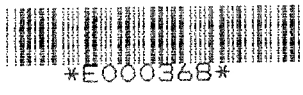
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V minute news

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AN OVERVIEW OF DIETETICS ACTIVITIES IN RMP . . .

was an interesting highlight of the Conference held September 15, 16 and 17 to help dietitians in leadership positions become better informed about RMP. Sponsored by the L. A. District of the California Dietetic Association under the leadership of Jessie C. Obert, Ph.D., R.D., Chairman of the Committee for RMP, the triple meetings attracted a lively group of participants interested in exploring ways in which dietitians can help the purpose of RMP.

Miss Julia J. Kula, MPH, RD, Allied Health Specialist with the Continuing Education and Training Branch of DRMP noted that initial emphasis in RMP planning responded to the training needs of physicians, later for nurses, and, more gradually, for the other allied health disciplines. Miss Kula observed that projects involving dietitians and nutritionists are now gaining more visibility in RMP through activities conducted under planning or developmental grants and funded projects. In each of the programs described below, Miss Kula said, representatives of the RMP's and the dietetic professions, working together, identified not only what needed to be done in the area of nutrition, but also showed how it could best be accomplished within the framework of RMP:

California RMP - A training project on Comprehensive Care of Patients with Hypertension is being carried out by Area I - San Francisco. A multi-professional staff (physician, nurse, public health nurse, nutritionist, social worker, biostatistician, and others) give weekly demonstration clinics with associated seminars in hospitals. Weekly inpatient rounds are being held in four hospitals and at least two large multi-professional workshops have been held.

Albany RMP - One project involves the use of 2-way radio conferences in 43 hospitals, located in the 24 counties of the Region. A consulting Group (members from the State Bureau of Nutrition, dietitians involved in administration in large hospitals, clinical and therapeutic dietetics, an instructor of nutrition in a school of nursing, representatives from the School of Home Economics of a state university and from two district dietetic associations) is conducting programs, planning projects, and documenting the training needs for the dietetic professions.

(continued next page)

Kansas RMP - working with representatives of the state dietetic and hospital associations, has developed an educational program for food service personnel in the western portion of the state where there is a drastic shortage of all health personnel and very few registered dietitians. A second project sponsored a two-week institute in applied therapeutic nutrition, with emphasis on physiological, biochemical and sociological aspects of food for normal and modified diets during systematic malfunction.

North Carolina RMP - has developed, through diabetic consultation and educational services, a booklet on Management of Diabetes for physicians and medical students, a booklet entitled "Diet and Kidney Disease" and a selection of stamp-size food illustrations in color to illustrate meal planning for diabetic patients having limited reading ability or loss of visual acuity.

Oregon RMP - A cooperative venture by physicians, nurses, dietitians and professional educators from local hospitals, health department, and medical societies offers an educational program to extend nutrition services to the periphery areas of the larger communities. Included are diabetic meal plans, exchange lists, food preparation methods for family meals and commercial food products.

Connecticut RMP - have developed and are contributing to the operation of a special Continuing Care Unit for convalescence and extended care of patients with chronic illness and disabilities. The Unit is staffed by an interdisciplinary team, of which the dietitian is an important member, actively participating in nutritional care of the patients, unit rounds, case conferences and dietary counselling. The Unit involves a major community hospital in cooperative arrangements with local extended care facilities, nursing homes and public health nursing agencies.

Intermountain RMP (Utah) - Two-way radio programs are planned by dietitians for once a month broadcasts to 60 outlying hospitals. Another contribution is an illustrated pocketbook entitled "Food and You--Nutrition in Diabetes" developed through cooperative efforts of dietitians experienced in the diet counselling of diabetic youth and their families and intended as a reference in the patient's home.

Tri-State RMP (NH, Mass. and Rhode Island) - have developed a Diet Counselling Service for people of all socio-economic levels, who do not have access to other similar services.

Alabama RMP - Conducts series of evening courses for diabetic patient education. Physicians, nurses and dietitians are preparing a diabetic manual which will include practical information for the patient when traveling, dining out, about hobbies, recreation, etc.

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AREA V REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

CALENDAR

September, October 1970

Thursday, Sept. 24		
AREA V	Categorical Heart Committee	1:30 - 4:30 p.m. International Hotel, L.A.
Friday, Sept. 25		
CCRMP	Organization and Procedures	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Airport Marina Hotel, L.A.
Tuesday, Sept. 29		
AREA V	Area V Advisory Conference Committee	7:30 - 9:00 p.m. RMP Conference Room
Thursday, Oct. 1		
CCRMP	Staff Consultants	2 - 5 p.m. Hilton Inn S. F. Airport
Friday, Oct. 2		
AREA V	Committee Chairmen	11:30 - 1 p.m. RMP Conference Room
Tuesday, Oct. 6		
AREA V	Council of Free Clinics	9:30 a.m. - 12 noon RMP Conference Room
Wednesday, Oct. 7		
AREA V	Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m. Conference Room
AREA V	Cancer Planning	12-15 noon Conference Room
CCRMP	Full Committee	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garden Rm. Airport Marina Hotel, L.A.
AREA ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS:		Oct. 20 and Nov. 10
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S MEETINGS:		Oct. 16, Nov. 13 and 27
REGIONAL CONFERENCE, ASILOMAR		October 28, 29, 30

The Area V Ad Hoc Committee on Allied Health held its 2nd meeting Sept. 2. Due to her vital role in nursing and allied health and to complement her chairmanship of the Health Manpower Committee of Comprehensive Health Planning, Mrs. Lola Marshall has been asked to chair this committee. Dan Grindell, Coordinator, Allied Health Professions, Martin Luther King, Jr., Hospital has also been invited to join the group in their deliberations. Staffer Dorothy E. Anderson reports that the plan of action beginning to emerge centers around a plan for an inter-professional council to define various professional needs and goals, and to develop programs for allied health personnel and technicians. Among the suggestions being considered is that of a computerized registry of needs of health professionals, by location, both for the present and projected for five years; seminars in which physicians and allied health people might discuss new roles, how current roles can be extended, and preparations for change, the utilization of community health people, a career ladder concept of health consortium in cooperation with junior and senior colleges, universities and the community. Attending the meeting were Bertell W. Ferguson, DDS, Mr. Edgar Rodriguez, Robert J. Schroeder, DVM, Clyde E. Madden, ACSW and Wm. A. Markey.

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Ken McClain, Program Director of LA County Heart Association will represent that organization on the Cardiac Coordinating Committee, replacing Lee Horovitz, now on Area IV staff.

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AREA V SOCIAL WORKERS

An Ad Hoc Committee on East Los Angeles Health Problems has recommended, in response to an indicated need for more information about available medical and health care services, that assistance be offered to ELA Welfare Planning Council which is preparing to publish a revised directory of such services, for distribution this fall. They urged, in connection with the ELA Demonstration of Health Care for Senior Citizens, a specification that the social worker be bilingual and preferably a Mexican American and/or knowledgeable about ELA and that bilingual social workers with a BA and experience be eligible for appointment. Finally, they recommend support of a proposal for the funding of a field work unit of graduate students from USC School of Social Work. Special emphasis was placed on the need for training opportunities for Mexican Americans.

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AREA V ADVISORY GROUP . . . .

has approved for submission at the Oct. 7 review of CCRMP the proposal "Paramedical Immunohematology Postgraduate Teaching Program." A second proposal "Computerized ECG Analysis for Community Hospital Use" was deferred for certain revisions. A special meeting of the Area Advisory Group has been called for Oct. 20 to consider this proposal for submission at the subsequent CCRMP review.

* * * *

Mrs. Anita Carter is the newest addition to AREA V office staff.

New developments and priorities on the national level which have potential significance for continuing education & training was the subject of discussion for an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Continuing Education convened in Washington Sept. 11 by Cecelia Conrath, Chief Continuing Education & Training Branch, RMP. Dr. Donald W. Petit, Area V Coordinator, was a member of the group which was chaired by Dr. George Miller (Director of the Center for Study of Medical Education, U of Ill. Medical Center.) Other members were Miss Margaret Arnstein, (Dean of Yale School of Nursing) Anne Pascasio, PhD (Dean, School of Health Related Professions, U of Pittsburgh) J. Warren Perry, PhD, (Dean School of Health Related Professions, U of NY at Buffalo,) Donald H. Williams, MD, (Director, Div. of Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, U of British Columbia, Canada) Myron E. Wegman, MD (Dean, School of Public Health (U of Michigan) and Wm. S. Vaun, MD (Director of Medical Education, Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, New Jersey.)

Dr. Petit reports that Dr. Harold Margulies (Acting Director of RMP) was present for most of the day and set the stage for discussion with the expressed hope that from this meeting there might emerge some idea of the policies and skills in continuing education necessary to meet RMP objectives. He saw RMP as an institutional device to effect a change in the system of care in terms of utilization of manpower, access, etc. A formal report of the general discussions which centered on continuing education of the health team as a team, inter-relationships between the allied professions, Inter-Regional activities, etc. has been promised and will be reported in a later issue.

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STROKE ACTIVITIES . . . .

in Area VIII (Irvine) and Area V were compared Aug. 27 at a meeting of Area V Staff with Dr. Burt Tesman, Chairman, and Mrs. Lila Maples, Nurse Coordinator, of the Area VIII Stroke Committee Also present were representatives from hospitals in which Area V has pilot stroke programs--Dr. Singelyn and Mrs. Dorothy Gale (Presbyterian Inter-Community Hospital, Whittier) and Joan Mitchell of Community Hospital of San Gabriel. The Area VIII program involves the utilization of trained teams--a physician, nurse and physical therapist--from each hospital. An indication of the effort required to "sell" this concept is evident from Dr. Tesman's statement that, after about a year's operation, of the 15 hospitals participating, only one team is functioning as originally perceived, with about six almost ready to start. Area VIII is also planning a mobile unit which will be staffed with multidiscipline personnel who will treat all stroke Medi-Cal patients in certain ECF's five times a week for 90 days. It is hoped to prove that this treatment restores patients to better function than existing ECF rehab care. If this is proved, funds will be sought to support this approach. Area VIII are also participating with six other areas in the US in a "Community Collaborative Stroke Study" involving all acute stroke patients who are hospitalized. Ten percent will be followed at 6, 12, and 18 months to determine morbidity, prognosis, survival, etc. A start has also been made on training community volunteer groups in Orange Co.

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