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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Date: January 14, 1971
Reply to
Attn of:
Subject: Contract to Study Comprehensive Health Planning
To: Regional Medical Programs' National Advisory Council

The Division of Comprehensive Health Planning of the Community Health Service in the Health Services and Mental Health Administration is in the final stages of negotiating a contract with OSTI (Organization for Social and Technological Innovation, Inc.) and Arthur D. Little, Inc. to assess the character and progress of Comprehensive Health Planning state and areawide agencies to date. The study is similar to that just completed by the same contractors for the Regional Medical Programs Service and is designed primarily to aid the Division of Comprehensive Health Planning and the Health Services and Mental Health Administration with policy, budget, and planning questions.

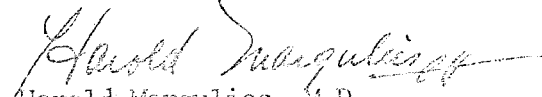
The OSTI-ADL study will include in-depth reviews of CHP state and area-wide agencies in ten states, the pilot phase being conducted in Connecticut, Oklahoma, and California. Interviews with people in and peripheral to the agencies, including the Regional Medical Programs, will lead to:

- A descriptive and comparative analysis of the substance and methodology of the planning process. These case studies will deal with the components and operations of the CHP agencies and will include a description of the variety of organizational structures that have emerged and some of the factors responsible for local variations; a description of the decision-making process in these agencies; data on the technical background and experience of the agency personnel as well as some assessment of technical work such as information gathering and the analyses undertaken by the agencies; and a description of the cooperative arrangements that have been created between the agency and other health planning and service organizations, the power structure, and consumers.
- A description and analysis of the variations in the perceived role of Comprehensive Health Planning; an indication of areas of conflict; and an assessment of the impact of conflict on the effective functioning of the organization.
- An evaluation of Comprehensive Health Planning from the standpoint of affecting health programs in a defined area, including a description of the agencies' views of their interaction in the planning process and a description of the views of parties external to the agency as to the role it has played in the health activities in the state and local area.

- The development of detailed, descriptive behavioral models of the planning and evaluation activities of the agencies.
- A detailed formulation of the policy implications of the study with an emphasis on the CHP-RMP collaboration.

It is expected that this study of CHP activities and progress, following closely the final report on Regional Medical Programs, will greatly clarify both current roles, progress, and potential roles and relationships for CHP and RMP. Copies of the final report on the RMP contract were mailed to Council members several weeks ago.

The pilot phase of the CHP study is scheduled for completion in April 1971. The final report, including policy implication for RMP-CHP relationships, will be submitted in November of 1971.


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