



AREA

V

# minute news

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS • AREA V

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## MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS....

is the title of an AREA V project that tied for second place in the priority ratings of a group of 36 proposals submitted by the California RMP's for the recent quarterly review of applications for developmental component funding.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals now specifies that social services must be available to patients accepted for care and has established standards recognizing the importance of social and emotional components in illness. However, as of June of this year, only 22 of the 110 acute hospitals in Los Angeles County identify themselves as offering social services and few of the 1,200 or more licensed clinical social workers in the County are qualified by academic training and clinical experience to meet the demands of professional practice in a community hospital. The project is proposed as an immediate solution to this deficiency.

The project will enable selected trainees to develop competence in the very specialized area of providing social services to patients experiencing very difficult emotional and social problems in relation to medical care and treatment programs. As a result of the program, it is anticipated that the graduates will be in a better position to provide meaningful consultation to medical, nursing, and hospital administration. Another benefit of the project is that it will test, in a practical clinical setting, a curriculum model that can be conducted within the University setting, and can be expanded to meet future needs.

The project was planned by a special task force composed of Kathleen Obier, ACSW; L. Julian Haywood, MD; Fotine O'Connor, RN; and Evelyn Thompson, ACSW (all of LAC/USC Medical Center); Celia Mittleman, ACSW (Medical Social Work Consultant); Jim Rieder, (Administrator, Kaiser-Sunset Hospital); Dolores Rodriguez, ACSW (L. A. County Dept. of Public Social Services); Marguerite Phillips, ACSW (USC School of Social Work); Kay Fuller, RN, John S. Lloyd, Ph.D. and Clyde E. Madden, ACSW (all of AREA V staff).

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## CATCHING UP

To refresh your memory about AREA V activities, this is what has been happening:

The Health Manpower Survey of hospitals, home health agencies, and extended care facilities located in the health districts of East Los Angeles, Northeast Los Angeles, and San Antonio has been completed. The survey, conducted by AREA V as part of the California RMP state survey, will help determine the use being made of health manpower, potential openings, and possible problems for the next five years. The eight licensed occupations covered were registered nurse, LVN, clinical laboratory technologist, physician, optometrist, dentist, pharmacist, and psychiatric technician. The information is now being coded for the computer, and should be available by November 1, 1972.

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The Los Angeles East Health Manpower Consortium was funded for three years in July, 1972. This community-based organization to coordinate the recruiting, training, and retention particularly of minority health professionals and students in health services living in the target area (East, Northeast, and San Antonio Health Districts of Los Angeles County) also received official incorporation by the State in September. An election by ballot for the Selection and Nomination Committee will close Nov. 3. To be eligible, these nominees must have filed general membership applications and must work, be undergoing training or reside in the target area. Applications for the position of Executive Director for the Consortium will be accepted up to Nov. 10. Any questions regarding these positions may be directed to Mrs. Anna Nelson, RMP Area V, P. O. Box 1390, Alhambra, California 91802.

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RMP-CHP Relationships: At the Oct. 11 meeting, CCRMP approved a 3-point plan which will lead to closer working relationships between the two agencies. The plan states that all applications for funding by CCRMP must be in conformance with the state and areawide plans of CHP; that no funds will be released by CCRMP unless CHP has certified that they are in accordance with the state and areawide plans; that in the event an application does not receive the endorsement of CHP, state CHP and CCRMP staff will review the application and assist in resolving any conflict before funds are released. The closer working relationship between RMP and CHP is moving on three fronts in Los Angeles: A series of meetings between the three Chairmen of the RMP Area Advisory Councils and the President of the CHP Board of Directors is being planned; the three Coordinators of AREAS IV, V, and IX met with the Executive Director of CHP and prepared a position paper regarding working relationships in L. A. County and the staff of CHP of L. A. County have been invited to an informal get-together at AREA V.

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A tragedy occurred September 17 when Elias Chico, of AREA V staff was killed in an auto accident in Los Angeles. An Assistant Coordinator for Community Programs since January, 1971, Elias was keenly interested in health care for the community of East Los Angeles, and in the recruitment and retention of Mexican Americans in health careers.

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The many friends and acquaintances of Dorothy E. Anderson will be pleased to learn that she is now recuperating satisfactorily from the severe illness which caused her hospitalization in August. AREA V is hoping to have her back on board early in December. In the meantime, word has been received from the Council on Continuing Education for Health Occupations, State of California that Dorothy has been selected out of a group of more than 160 nominees, for membership on the California Advisory Committee on Administration, Research, and Education Nurses.

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David Odell, AREA V Advisor on Health Care Administration and Chairman of AREA V Task Force on Quality of Care, resigned his position with LAC/USC Medical Center September 30 to become Director of Health Care Services for Alameda County.

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Sol Bernstein, M.D. (Area Advisory Council member representing USC School of Medicine) has been appointed Chief of Professional Services for L. A. County - USC Medical Center.

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Ms. Eunice Hankins, Health Educator at the East Los Angeles Child and Youth Clinic will replace Russell Williams as AREA V's representative on the CCRMP Developmental Component Panel.

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AREA V was host, September 28 and 29, for one of the monthly meetings of the California Regional Evaluation Committee. John S. Lloyd, Ph.D. reports that the nine California Areas and the Regional office were all represented at the two-day meeting which was held at the Huntington Sheraton Hotel and in AREA V offices. The group has been formed to advise the Regional Review Committee, to act as liaison between the Area Evaluation Committees and the Regional Review Committee.

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## SEARCH

Volunteers are still needed to collect information for project SEARCH. The HEW-sponsored project of the USC School of Medicine will result in a Central Health Services Data Bank that will make it possible to refer persons in need of health care assistance to the right agencies in a matter of minutes. According to project director Dr. Joy Cauffman, "By health care we mean everything pertaining to emotional and mental health, as well as physical." Thus, the referral service will incorporate such varied resources as legal aid, recreation, housing, and transportation.

More than 5,000 medical and social services agencies in Los Angeles County have been identified. Now, with the referral services scheduled to begin operation early in 1973, volunteers are urgently needed to complete the collection of information necessary for the data bank. Help is needed to contact the various health care organizations in the County to determine, for example, exactly what kind of services are offered, what restrictions there are regarding age, sex, or citizenship, and what hours and days they are open. There are no eligibility requirements to become a SEARCH volunteer, though a volunteer must be able to provide his own transportation. Volunteers can work in any area of Los Angeles, at times convenient to them. Persons interested in this valuable community project may contact Mrs. Lorie Garris, at 225-1511, Extension 247.

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### The California RMP Challenge in Urban Health....

was the theme of an urban health workshop convened by CCRMP and held in Clear Lake, California on September 18-20. At the conclusion of 2 1/2 days of intensive workshop and group activity, the 63 participants reached a consensus on a draft report which was presented to CCRMP at its regular meeting on October 11. A major outcome of the workshop was the unanimous recognition by the participants of the need for a coordinated and coherent approach to the overall urban health needs of the region. Elements of the recommended program include formation of a Regional Urban Health Council, with local Councils in each of the California Areas.

Attending from AREA V were staff members Jane Z. Cohen, Fred D. Hubbard, Clyde E. Madden, Teresita Moreno, Gail M. White, and Jose Carlos of the Professional Advisory Group, and Frank Aguilera, of AREA V Advisory Group.

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Emergency Medical Services System Development Project - an application for a 3-year grant of \$1,017,253 has been approved by CCRMP and awaits funding in January by RMPS. A cooperative effort of RMP Areas IV, V, and IX, the grant seeks to improve the delivery of emergency medical care in L.A. County through a planning and development process which includes functional and geographic participation, and by raising the baseline level of training of all ambulance and emergency rescue personnel, maintaining this level of competence, and developing a career incentive mechanism for emergency rescue personnel. The recommendations of the Countywide Conference held June 19-20 have been published in a 224-page Proceedings which is now being distributed to all participants. George C. Griffith, MD, who was Chairman of the Conference, has been elected Interim Chairman of the Executive Committee, which will meet early in November to consider representation on the Coordinating Council, staffing, and other necessary developments.

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East Los Angeles Health Careers Retention Program - a program aimed at retaining Mexican American nursing students currently enrolled at California State College, and at East Los Angeles College. Awarded three-year funding of \$177,811 on Sept. 1, 1972, the project will be implemented by the East Los Angeles Health Task Force.

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Greater Inland Empire Feasibility Study - funded in July, this cooperative project by Claremont Graduate School, California State Polytechnic College, and Mt. San Antonio College is under the direction of Darryl D. Enos, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, Claremont Graduate School. Community interest is being developed and data collection is now being organized by Bruce A. Murray, Research Coordinator. Citizen attitudes toward a variety of matters directly relevant to the establishment of a Health Services/Education Activities project in the Pomona Valley have been obtained through a survey of 350 households.

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Stroke Volunteer Program - a project intended to improve and extend resocialization to stroke victims and their families living in the West San Gabriel Valley through three community-based volunteer activity centers. Stroke patients will be provided with opportunities for experiences that will enable them to regain confidence and respect, and to practice daily living and community skills in a stimulating and accepting environment. Has been approved by CCRMP and awaits funding (possibly in January, 1973, depending on the national funding situation for RMP at that time). A group of interested health professionals from hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, the Visiting Nurse Assn., voluntary associations, and concerned citizens have been meeting over the past several months to engage in planning a stroke resocialization program for the East San Gabriel Valley and Pomona areas.

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# **V** minute news

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