



Rehabilitation Programs Division Bulletin

Spring/Summer 2013

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Mission Statement

To develop and provide evidence-based rehabilitation programs that facilitate positive change in the lives of offenders by a dedicated team of skilled professionals.



Employee Spotlight



Mollie Hall, RPD Accounting Technician II, is a hard-working, devoted employee of the Agency for the last 16 years. She is always ready to lend a helping hand to staff members by providing good advice, as well as sharing her wonderful desserts, homemade dishes, and fresh vegetables from her garden. She also purchases snacks for the staff to help nourish them throughout the work day.

Mollie was born and raised in Call, Texas, a small town Northeast of Beaumont, Texas. She graduated from Kirbyville High School, began her employment at Bank One (now Chase Bank), and later, she worked for a chemical company.

In 1997, Mollie embarked on her "second" career, with the TDCJ, in the Classification and Records Office. During her time with Classification and Records, she provided administrative support to the Grievance Office and later moved to the Busi-

ness Office where she received several promotions. In 2006, she transferred to her current position within the Rehabilitation Programs Division as the Accounting Technician II.

In addition to her dedication and the example she sets as a hard-working individual, Mollie is also well-known for being kind and thoughtful. She has such a generous, giving spirit and can be counted on for her upbeat, positive attitude. She is an exemplary employee and an enormous asset to the division. Thank you, Mollie, for all that you do for us!



Program Spotlight

Administrative Segregation Pre-Release Program—Our Newest Program



The Administrative Segregation Pre-Release Program (ASPP) helps offenders transition from living in

Administrative Segregation (Ad Seg) to thriving in the free world, which includes staying in the community instead of returning to prison. All Level 1 Ad Seg offenders are enrolled in the 90-day program as part of the normal discharge process. On the Estelle High Security unit, offenders are currently housed on one (1) of three (3) program wings. Each cell has a protected computer, monitor, and keyboard, making it possible for the offender to participate in "classroom" activities throughout the day, and to "meet" for sessions with a Case Manager or other program staff.

Program Spotlight, cont'd.

Offenders are able to learn, use, and explore various tools that help them in a number of ways, such as preparing for the workforce, learning to type, use and become comfortable with modern computers, using "staff to offender" communication, studying various manuals (i.e., study guide for the driver's license exam or finding lists of community resources), getting involved in faith-based activities and life skills strategies, and techniques. The program is in collaboration with the Reentry and Integration Division (RID) and Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI).

Offenders also receive other benefits while in the program, including extra programming with volunteer staff (i.e., Quest for Authentic Manhood and Chaplaincy hour), family reunification, and an expanding program library of reentry manuals, as well as self-help books and recreational reading.

The ASPP is still growing and evolving as it comes upon its first anniversary in July 2013. The program upholds the mission of the TDCJ in its commitment to promote positive change and provide public safety by helping offenders discover the positive options that they have available to them and help put their plans and goals into action.

If you have any questions regarding the ASPP, please contact:

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The New Female In-Prison DWI Intervention Program

by: Rhonda Slater, Deanna Breckenridge, and Wanda Redding



In February 2012, the new female In-Prison Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Intervention Program was opened at the Ellen Halbert Unit in Burnet, Texas. Many months of planning went into developing the six (6) month program for offenders assigned by the State Classification Committee (SCC) or voted by the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP). RPD's staff were instrumental in working with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to create a meaningful treatment program for women with DWI convictions. The Substance Abuse Treatment Administration's Benson Dike (now retired) and Linda Cummins, along with Madeline Ortiz, served as the instructors for the first classes. The offenders selected for the first two classes were certainly varied - 23% were first-time felony offenders, while 53% had three (3) or more DWI convictions.

On August 15, 2012, the first two (2) classes received their certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony, at which Senator John Whitmire, sponsor of the legislature creating the program, was a special guest speaker.



Current News

BAMBI Program Offenders Participates in Run/Walk Events 2012-2013

Since August 2012, the Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI) Program offenders have been training with Bel Inizio (Italian for "Beautiful Beginning"), a non-profit Houston-based organization that helps disadvantaged women participate in run/walk events, such as the annual BENEezy Purple Monkey Fun Run in Alvin, Texas. Bel Inizio founder, Teresa Strong, and her staff trained with the participants, incorporating exercise, walking, running, yoga, strength training, and nutrition education to prepare them for the events. Bel Inizio works with several of the women's programs at the Santa Maria Hostel, which is also home to the BAMBI Program, providing them with the opportunity to develop self-esteem and confidence through regular exercise and proper nutrition, and helping them set a goal to finish a 5K race, symbolic of their race for a better life. Those women from the Santa Maria Hostel who participated in the BENEezy Purple Monkey Fun Run became eligible to compete in the annual Houston Run for Recovery in September.

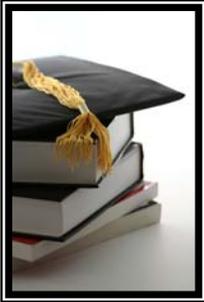


The BAMBI participants resumed training in April 2013, so they could participate in the Impact-A-Hero 5K Run, Walk, Wheel Race at the Reliant Stadium on May 18, 2013. The Impact-A-Hero organization helps provide immediate and ongoing emotional and financial support to post-9/11 veterans and their families. BAMBI offender Sarah said this race meant a great deal to her because she was "running for people who couldn't do it themselves."

The BAMBI participants did not have sponsors like the other participants did, but Bel Inizio founder Teresa Strong coordinated with unknown individuals to provide the BAMBI participants with new athletic shoes, which helped BAMBI offender Danielle see the importance of "paying it forward." Sarah felt grateful for the shoes, as the anonymous donors "knew we were felons." Many of the participants stated they were ready to continue to work with Bel Inizio in future races after they release. The BAMBI offenders named their group "Dream Chasers," and push themselves to succeed; they attended two boot camps, in which they had a personal trainer, and other Bel Inizio volunteers have run, walked, or jogged with them, as well as teach them yoga. At their graduation from Boot Camp, their personal trainer, Calvin Lawson, a former offender himself, spoke to them about "staying committed and putting in the effort. Life is like the race – you may have times you feel like failing, but don't give up." *Congratulations to the BAMBI women for staying the course!!*



Announcements



Legislative Session Impact

The regular session of the 83rd Legislature has ended and there has been a change in that post-secondary and vocational education are now housed under the Rehabilitation Programs Division (RPD). Senate Bill (SB) 1, including Rider 32, has moved college and vocational programs from the Windham School District to the supervision of the RPD within the TDCJ. A transition plan for post-secondary programs is currently being developed. We are excited about the new partnership with the colleges!

The Rehabilitation Programs Division would like to welcome and congratulate the following staff:

Transfers/Laterals:

Bjana McGee—Associate Psychologist III—Hightower Unit
 Larry Hart—Chaplain II—Eastham Unit
 Calvin Page—Chaplain I—Connally Unit
 Larry Henderson—Chaplain I—Coffield Unit
 Loreatha Johnson—Clerk II—SATP—Leblanc Unit
 Robert Fulkerson—Chaplain II—Tulia Unit
 Amber Place—Associate Psychologist II—SORP—Goree Unit
 Holly Graham—Case Manager II—SORP—Neal Unit
 Christina Thomas—Chaplain II—Houston Parole
 Terry Matlock—Chaplain II—Murray Unit
 Ashley Williams—Clerk II—SORP—Goree Unit

Promotions:

Simon Beardsley—Program Supervisor V—RPD
 Linda Cummins—Program Supervisor V—RPD
 Stacie Woods—Program Supervisor V—RPD
 Ashley Koonce—Program Supervisor III—RPD
 Jerrica Stewart—Administrative Assistant III—SORP—RPD
 Telisa Henderson—Human Resources Assistant—RPD
 Diana Casburn—Accounting Technician—SORP—RPD
 Michele Hoot—Training Specialist IV—RPD
 Ruby Courtney—Administrative Assistant III—SORP—RPD
 Ashley Ginn—Administrative Assistant III—RPD
 Krystal Spencer—Case Manager II—Stringfellow Unit
 Michael Rutledge—Chaplain III—RPD
 Charles Grasty—Chaplain I—Michael Unit
 Carol Gutierrez—Case Manager III—Hightower Unit
 Andrew Benesh—Associate Psychologist III—Hightower Unit
 Deborah Maxwell—Associate Psychologist III—Hightower Unit
 Olalekan Gbenro—Associate Psychologist II—Goree Unit
 Brenda Booth—Associate Psychologist III—Goree Unit
 Kandys Edwards—Associate Psychologist III—Goree Unit
 Byron Reynolds—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Brittany Burleyson—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Mukaddas Alhassan—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Steven Gaddis—Program Supervisor V—Estelle Unit
 Keith Thedford—Chaplain II—Estelle Unit
 Mark Holmes—Program Supervisor III—COURAGE—Clemens Unit
 Donna Bellanger—Administrative Assistant III—SORP—Goree Unit
 Yesenia Bonilla—Administrative Assistant III—SORP—Goree Unit
 Jimmie Wilcoxson—Clerk IV—SORP—Goree Unit
 Raquel Magana—Clerk IV—SORP—Hightower Unit
 Alisha Bowdoin—Administrative Assistant IV—Johnston Unit

Michael Ryals—Chaplain I—Lewis Unit
 Christian Luna—Chaplain Unit—Garza East Unit
 William Poor—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Phyllis May—Substance Abuse Counselor III—SATP—LeBlanc Unit
 Rachell Alexander—Case Manager III—SORP—Neal Unit
 Brook Rittenhouse—Clerk IV—SORP—Neal Unit
 Samuel McCollum—Case Manager II—SORP—Goree Unit
 Jacqueline Benton—Case Manager IV—ADSEG—Estelle Unit
 Louisa Danford—Clerk IV—COURAGE—Clemens Unit
 Evelyn Marshall—Administrative Assistant IV—LeBlanc Unit
 Otelia Beverly—Case Manager II—Stringfellow Unit
 Stanley Baldwin—Chaplain I—Robertson Unit
 Robert Styers—Chaplain II—Garza West Unit
 Kenneth Crow—Chaplain I—Middleton Unit
 R B Packard—Chaplain I—McConnell Unit
 Cindy Kennedy—Substance Abuse Counselor I—Johnston Unit
 Cynthia Wheeler—Substance Abuse Counselor I—Johnston Unit
 Mala Wood—Substance Abuse Counselor I—Hamilton Unit
 Kenneth Dike—Substance Abuse Counselor I—Hamilton Unit
 Rocio Seledonio—Administrative Assistant II—Hamilton Unit
 Cesar Diaz—Chaplain I—Allred Unit
 Cortina Jackson—Case Manager II—Hightower Unit
 Dale Dimascio—Associate Psychologist II—Goree Unit
 Tammi McGowen—Case Manager II—Goree Unit
 Joe Johnson—Associate Psychologist II—Goree Unit
 Lakita Williams—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Dale Henderson—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Shawn Anderson—Case Manager III—Estelle Unit
 Veronica Williams—Substance Abuse Counselor III—Ellis Unit
 Thomas Sawyer, Jr.—Chaplain I—Coffield Unit
 Unit
 Manuel Campos—Substance Abuse Counselor II—SATP—Garza East Unit
 Megan Carpenter—Case Manager II—SORP—Neal Unit
 Linda Brackin—Case Manager II—SORP—Goree Unit
 Aniema Umoh—Associate Psychologist I—SORP—Beto Unit
 Letitia Thomas—Program Specialist II—RPD
 Shawanna Allison—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—LeBlanc Unit
 Dawn Ennis—Clerk II—SATP—Johnston Unit
 Kaycee Weatherall—Clerk II—SORP—Beto Unit
 Glenda Hicks—Chaplain I—Plane State Jail
 Marie Olmsted—Clerk II—SORP—Goree Unit
 Toni Garrett—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—LeBlanc Unit

Announcements, cont'd.

New:

Tamika Backstrom-Sieh—Associate Psychologist II—COURAGE—Clemens Unit
Aveliah Funderburk—Associate Psychologist I—SORP—Beto Unit
Joseph Brown—Associate Psychologist III—SORP—Hightower Unit
Jon Murry—Associate Psychologist I—SORP—Beto Unit
Bridget Kennedy—Associate Psychologist I—SORP—Beto Unit
Nancy Wilson—Case Manager II—SORP—Beto Unit
Connie Davis—Case manager II—SORP—Beto Unit
Carol Sparks—Clerk Unit—SATP—Johnston Unit
Jeffrey Sims—Case Manager II—SORP—Neal Unit
Joshua Loflin—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—LeBlanc Unit
John Bradley—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Johnston Unit
Cheryl Freeman—Case Manager II—SORP—Beto Unit
Juan Lucero—Chaplain I—Sanchez Unit
Addie Kennedy—Clerk II—SORP—Beto Unit
Linda Davis—Case Manager III—COURAGE—Clemens Unit
Dominique Mitchell—Program Supervisor I—Clemens
Jerry Billington—Chaplain II—Clemens Unit

New (cont'd.):

Loretta Swain—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Leblanc Unit
Tridena Jones—Substance Abuse Counselor II—SATP—Leblanc Unit
Renee Marbry—Clerk II—SATP—Leblanc Unit
Paula Lacy—Chaplain I—Lychner State Jail
Thomas Edelen—Chaplain I—Hodge Unit
James Self—Chaplain I—Mountain View Unit
Teresa Beasley—Case Manager II—Neal Unit
Michael Arndt—Chaplain I—Daniel Unit
Karen Brown—Clerk IV—SATP—RPD
Latasha Campbell-Allen—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Hamilton Unit
Thomas Lane—Substance Abuse Counselor I—SATP—Hamilton Unit
Wayne Moss—Chaplain I—Estelle Unit
Christopher Dobbe—Program Supervisor V—SORP—Neal Unit
Michael Gruhn—Chaplain I—Goree Unit
Tina Ainsworth—Associate Psychologist I—SORP—Goree Unit
Amanda Toth—Case Manager II—SORP—Goree Unit



The Rehabilitation Programs Division Bulletin can be read on-line at: http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/pubs_rpd_newsletter.html.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles, events or other newsworthy items for publication consideration.

All submissions should be forwarded to:
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