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NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

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Directors Directions

There are several issues that DVRS has been looking at over a period of time. One of those is the distribution of the sheltered employment "slots". Actually we do not work directly with slots but this has been a convenient way of expressing level of service. We have actually been paying for service days with each "slot" being equal to 220 days.

Originally when the contract method of paying for extended employment was introduced we established the levels of service based on what had transpired the previous year. There has been no major revision since then.

Now that we have a history, or track record to go on, we will be making adjustments in the FY 1985 levels of service to reflect a better conformity to actual performance.

In simple terms we will be reducing the contracted level of service for those facilities who are chronically under serving and increasing the contracted level for those who have historically overserved the extended population.

I would also like to share another piece of news with you. Commissioner Bodman has continued to show a deep interest in the Sheltered Workshop. We are receiving a number of good questions and

requests for information. Lets all strive to demonstrate to Commissioner Bodman the positive results of the program, and keep his personal level of interest at a high level.

Grace Applegate Appointed to Human Resources Post

Commissioner Roger Bodman has announced the appointment of Grace Applegate as the Labor Department's Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources.

Commissioner Bodman said Ms. Applegate's responsibilities will include developing policy and programs and overseeing activities of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of the Deaf and Division of Disability Determinations.

In addition, according to the Commissioner, Ms. Applegate will continue to serve as a Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison with the Department of Labor.

Ms. Applegate was appointed by Commissioner Bodman as a Special Assistant and Legislative Liaison in June, 1982. Her duties in those posts include working with the Governor's Office and the State Legislation to further legislation that is of importance to the Labor Department.

Ms. Applegate, of Plainsboro, was advertising sales manager of the County News, a weekly newspaper in Dunellen for two years prior to joining the Department of Labor.

She previously served as a Legislative Aide to Senator Walter Foran, of Hunterdon County, as Minority Aide to the New Jersey State Senate.

As Middlesex County Republican State Committeewoman, Ms. Applegate served as co-chairperson of the Middlesex County Kean for Governor Committee in the Republican primary election. She was also a member of the inaugural committee of Governor Thomas H. Kean.

DVRS Quarterly Statistics

This quarter we are a little short on raw material for this column. Usually the computer deluges us with data but not so this quarter.

It's in a good cause however. Our payment system is being revamped so that our bills can be paid faster and the new system provides a better accounting of how funds were spent. In the long run, it will benefit all of us. In the short run, it is a pain.

The data we do have available from various sources indicates there were no dramatic changes in utilization patterns during the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Referrals remained relatively unchanged, new starts (evaluation) were down slightly, WAT starts were up slightly and competitive placements were down slightly from their two year high achieved in the fourth quarter of the last year.

The sheltered employment program reported 42 competitive placements almost identical to the 43 in the first quarter of last year. Dropouts were up considerably rising from 87 to 133. This is

probably accounted for to some degree by the readjusting of population to reflect Division of Mental Retardation's interest in sponsoring some clients.

Average client hourly wage in Sheltered Employment was \$1.07.

Committed Level of Service

For the last couple of years we have lived with the originally assigned levels of service under the EE contracts. DVRS is presently studying the levels of these contracts against past performance with an eye to adjustments next year.

We strongly wish to make slots available to some of the smaller programs in order to make them more cost efficient.

Budget

The Commissioner of Labor, Roger Bodman and the Governor have both recommended a funding level of \$5,250,000 for the Extended Employment program in State Fiscal Year 1985.

The \$250,000 increase is tied to a 90 slot (19,800 service day) increase in level of service. This is not clear in the "Budget Book" because the 90 slot increase was not noted although it was used in making the computations as to average cost.

If you see figures that don't jibe, or if someone asks you, that's why. It should read:

FY'84 2210 clients @ \$5,000,000 = \$2,262 per slot.
FY'85 2300 clients @ \$5,250,000 = \$2,283 per slot.

Community Service Programs In New Jersey

In New Jersey in 1983 alone there were 8,100 offenders performing community services by working without compensation, totaling more than 600,000 hours of community service in that year.

The Community Service program as a sentencing option has become a popular form of sanctioning offenders.

In January of 1982, a law went into effect mandating community service or jail for persons convicted for the second and subsequent offense of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The state legislature has appointed funds under the direction of county guidance departments, to municipal, county, state, federal and private not-for-profit agencies.

This program:

- * is cost effective
- * is a viable sentencing alternative to incarceration (referring to already overcrowded jails)
- * holds offenders accountable to community for their actions
- * offers needed services to a community, the public and private non-profit sector.
- * allows skills, talents, interests to be utilized in the performance of service.

The process involves 1) screening of an offender, 2) referral, and 3) an interview. All those accepted for placement are covered by accident/medical insurance through the Community Service Program.

A prospective employer is responsible for informing a client of company rules and regulations, and for describing the type of work to be done and designating a contact person for the client who would be available to the client for answering questions or for addressing problems to. A monthly report of work hours completed is to be sent to the Community Service Program,

individual reports are needed for each client.

If you desire further information about this program and/or would like to receive a newsletter titled, "Community Service Update" contact Ms. Karen L. Goldstein at 609-292-4634.

Wheelchair Etiquette

Free to anyone who requests it along with a long self-addressed, stamped envelope, a pamphlet titled:

"What Do I Do When I Meet A Person In A Wheelchair?"

Write the: Public Relations Office
Schoitz Medical Center
Kimball & Ridgeway Aves.
Waterloo, Iowa 50702

State Grants Help Totally Unique Project Get Start

Cumberland Rehabilitation Center/Easter Seal Society is to be commended for their efforts and success with a contract they recently developed in conjunction with Time Graphics, Inc. Mr. Paul Booker, director of the Cumberland Rehabilitation Center (CRC), Mr. Bill Scates, Project Coordinator, Ms. Cynthia Rauso, Coordinator of Training, and Mr. Dan Kelly, Director of Professional Services are especially to be recognized for their efforts.

CRC has contracted to manage the entire mailroom department of a private company, Time Graphics, Inc. The contract provides jobs and training for physically and/or mentally handicapped persons from the Cumberland County area. Two state grants, 1) New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for \$16,500 and, 2) Human Services Advisory Council of Cumberland County for \$18,750

helped start this project in motion. The project gives client workers a realistic look at the working world.

Last report showed 15 client workers employed in the mailroom and plans are to bring in a continuous flow of new people. Workers are paid by Easter Seals, not Time Graphics, Inc.

After one month of operation, other New Jersey businesses are looking at this operation for possible implementation in their businesses.

Mr. John Ewing, Circulation Director for Time Graphics, Inc. is reported to expect mailroom operations to increase under Easter Seals. He is reported to have said the project is working out beautifully and CRC staff and workers should be commended.

Project Grants for Initiation of Special Recreation Programs for the Handicapped

Applications are available by writing the :

Office of Developmental Programs
Rehabilitation Services

Administration
Office of Special Education
and Rehabilitation Services

U.S. Department of Education
Room 3329

Mary E. Switzer Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

For further information contact Mr. Frank S. Caracciolo, same address as above, or telephone 202-245-0389.

Fifth Annual Governor's Conference on Recreation for the Handicapped

Governor Thomas H. Kean announces: "The 5th Annual Governor's Conference of Recreation for the

Handicapped will be held on May 16, 1984, at the Ramada Inn, Edison.

The New Jersey Commission on Recreation of the Handicapped in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs coordinates the all-day Conference which is designed to meet the needs of practitioners consumers, parents, and advocates concerned with the promotion, provision, or implementation of recreation services for individuals with disabilities.

Benjamin Schaffer, Commission Chairperson, reflects: "The Governor's Conference represents a significant step in support of the needs and effects of recreation for the handicapped. Thanks to the outstanding support of Governor Kean and of Commissioner John P. Renna of the Department of Community Affairs, the Commission and community practioners have been able to make significant gains in the development of recreation services to the disabled. We urge everyone to attend this year's conference, and assure you that there are many new and exciting programs to experience."

The conference theme is: "Living Life to its Fullest".

Workshops will include:

Life-style Preparation
Trips, Travel and Commerical
Recreation for the Disabled
Preschool-Infant Stimulation
Discharge Planning-Hooking Up-
Networking
Creative Design Movementation
Recreation Programing
Facility Design, Communication
and Barrier Free Techniques
Creative Areas and Cultural
Affairs

Inside Track to NJ Games for the
Disabled plus (4) C.E.U.
sessions

Plan to join us! Registration materials will be mailed out shortly. For additional information, please call Jacquie Stanley at 609-292-6243.

The Handicapped and Elderly Travelers Association, Inc. (THETA)

THETA is a membership association for the elderly and handicapped. Annual membership costs \$35.00. In some ways THETA is like any other travel agency:

- . organizing tours at group rates,
- . offers information on medication replacement while away from home,
- . knowledge of which resorts and hotels can accomodate wheelchairs.

Other benefits are outlined in a brochure available by contacting:

THETA Association, Inc.
1058 Shell Blvd.
Building 1
Box 4850
Foster City, California 94404

or by phoning: 1-800-25-THETA

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All interested in obtaining copies of this publication while supplies last may do so by contacting:

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