Mental health provides services

From its meager beginning in a converted ambulance garage at Charity Hospital in 1935, the Acadiana Mental Health Center has grown to a multi-service, comprehensive mental health facility with satellite or outreach clinics in New Iberia, Opelousas, Abbeville, and St. Martinville.

The center is the first community mental health center of its kind in the United States. It serves Lafayette, New Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion parishes. The center provides outpatient, inpatient, elderly, crisis intervention, and emergency services. It also provides follow-up care, transitional care, and consultation and education.

The outpatient service represents the largest service delivery element and is structured to provide treatment programs, which will meet the specialized needs of children, adults and the elderly. Inpatient service is a 30-bed unit providing short-term treatment for those who are emotionally disturbed to the point where intensive 24-hour care is essential.

In recognition of May as Mental Health Month, Acadiana Mental Health Center will provide a display at the Lafayette Public Library. "Coping with Today," a weekly television show, will be moderated by Charles Haupil, manager of the center's Children and Young Adult Services. The show will air at 3 p.m. every Monday in May and 6 p.m. every Wednesday in May on Acadiana Open Channel.