
THE CALIFORNIA RMP CONFERENCE

Conferees attending the first California RMP Conference held at Asilomar, Oct. 28-30, heard RMP Services defined by Dr. Vernon Wilson, Director of Health Services and Mental Health Administration, as "the focal point for personal health services and the improvement of them through the further development of quality of performance by the providers of services, and with special emphasis on continuing education and cooperative arrangements among health professionals, hospitals, agencies, and others...HSMHA is going to be looking at RMP as the agency with the richest contact with the professional and academic communities. We want RMP to become the catalyst--the force for change."

Dr. Wilson outlined the constraints under which RMP planning must operate: the fact that Congress votes most of the health money for categorical programs; some very real budgetary constraints which mean level funding for the next few years; the sharp imbalance between the capacity to deliver services, on the one hand, and the growing demand for these services, on the other; finally, the lack of agreed-upon national priorities concerning the use of health funding in terms of the funds available. "I think that equity of access is rapidly becoming our first order of priority, with a tremendous emphasis on the economic setting within which health care services are provided," he said.

Touching on the process of decentralization upon which HSMHA is embarked, Dr. Wilson stated that the only change that might be a possible source of concern to RMP does not relate to removal of prerogatives but represents a transfer from the national to the regional level of some responsibility for programs. "Nationally, we intend to go out of the business of project review, increasingly placing this emphasis with the Regions; increasingly we are going to be examining whether or not your local decision-making process is fair and equitable, and, in a general way, whether it is in line with national policies and national guidelines. There is a difference between delegation of responsibility and abandonment; there is no lack of interest at the Federal level...we will be continually looking at and reviewing the process of decentralization."

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RMP should be involved with systems, with planning, with innovative methods but should not provide direct health care services, the Director of HSMHA said. "It should develop time-limited projects, and not expect that money will be continually absorbed for support of the same thing indefinitely."

The conference was also addressed briefly by Dr. William M. Smith who, on Oct. 19, became Regional Health Director of the HEW Region IX to which California RMP will relate in the new decentralization plan. Dr. Smith envisions great efficiency in the new arrangement and was enthusiastic about the move to shift a share of the decision-making out of Washington to the communities where it can be more responsive.

On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, each of the California Areas presented one project: AREA V was represented by Frank F. Aguilera who spoke on East Los Angeles Cares and Concerns; Area I - Cancer Program; Area II - RMP-CHP "B" Relationship; Area III - Multiphasic Screening; Area IV - Northeast Valley Project; Area VI - Perinatal Monitoring; Area VII - Physician Continuing Education Through a Resident Physician Sabbatical Exchange; Area VIII - Stroke Volunteer Program; Watts-Willowbrook - The Use of a Community Task Force in Planning a School of Allied Health. Thursday afternoon and evening were occupied with a series of workshops chaired by various Chairmen who discussed the same topic with three different groups and then summarized the conclusions of the group on Friday morning. William A. Markey's topic was Area-Region Relationships; other subjects were Category Disease Planning vs. Comprehensive Medical Care Planning; RMP and Health Manpower Education; RMP and Comprehensive Health Planning; The Committee; RMP and Voluntary Health Agencies and Other Non-Federal Agencies; Core Staff Structure and Function; and RMP and Medical Schools. (The proceedings have been promised within a reasonably short time.)

Concluding the conference, Paul D. Ward, Executive Director of the California Region said: "We are trying to change our direction and move from one of developing quality on top of quality to one of taking a look at health care in the less fortunate communities to see if we can't do something about their needs...what we have got to do is to take a look at what is occurring and make our decisions based on that...national health insurance is inevitable and is coming fast. It is going to change our role and make it more exciting and more dramatic than we ever dreamed. If this is the trend, RMP, locally and nationally, has a responsibility of aiming its efforts in that direction. If the HMO provision passes, we have an obligation to push its development as far as we can...We are on the road to franchising of facilities and we have to be thinking in terms of making our plans accordingly. It isn't going to be easy and I hope we can accept these responsibilities and come up with some wise decisions."

There were 155 registrants at the Conference, 17 of them from AREA V.

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WE'VE BEEN ASKED . . .

What happens at Committee Chairmen's meetings? These meetings which are held twice a month, have not been reported in V-MINUTE NEWS because the information exchanged usually appears in accounts of committee activities; however, since an interest has been expressed--here is a report of a typical meeting:

On Oct. 16, in the absence of Dr. Petit, the meeting was chaired by William A. Markey. Minutes for this group are prepared by Miss Sonja Deaton. Seven committee chairmen, eight staff members and two guests were present.

There were some introductions--Mrs. Jane Z. Cohen, new staff member; two visitors from the Chronic Respiratory Disease Project--Mr. Lou Fisher, new Project Administrator and Dr. Barbara Andrew, of the Division of Research in Medical Education, who is handling evaluation for the project.

Here, briefly, is what everyone talked about:

Markey: Recent visit to hospitals in Spain; the delay in receiving this year's award letter from DRMP; the developmental component; the special application for funding of RMP staff for CHP.

O'Connor: Nursing Advisory Committee discussions about the transfer of CCU activities to Good Sam Hospital.

Griffith: Enlargement of Cardiac Committee; CPR program of Heart Assn.; new subcommittees to study prevention in coming year.

Zinn: Gave some details about the Cardiac subcommittee on Health Facilities and Diagnostic Clinics.

Cady: Recent visits to study ECG computer systems in Philadelphia and Seattle.

Pudenz: Interest of other hospitals in Stroke Liaison Program; community activities at San Gabriel Hospital.

Connor: District Library meetings now completed; after meeting of liaison groups from each district, proposal to be developed.

Andrew and Fisher: Reorganization of materials for Chronic Respiratory Project.

Solomon: Social Workers Advisory have assigned subcommittees to study transportation needs of cancer patients and social work component of ELA Senior Citizens Project. Are considering submission of a proposal regarding use of graduate students from USC School of Social Work for RMP field placement with private physicians.

Hauck: Plans for Regional Kidney Conference scheduled for Dec. 11-13 in Goleta.

Checel: Plans to participate in two day Workshop for CHP and voluntary health agencies, Oct. 17 and 18.

Cohen: Comments about activities with Indian Clinic, Free Clinic Liaison Program, Council of Free Clinics.

Anderson: Cancer Committee studying two proposals for intermediate development; progress of Ann Braatz and Terry Broomfield on survey of cancer resources and needs of the community.

AREA V REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

CALENDAR

November 1970

Monday, Nov. 9

AREA V

Continuity of Care &
Rehab, Subcommittee of
Cancer Planning

12:15 p.m.
RMP Conference Room

Tuesday, Nov. 10

AREA V

Area Advisory Group
Annual Meeting

2 - 9 p.m. Huntington-
Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena

Wednesday, Nov. 11

AREA V

Staff Meeting

9:30 a.m. Conference Rm.

Friday, Nov. 13

AREA V

Committee Chairmen

11:30 a.m.
RMP Conference Room

Wednesday, Nov. 18

AREA V

Social Workers
Advisory Committee

8 - 9:30 a.m.
RMP Conference Room

AREA V

Staff Meeting

9:30 a.m. Conference Rm.

AREA V

Cancer Planning
Committee

12:15 p.m.
RMP Conference Room

Thursday, Nov. 19

CCRMP

Staff Consultants
(Combined November &
December meeting)

2 - 5 p.m. Airport Marina
Hotel, L. A. Airport

Friday, Nov. 20

AREA V

Special Staff Meeting

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
RMP Conference Room

SPECIAL EVENTS

December 7 and 8

Regional Medical Program's Service Site Visit

December 11, 12, 13

California Regional Kidney Disease
Planning Conference

Goleta, California

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S MEETINGS:

December 4, 18

"Principles of RMP planning are old hat here," reports Donald W. Petit, MD on a postcard from Minsk. AREA V's Coordinator is a member of a delegation of the Office of International Health accompanying Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, Asst. Secretary for Health & Scientific Affairs on a tour of health facilities in the Soviet Union. The mission of the group, whose proposed itinerary includes Moscow, Tashkent, and Novosibirsk, is to observe and record the systems used in the practice of medicine in the Soviet Union. The delegation will be looking at the total health delivery process, its organizational structure, operational procedures, and effectiveness, the cost and funding involved in health care, and the utilization of health manpower. Other members of the delegation, which left the USA Oct. 12, are: Dr. F. Tremaine Billings, Asst. Dean for Medical Center Development Programs, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Fay Abdellah, Chief Nurse Officer, US Public Health Service; Mr. Arthur Hess, Deputy Commissioner for Social Security, HEW; and Dr. James Muller, Interpreter, National Center for Health Services Research and Development, U. S. Public Health Service.

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Changes in AREA V Advisory Group:

Mr. Edward M. Skowrup, President of Everett Harris & Company is a new Member-at-Large. Dan Grindell, recently appointed Deputy Supervisor to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn of the Second District, will continue with the Group as a Member-at-Large, also.

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CCRMP

have announced the formation of a new coordinating committee on Liaison and Discharge Planning, as a result of the concern of the national Technical Review Committees about the relationship of planned discharges to other RMP projects. Present at the first meeting, held Oct. 20 in San Francisco, were representatives from Areas I, V, VII and VIII. Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH, for Area V described the Stroke Liaison Nurse Program, various aspects of SEARCH (formerly CHAIRS) and the activities of the Continuity of Care and Planned Discharge Subcommittee of the Area V Cancer Planning Committee. Areas of interest for this committee are seen in the influencing of major insurance carriers as to inclusion + payment for post hospital care; content of curricula on Liaison Nursing and Planned Discharges, and job specifications for liaison nurses. A second meeting is planned for Dec. 8 in Los Angeles.

In the Mail from DRMP

- . "Action in Nursing Education"--an article reflecting some of the nursing education activities in the Central New York Regional Medical Program.
- . "Continuing Education of Laboratory Personnel"--a reprint of an article which appeared in the May 1970 issue of the American Journal of Medical Technology.
- . "ICU Training Program"--activities for registered nurses and technicians in the Tennessee Mid-South RMP.
- . "Dietetics in Regional Medical Programs by Veronica L. Conley and Julia J. Kula.

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V minute news

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AREA V

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Committee Chairmen

Area Advisory Group	Chester A. Rude
Cancer	Lewis W. Guiss, M.D.
Cardiac	George C. Griffith, M.D.
Continuing Education	Phil R. Manning, M.D.
Hospital Administrators	Henry B. Dunlap, M.P.H.
Library Services	John M. Connor, M.A.
Nursing	Fotine O'Connor, R.N.
Stroke	Robert H. Pudenz, M.D.
Systems & Computers	Lee D. Cady, M.D.
Social Workers	Dr. Barbara Solomon, A.C.S.W.