



E001177



Memorandum

Date July 18, 1991
From Acting Assistant Director for Planning and Evaluation
Subject RMP: References in Bunting RML History
To Director, NLM

You asked me to check Alison Bunting's history of the RML program for references to coordination between the RMLs and the RMP and AHEC.

There are several statements that confirm the existence of an intent to coordinate RML activities with the RMP, although no details are provided.

These excerpts are marked in the attached copy:

P.2 2nd Column: describes President's Commission report

P.8 2nd Column: "Of particular concern was the interrelationship between the RMLP and the Regional Medical Programs (RMP), a separate federal program which had also resulted from the President's Commission Report. The purpose of the RMP was "...to make the latest advances in medical knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, cancer, and stroke available to physicians for the treatment of their patients all over the nation. To accomplish their mission, the RMPs planned extensive continuing education programs for health professionals and the lay public. A logical aspect of such continuing education programs was the provision of health information; it was evident that coordination between the two programs was essential."

P.15(bottom)-P.16 1st Column: "Interactions between the RML network and other health-related programs were of considerable concern to NLM. Most particularly, there was interest in establishing close working relationships with Regional Medical Program (RMP) offices, so that programs and services of the RMLs and RMPs would be complementary. NLM worked at the national level to coordinate services and each RML attempted to do the same in its respective region."

P.20 1st Column: "More effective liaison with the RMP should be established."

P.31(bottom) 1st Column: "NLM and the RMLs maintained close working relationships with RMPs through 1973, when all funding for RMP projects ceased."

P.31-32(AHECs): "The newly emerging Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), which were charged with the provision of training and continuing education of health professionals in underserved areas of the United States, provided a new arena for cooperation. NLM and the Bureau of Health Manpower, which administered the AHEC program, undertook a project to inventory AHEC library projects throughout the country and identify AHEC information resource needs. The study revealed that AHEC activities

~~resulted in significant information needs, but that library and information services were usually not considered in AHEC programs.~~ NLM EMP staff therefore initiated discussions with appropriate AHEC funding agencies to delineate responsibilities for program funding, and to coordinate information services activities. In some AHECs extensive library programs were undertaken, supplementing the RML network's efforts to develop and facilitate access to health information sources for health professionals."

Footnote #59 (P.50) refers to the David Kefauver 1970 article in the MLA Bulletin on coordination of the RMLs and RMP.

I hope that this is helpful.



Susan P. Buyer

cc: Elliot R. Siegel
John Parascandola
Lois Ann Colaianni