

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

Gulf Bend will be able to help more people

BY PAMELA BOND - VICTORIA ADVOCATE

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New equipment will help the Gulf Bend Mental Health and Mental Retardation center serve its clients in remote locations of the seven counties it serves.

With almost \$100,000 from a Meadows Grant, the center bought teleconference equipment and has trained staff to use it. This technology will allow a doctor in Victoria to have a conference or consultation with a client outside the center's only outpatient clinic in Victoria.

"The clients like it and our doctors find it effective," said Executive Director Don Polzin.

During his report at the Gulf Bend MHMR board of trustees meeting on Tuesday, Polzin explained some of the latest projects the center has undertaken.

Gulf Bend is part of the statewide system of local, public mental health and mental retardation centers, according to its Web site. Overseen by nine board members, it serves Victoria County six surrounding counties.

The center is in the process of establishing a transportation service for consumers out of the treatment area. It is the county's responsibility to provide transportation, which is currently met by the county sheriff's offices.

"This will provide a more dignified means of travel for the patient instead of riding in a marked vehicle," Polzin said.

The center is also establishing an interagency partnership with Crossroads Youth and Family Services in Victoria to extend its services to the youth in that organization. Polzin said he hopes this will be a focal point to work with the school district to provide a broader base to students needing the center's assistance.