

HEW goes after school discrimination

In an effort to assist State and local school officials in detecting and eliminating discriminatory practices in special education programs, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has offered guidance to more than 16,000 educators.

The guidance was circulated to all chief State school officers and local district superintendents by HEW's Office for Civil Rights. Special education programs were described as those for children who are gifted, mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed or socially maladjusted, hard of hearing, deaf, speech-impaired, visually or orthopedically handicapped, or with other health impairments or learning disabilities.

Martin Gerry, Acting Director of the Office for Civil Rights, pointed out that compliance reviews revealed practices that deny equal educational opportunity in the assignment of children to such programs because of their race, color, national origin, or sex.

Gerry said that civil rights regulations required school officials to:

--Use uniform criteria for selection of students for special education classes.

--Grant school children and their parents safeguards in decisions which affect the identification, evaluation and educational placement of the children.

--Assure that testing procedures and devices do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex.

--Reevaluate special education students each year.

--Assure that special education programs are effective for children of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

School officials were asked to examine current practices in their school districts and, if any of the discriminatory practices are found, to develop and carry out plans to correct them.

Screening for sickle cell disease

A pamphlet describing screening procedures for sickle cell disease and trait was released recently by the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease (NASCD).

The pamphlet, "Laboratory Guidelines For Community Sickle Cell Programs," provides procedures for medical personnel who operate laboratory screening programs. It pinpoints procedure limitations and indicates when referral for more thorough hematologic evaluation is needed.

One out of 400 black Americans have sickle cell anemia and one out of 10 have sickle cell trait. There is no known cure for sickle cell anemia, which is an inherited blood disorder. Because the symptoms of sickle cell anemia can be mistaken for other ailments, it can only be diagnosed by laboratory testing.

Those with sickle cell trait are not sick, nor can they develop the disease. However, when both parents have sickle cell trait there is a 25 per cent chance with each pregnancy that their child will inherit the disease. As in the case of sickle cell anemia, the trait can only be detected by blood test.

"For each 100 families studied, 99 can be reassured that they will not bear children having sickle cell anemia," said Charles F. Whitten, M.D., President of NASCD. "But the task of diagnosing and counseling all 20 million members of ethnic groups at risk is a huge one," he noted. "A considerable portion of this work can be handled by paramedical groups specializing in education, screening, and counseling."

Two other pamphlets in the series, "Guidelines for Sickle Cell Legislation" and "How to Develop a Sickle Cell Organization," are also available to the public. Funds for the project were furnished by The UpJohn Company, a leading provider of pharmaceuticals and health care services.

All booklets may be ordered from the NASCD, 945 South Western Avenue, Suit 206, Los Angeles, California, 90006.

flu shots

The District Health Department announces that flu shots will be offered again this Fall to persons 60 years of age and over who cannot otherwise obtain this immunization.

The vaccine will also be made available to county, state and federal employees.

Flu immunizations will be available with proper identification from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays from September 1 to December 1 at the Health Department at 625 Shadow Lane for a fee of \$2.00 per immunization.

Influenza may pose a serious threat to those suffering from chronic illnesses such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes. The Public Health Service therefore recommends annual vaccination for those susceptible groups.

For further information call the District Health Department.

Therapeutic Swim program aids handicapped

Whether you just like volunteer work with kids or are interested in field experience, join the Clark County School District Therapeutic Swim program for the handicapped.

The Therapeutic Swim program held at the Helen J. Stewart pool serves those with both physical and mental handicaps. The purpose of the program is to provide immediate educational and recreational activities through the use of aquatic activities.

American Red Cross water safety instruction is given to the students and American Red Cross progressions are used and adaptations are made whenever needed to accommodate the special participants. Individual instruction is given beginners and pre-beginners and group classes are held for the more advanced swimmers. Orientation and supervision is provided to volunteers so the best and most thorough instruction can be given each class session.

The program relies heavily on volunteer assistance since the work is long-term and repetitious. UNLV students from the Physical Education and Special Education Departments utilize this experience towards fulfilling their practicum requirements. WSI and practicum students are not the only people eligible. Anyone with or without safety instruction is welcome. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For further information call 735-9158. If interested in organizing a specific experience stop in and talk to Dr. Foster, principal or Mrs. Tester, aquatic specialist at Helen J. Stewart, 2375 E. Viking.

Suicide Prevention training program

The semi-annual Suicide Prevention training program for new volunteers will be held again in October. The sessions will be held evenings Monday, October 6; Tuesday, October 7; Wednesday, October 8; Thursday, October 9; Monday, October 13; and Tuesday, October 14, 1975.

The training program is being conducted by Suicide Prevention Center—a local nonprofit organization composed of only volunteers and dedicated to maintaining a 24 hour telephone service for persons in suicidal crisis.

The sessions will consist of specific instructions, educational material, phone demonstration and techniques, and film presentations so that you will be prepared to answer and help the caller.

The volunteer work is done on your phone, in your own home allowing you to set your schedule for receiving calls at a time that will not interfere with other responsibilities.

For more information on the training program and this 5 year old organization committed to helping others... call 736-HELP (4357) and ask for Ernest. Your anonymity is assured.



RENNE CRUTCHER, 16, of Atlanta, Georgia, recently crowned as the 1975 National Winner of "Hal Jackson's Miss U.S. Talented Teen Pageant," displays her winning smile while relaxing at Bluebird's Castle Hotel on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She was the guest of the hotel, which was her home away from home on the first leg of her Caribbean Tour.

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