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AREA

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS • AREA V

QUALITY OF CARE...

is being studied by a special task force of AREA V staff and members of the Professional Advisory Group who have been assigned to develop a working definition of quality of care which will delineate the boundaries within which further study can take place.

A preliminary statement regarding the role of AREA V in promoting quality of care, drafted by John S. Lloyd, PhD and David Odell, and presented to the Professional Advisory Group in May, suggested: "The aim of AREA V should be to increase the use of quality control of medical care by providers throughout the area. The means by which this should be achieved is through development of technical expertise on the part of program staff and Professional Advisory Group members, and by offering consultation and technical assistance to providers who wish to develop or improve the quality control of medical care delivered in their settings."

The document suggests that after quality care has been defined, a survey of literature be made to identify various standards, methods, and procedures which have been developed, followed by a survey of current work in progress within the boundaries of the definition agreed upon. The results of these surveys would be kept on file by AREA V and the extent of application of quality control of medical care in the Area would then be assessed. This data, once analyzed, would provide a picture of the extent to which quality control mechanisms are currently applied to AREA V and would also serve as a baseline against which to compare the extent of application in later years.

At that point, according to Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Odell, AREA V would be in a position to begin offering various forms of technical assistance in the development and application of quality control mechanisms to those providers who request it. Assistance could be in the form of direct consultation, seminars with selected groups, or in the form of a referral to one or more of the resources

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identified earlier. The knowledge and information gained could, of course, be shared with other Areas of the California Region and other RMP's.

Dr. Lloyd reports that the task force has elected to carry out the literature search prior to reaching a definition of quality of care, and that this step has been completed. Although a definition of quality of care has not yet been agreed upon, there have been some interesting issues raised. For example, it was suggested that a definition of quality of care include those who do not enter the system, as well as those who do. Further, it was proposed that whatever activities are carried out in AREA V with regard to quality of care, consumers should be as much a target of the results as providers, and the definition of quality of care should be as applicable to community groups as to providers of care.

Appointed to the task force are: David Odell, (Chairman) Special Advisor, Health Care Administration; Lee Cady, MD (Special Advisor, Systems and Computers); Jose Carlos (Special Advisor, Health Needs of the Under Served); Dr. Barbara Solomon (Special Advisor, Social Workers); Henry B. Dunlap (Special Advisor, Hospital Administration); George C. Griffith, MD (Special Advisor, Cardiac); Jane Z. Cohen (AREA V staff member who is working with the Southern California Council of Free Clinics on their study of quality of care); and John S. Lloyd, who is staffing the committee.

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NEW DC REVIEW PANEL IN ACTION

Proposals for the current cycle of developmental component funding were reviewed on August 22 by the newly appointed AREA V DC Review Panel which has undertaken to perform this task for a year (three cycles). Bertell W. Ferguson, DDS, was elected chairman of the group which parallels the Regional DC Review Panel. The Panel is composed of three members of the AREA V Advisory Council: Sol Bernstein, MD; Bertell W. Ferguson, DDS; and Lillian O'Brien, RN. Three members of the Professional Advisory Group: Stanley Gunstream, PhD; George C. Griffith, MD; and Dr. Barbara Solomon, ACSW--and two staff members--Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH, and Teresita P. Moreno, ACSW. John S. Lloyd, PhD will staff the committee. The three proposals that were reviewed were: "Aide to LVN Program; Nursing Career Ladder Linkage." "Training Program for Medical Social Work in Acute Hospitals." "Los Angeles Free Clinic: Utilization of Retired Medical Professionals." The committee will report its recommendations to the AREA V Advisory Council at its next meeting.

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HERE AND THERE

USC School of Medicine is one of 38 medical schools chosen by the Bureau of Health Manpower Education at NIH to submit proposals for an Area Health Education Center contract. The BHME has \$11 million to spend on AHEC's before the end of September, and will have at least that amount available for fiscal year 1973.

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The Search Committee for the Greater Inland Empire Feasibility Study has announced its choice for the post of Research Coordinator as Mr. Bruce A. Murray. In this full-time position, he will be the prime mover in developing community interest and in collecting data and information needed by this project. Since 1967, Mr. Murray has been an Instructor in Psychology at Pepperdine University, and is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Counselor Education, School of Education at USC.

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A reminder from the Screening Committee for the East Los Angeles Health Manpower Consortium--the deadline for applications for the position of Executive Director of the Consortium is October 1, 1972. Applications may be obtained from Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH - 576-1626.

The incorporation papers for the Consortium are now being processed, according to Miss Anderson.

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Fred D. Hubbard, of AREA V staff, reports that the West San Gabriel Valley Health Task Force is planning a mini health fair to be held on September 9, 1972, at the Job Resource and Educational Center, 147 East Olive Street in the City of Monrovia. Exhibits on sickle cell anemia, respiratory, heart disease and other health educational subjects are planned.

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The School of Nursing of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee announces that due to continuing demand, additional copies have been printed of their resource list of films and videotapes for nursing and related health sciences, and are available free to anyone in the health sciences. Contact: Mrs. Phyllis Duke, TV Coordinator for Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201

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AREA V PEOPLE

AREA V Advisory Council member Clifton O. Dummett, DDS, has been honored by election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He is the only dentist of the Institute's 52 members.

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Mrs. Bernice C. Harper's many friends in AREA V will be pleased to learn that she has been honored with the Ida M. Cannon Award of the Society for Hospital Social Work Directors of the American Hospital Association. Mrs. Harper, who is director of social services for the City of Hope Medical Center, is currently on assignment in Washington, D. C.

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AREA V staff members Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH and John S. Lloyd, PhD both participated in site reviews of other RMP's recently. Miss Anderson chaired the group which evaluated the Central New York RMP. Dr. Lloyd was a member of the site team reviewing Albany RMP.

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Gerald Bresnahan, MD and Marilyn Kentes, RN, BSN, who worked together in the AREA V RMP sponsored coronary care classes at Good Samaritan Medical Center, will be the medical director and course coordinator of a new program beginning October, 1972. The course to be offered RN's will be a greatly expanded curriculum covering all aspects of critical care. Information can be obtained by contacting Miller Community College, (213) 487-7777.

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George C. Griffith, MD is the recipient of a Citation from the County of L. A. Committee on Emergency Medical Care, extending their appreciation and high regard for his excellent work as Chairman of the Countywide Conference on Emergency Medical Services held July 19-20.

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AREA V staff were intrigued with a group of high school students who teeter-tottered on a vacant lot in Alhambra during one of the recent hot spells. Their 504 continuous hours 21-day record raised a total of \$711 for the American Cancer Society.

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By the way, Dr. Griffith will be appearing on KCET Channel 28 on September 16, 5:30-6:00 p.m. He will be interviewed by Dale Groom, MD of the University of Oklahoma, discussing cardiology and comparing current status with likely future developments and past practices. It is one of a series of programs produced by the University of Oklahoma under a grant from the Oklahoma RMP.

NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR AREA V

Mrs. Elaine R. Fletcher joined AREA V staff on August 1 as Project Coordinator, Continuity of Patient Care. Mrs. Fletcher will direct a new AREA V project which, after assessment of the state of continuity of patient care in various districts of AREA V, will invite the participation of a selected number of hospitals in the presentation of workshops designed to improve continuity of care. Efforts will be made to have continuity of patient care training efforts included on an ongoing basis in the regular offerings of existing continuing education mechanisms.

For the past year, Mrs. Fletcher was community health nursing consultant for the Department of Social and Health Services, State of Washington. Prior experience in AREA V includes consulting services with the Visiting Nurse Associations of Pomona-West End, and of Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley; Director of Nursing Services for Brea Hospital Neuropsychiatric Center; Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, and Coordinator of Public Health nursing faculty at Cal-State; Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing for San Bernardino County Health Department. She received her BS from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and MS from the School of Nursing at UCLA.

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Mrs. Gail M. White represented AREA V at the July 24-25 workshop "In-Home Services--Strategies for Community Planning." The meeting was co-sponsored by the California Association of Home Health Agencies and the U. S. Public Health Service, HEW Region IX. The 50 participants at the Los Angeles Conference were from Southern California and Arizona. Another session was held in San Francisco for Northern California and Nevada.

The purpose of the invitational workshop was to exchange ideas and information on existing programs and to discuss approaches for the inclusion of home care in the Comprehensive Health System of the community. National directions were described by Claire F. Ryder, MD, MPH, Chief of the Home Health Branch of the Division of Health Resources, Community Health Service, HSMHA, and by Brahma Trager, Health Care Consultant, San Geronimo, California. Also discussed were relationships of in-home services to other parts of the health care delivery system, to emerging HMO's and to various governmental agencies. Cluster sessions involved participants in identifying some problems and solutions related to in-home services.

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