Winning An Oscar--How To Make Sure Your Performance Is Recognized!" and George Ault, pastor, Zion United Church of Christ, "Is Anybody Listening?" addressing listening as a communication skill. There will be a Film Festival showing "A Different Approach" and "Transitions."

Registration deadline is March 27, 1984. For group home direct care employees and home managers attendance is free. Registration fee for MORC group home administrators and MORC employees is \$15. For all others, the fee is \$25. For more information, contact Ron Cornelison at MORC.

BLANCHARD SIGNS EARLY RETIREMENT BILLS

Two measures which could save the state as much as \$60 million by encouraging 1,500 to 2,000 state Civil Service employees to take early retirement were signed into law by Governor Blanchard recently. HB 4644 and HB 4613 (PAs 2 and 3 respectively, both immediate effect) will play an important role in the state's effort to reduce its size and cut its costs, Blanchard said at a bill signing ceremony.

Blanchard also said he had not seen SCR 553 which would overturn the 5 percent pay increase granted state workers by the Civil Service Commission and took no position. But, he said, the increase was "the product of the collective bargaining process, and you're asking fewer people to do more."

VICES GOALS

In his 1984 State of the State Message, Governor Blanchard established goals for serving developmentally disabled persons in Michigan. The following statements are excerpted from the State of the State message:

Efforts must also continue to provide services to children requiring out-of-home placement in the most appropriate and least restrictive manner which supports their growth and development. I am instructing the Human Services Cabinet to coordinate these efforts so that we can set a goal that by the end of 1986 no developmentally disabled child will be institutionalized.

While we have provided for the needs of developmentally disabled children and young adults through special education programs and the recent family support initiatives, too little has been done for these persons after they are 25 years old. Developmentally disabled adults living at home also need family support services as well as daytime recreational, social and vocational programs. Currently, some 1,500 developmentally disabled adults living at home are on waiting lists for social services. I propose the goal of eliminating these waiting lists by 1985.

PROPOSALS SEEK LOCAL CONTROL FOR GROUP HOME SITE SELECTION

A package of bills which would give local communities control over site selection for group homes has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives. The proposals, House Bills 5070, 5071, and 5072, would amend Michigan zoning laws and permit municipalities to recommend specific sites for group homes to state departments. The state placement agency would be required to locate proposed homes on sites selected from those recommended by the local municipalities.

When a municipality fails to recommend an appropriate site, the state agency would be allowed to identify a suitable site without local approval.

The proposals also require the local municipality to hold a public information session for all persons residing within 1500 feet of a site being considered for recommendation to the state.

House Bills 5070, 5071 and 5072 were introduced by Rep. William J. Runco (R-Dearborn) and Rep. Richard A. Young (D-Dearborn Heights). The Bills are currently in the Committee on Mental Health. The Department of Mental Health is opposed to the proposals.

(The last two stories were submitted by Ken Stockton of Wayne Community Living Services.)

DID YOU KNOW...

Michigan now has a new Lobbying Act which became effective January 1, 1984. Under the New Act many organizations and individuals will fall under the definitions of lobbyist and lobbying agent and will be required to register with the state under penalty of law. If you have any questions regarding the New Lobbying Act, contact the ARC/OC or Susan Clark, Dept. Head of the Mich. Lobbying Registration and Communication Unit, at (517) 373-7655.