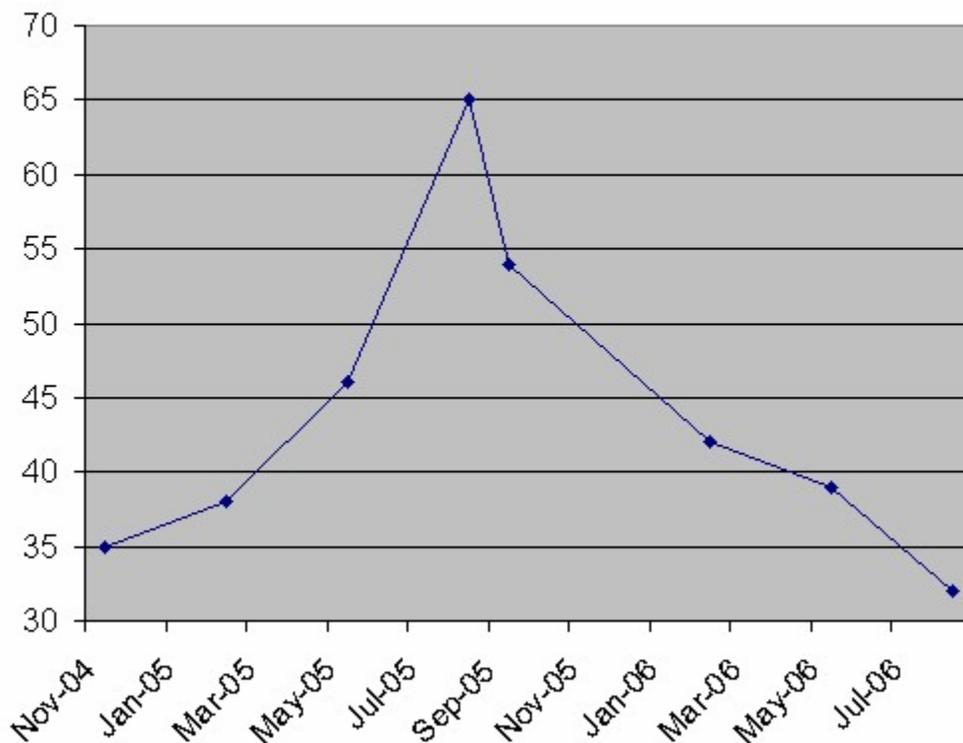




Anti-Shock Coalition Gets Results

Recent state reports show that the campaign to end shock treatment at Shoal Creek Hospital is getting results, with the number of people getting shock treatment there declining rapidly. A little over a year ago, CCHR teamed up with the Coalition for the Abolition of Electroshock in Texas. The purpose of the coalition is exactly what it says. This effort, led by CCHR ally, Dr. John Breeding, began with dialogue. When that didn't work, the coalition took to the streets, holding three protest rallies.

Shoal Creek ECT Patients



“It is interesting the result this little campaign has had,” said Lee Spiller, Executive Director of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights of Texas. “Prior to the protest marches, the number of people getting shocked at Shoal Creek was exploding. As this coalition swung into action, the number of people began to decline and it has continued to do so.”

Even while the legislature was in session, the coalition continued its work, sponsoring a concert celebrating artists who survived shock treatment. This concert was truly the first of its kind headlined by Roky Erickson, the father of psychedelic rock, who is himself a shock survivor. Also performing was J.T. Van Zandt, the son of legendary songwriter and shock survivor, Townes Van Zandt.

“We’ve been awed at the support from Austin’s music community,” said Spiller. “I think that artists, either by instinct or by experience, know that psychiatry is the antithesis of creativity.”

Next was a series of Austin City Council Hearings on why Austin should be a shock free zone. And the effort continues. On Friday, July 13th, the coalition will hold an early morning rally in front of Shoal Creek Hospital. This will be followed that evening by Roky Erickson’s birthday party at Austin’s Paramount Theater, where guests will be treated to the premier of Roky’s documentary “Your Going to Miss Me,” and a live concert by Roky Erickson and the Explosives.

“Barbaric psychiatric practices have no place in modern medicine,” said Spiller. “We won’t rest until shock treatment is a dark smudge in the history books.”

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