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AREA

V minute news

vol. 3 no. 11

June 23, 1971

WHAT'S AN AHEC?

By Donald W. Petit, M.D., Area V Coordinator

It is entirely possible that Regional Medical Programs will be designated as an agency through which grants for area health education centers (AHEC's) will be designated, so it is appropriate to look at some of the current concepts.

A bill (HR 4170) introduced by Representative Staggers in February, 1971 describes an area health education center as a "hospital, educational facility, or other public non-profit institution affiliated with an academic health center for the conduct of or the providing of guidance for education and training programs for health personnel in association with state, community, or public colleges, other hospitals and hospital facilities, professional health or medical organizations in a particular geographical area...to serve as an instrument of cooperation between an academic health center and its education, research, and health service programs and the framework of health facilities and organizations and activities for the betterment of health in a given area." This Bill was specifically aimed at making RMP an instrument for area health education centers.

In his Health Message delivered in February of this year, President Nixon stated: "A series of new area health education centers should also be established in places which are medically underserved--as the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education has recommended. These centers would be satellites of existing medical and other health science schools; typically they could be built around a community hospital, a clinic or an HMO which is already in existence. Each would provide a valuable teaching center for new health professionals, a focal point for the continuing education of experienced personnel, and a base for providing sophisticated medical services which would not otherwise be available for these areas. I am requesting that up to 40 million dollars be made available for this program in Fiscal Year 1971."

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The Carnegie Commission's recommendations, according to their Associate Director, Margaret S. Gordon, in an address to the American Assembly Program on The Health of Americans, recommended the development of 126 AHEC's, suggesting five in L. A. County, to work with the two university health science centers that now exist (USC and UCLA). The following functions were proposed for AHEC's:

"To maintain a community hospital of outstanding quality, many of whose patients would be admitted on a referral basis from smaller communities in the surrounding area.

"To conduct educational programs under the supervision of the faculty of the University health science center with which the AHEC is affiliated.

"To have these educational programs include: Residency programs; clinical instructions for MD and DDS candidates who would come there from the university health science center on a rotating basis; clinical experience for students in allied health programs; continuing education programs for health manpower in the area conducted in cooperation with local professional associations.

"To provide guidance to comprehensive colleges and community colleges in the area in the development of training programs for allied health professions.

"To cooperate with hospitals and community agencies in the planning and development of more effective health care delivery systems.

"To conduct limited research programs concerned primarily with the evaluation of health care delivery systems."

L. A. County has at this time two possible models for AHEC's; one is the Charles Drew Postgraduate School and its Divisions of Allied Health which are related to both USC and UCLA; another is the San Fernando Valley Health Consortium which has been supported by both AREA V and Area IV RMP's. Several possible areas for such projects can be suggested--East Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, and Antelope Valley.

It would appear that AHEC's are an effort to coordinate the total health manpower educational activities in a given area and, more particularly, to stimulate some relationship between these activities and the health care delivery systems. The foregoing concepts fit very closely with priorities developed by the AREA V Task Force on Health Manpower last December.

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AREA V REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

CALENDAR
June, July 1971

Thursday, June 24

AREA V	Cancer Chemotherapy Subcommittee	12 noon RMP Conference Room
COMP-LA	Emergency Care Subcommittee	6:30 p.m. 621 S. Virgil, L. A.

Tuesday, June 29

AREA V	Stroke Team	12 Noon Huntington Memorial Hosp.
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Wednesday, June 30

AREA V	Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m. Conference Room
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Thursday, July 1

CCRMP	Staff Consultants Meeting	2 - 5 p.m. Hilton Inn S. F. Airport
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Monday, July 5

AREA V	HOLIDAY	RMP Office Closed
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Tuesday, July 6

AREA V	Stroke Team	12 noon Huntington Memorial Hosp.
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Wednesday, July 7

AREA V	Steering Committee on 3rd Annual Conference on Physician & the Hospital	12 noon RMP Conference Room
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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN MEETINGS JULY, AUGUST

July 16

August 13

AREA ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS 1971

July 13 September 14 November 9

KIDNEY DISEASE PROGRAM

Paul D. Ward, Executive Director, CCRMP, has announced that CCRMP is now in a position to implement the organizational structure which will commence the formation of the Regional Kidney Disease Program Committee. This committee will be the overall planning and advisory committee for CCRMP as to the surveillance and ongoing amendments of the Regional Plan, approval of objectives of the program components, establishment of overall program priorities and recommendations to CCRMP for project funding.

CCRMP staff coordination responsibility for the state program has been assigned to Mr. Stanley Fisher, who is active with the renal program at Area VIII (Irvine) and has also been involved in national studies of renal programs.

Dr. Sol Bernstein has been appointed by Dr. Petit to represent AREA V on the Regional Kidney Disease Program Committee. Dr. Bernstein, who is Associate Professor of Medicine with USC School of Medicine represents the University Faculty on the Area V Advisory Board.

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KNX-TV and KNX-AM have indicated an interest in featuring FREE CLINICS and their services in editorials and possibly in full-length documentaries, reports Jane Z. Cohen, who represented the So. California Council of Free Clinics at a recent meeting with the media officials. Representatives from the Fairfax, Hollywood-Sunset, Foot-hill and Barrio Free Clinics also attended.

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Four Developmental Component Applications are now being prepared by Area V staff for submission to CCRMP for the first review cycle. The projects proposed for this funding must meet current and flexible needs on an interim basis, lead to a self-contained goal within a year, or to development of a major proposal to address the health problem defined, be in the general areas of health manpower development or personal health services, with budgets in the neighborhood of \$20,000. Now in process are:

Core Curriculum for Health Careers: To develop a list of minimum requirements for preparation for health careers, and strategy for acceptance of requirements at high school and college levels, for direct entry into health careers (vocational or professional), or for further education.

L.A. Community Liaison Association: Would assist a new corporation whose basic purpose is to improve communication among councils and organizations dealing with drug related problems in L. A. County. A council of councils would develop a major funding for constituent agencies from various public and private sources.

Veterans Drug Treatment Program: To speed and coordinate efforts to get returning Vietnam veterans to appropriate and acceptable drug treatment and counselling resources and to coordinate use of new funds specifically for this purpose.

Role Model for the Nurse Practitioner, in General Medicine: to develop role definition, gain acceptance of nurse practitioner in community based, private group practice of primary care medicine.

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NURSING

A series in administrative practice for nurses, consisting of eight 2-day workshops will be presented between Sept. 7/1 and June, 1972 by the USC School of Public Administration in conjunction with the Institute of Continuing Education for the Nurse Practitioner, Dept. of Nursing, LAC/USC Medical Center. The series is intended to assist nursing personnel who desire to update and increase their administrative skills while at the same time receiving both academic and professional credit towards meeting projected new requirements for licensing and certification. For a brochure, call (213) 626-8127.

Congratulations--and a regretful goodbye--to Connie S. Burgess, RN, former Clinical Instructor for the CCU Nurse Training Program in AREA V. On June 1 Miss Burgess began work with the Staff Development Dept. at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital.

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William M. Smith, MD, Acting Regional Health Director of Region IX HEW has advised Dr. Petit that three applicants from the Region have been selected for funding during fiscal year 1971 for HMO General Development Grants: Sacramento Foundation for Medical Care; Health Services Alliance of San Jose, Inc., and Lutheran Hospital Society of Southern Calif. (Morningside HMO). Dr. Petit was a member of the HEW team which site-visited the Morningside HMO application.

AREA V ADVISORY GROUP.....

is welcoming these new members:

To represent COMP-LA--Mr. John Castro, member of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee of COMP-LA. Mr. Castro is Social Service Assistant with the East L. A. State Service Center, and is active in the ELA community.

The California Assn. of Nursing Homes, Sanitariums, Rest Homes, and Homes for the Aged, Inc. have named as their representative Mr. Earle Gourlay, Administrator-Owner of Pico-Downey Golden Age Convalescent Hospital in Downey.

Mrs. Opal Gilliam, MPH, has been appointed official representative for L.A. Co. Heart Assn. on the Area V Advisory Group, replacing Dr. Martin Shickman. Mrs. Gilliam is a familiar figure in the health field, most recently in connection with the Area IV RMP Northeast Valley Project.

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Two students from UCLA School of Public Health will be working with Area V for seven weeks this summer, to gain experience in projects of their choice. Mary Garcia RN, who commences with us on June 29, will be under the guidance of the Area V Stroke Team (Robert H. Pudenz, MD, Dorothy E. Anderson, Kay D. Fuller, Leon C. Hauck, John S. Lloyd, PhD, Clyde E. Madden, and William A. Markey). Mary Russell, who is taking a Master's degree in Public Health, has elected to gain her experience with the So. California Council of Free Clinics, with Jane Z. Cohen as her preceptor.

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