
THE FREE CLINIC LIAISON PROJECT

A little over six months ago, because of an appeal for assistance from one of the free clinics, the AREA V Advisory Group cautiously sanctioned the staff to "look into the free clinic situation and see what RMP might be able to do to assist." Since that time AREA V staff has been involved in what well might be an endeavor unique among RMP's--a study of free clinics all the way from the nitty-gritty experience of trying to get one started for a particular group (urban American Indians) to the phenomenon of free clinics generally. The Free Clinic Liaison project, one of five special studies recently funded by AREA V, proposes to provide evaluated data on this subject, based on the experiences of the 20 or more Free Clinics now organized in the Southern California area.

All of the clinics participating in the AREA V project are licensed, non-profit, charitable organizations offering their programs and services free of charge to anyone requesting them. There is no screening, either financial or residential; all ages are served; new services are attempted as the needs become apparent.

The job of staffing the medical, dental, pharmaceutical, laboratory and other facilities is done entirely on a volunteer basis. People concerned with the problems in their communities are cooperating to help their less fortunate neighbors with a variety of services--legal aid, referral, family planning, counseling, day care for the children of working mothers--even classes in a multitude of subjects. The Boards of Directors are composed of representatives from the community the clinic serves, along with representatives from each of the clinic departments. Medical supplies are donated by pharmaceutical firms, drug stores, and hospitals. Cash donations and anonymous gifts express the growing sympathy of individuals and groups. The Los Angeles County Health Dept. has been outstanding in its assistance of the free clinics.

The Free Clinic Liaison Program includes the Los Angeles Free Clinic (Fairfax Ave.); American Indian (Compton); Long Beach; Foothill (Pasadena); Open Door (Alhambra); East Valley (La Puente); Ex-Helps Center (Santa Monica); South Bay (Hermosa Beach); North Hollywood; Barrio Free Clinic (East Los Angeles); Koinonia (Beverly Hills);

(continued next page)

Hollywood-Sunset; Alprentice Bunchy-Carter (Watts); Southside Community (West Jefferson); Orange County (Anaheim); Laguna Beach; Youth Problem (Costa Mesa); Youth Service Center (Riverside); Ventura; Oxnard; and San Diego Crisis Center.

Leadership of the AREA V project is provided by Mrs. Anne Weatherford, a vivacious brunette who got interested in minority problems at a former job of interviewing for the City Housing Authority; Miss Jennifer Ives-Rapp, a friendly, blond 18-year-old who used to be a secretary for Capitol Records; and Mr. Kelly Hodel, bearded, persuasive Community Organizer for the County Health Department, former Director of the Fairfax Clinic and a recognized leader in the free clinic movement. A Board of Directors for the project is composed of Mike Silver, an employee of the County Administrative Office; Hal Wertzel, formerly with the Attending Staff Association at Harbor General; and Mrs. Toni Moors, AREA V staff, Community Programs.

Thirty representatives were in attendance September 1, at a second meeting of the Liaison Project. The progress outlined to date included the first issue of a newsletter that discussed the triumphs and despairs of struggling new clinics, contained a page of advice describing how the clinics might protect themselves from becoming unwittingly responsible for expenses incurred by people who want to put on benefits on their behalf; and told how to get public service announcements broadcast. A directory of the clinics, their location, services, and hours and a needs-and-surplus list for better distribution of supplies amongst the clinics has been published. Many contacts have been established with various people in the County health system, with the Narcotics Prevention Bureau, and other important agencies. An application has been made to get into the State Surplus Program; group rates for malpractice insurance is being investigated; a grant has been written in collaboration with the ELA Model Cities Program for the establishment of a youth hostel for runaway youths; data collection for all the clinics is being standardized.

While dedicated to assisting established and emerging clinics and encouraging the development and duplication of effective models, the Liaison Program is expected to provide invaluable health data on the large segment of our society that has rejected or has been rejected, by the dominant culture, or for a variety of reasons, is isolated from access to help. How well the program succeeds depends in large measure on the trust placed in the free clinics by the people who use them.

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MODEL CITIES, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING, AND RMP

RMP Service recently issued a new requirement and process concerning proposed RMP activities affecting or involving Model Cities neighborhoods: "In order to insure adequate participation by the offices of the mayors of Model Cities and Model City Demonstration Agencies (CDA) of these cities in the development of appropriate plans and activities, and to coordinate all such activity within HEW Regions involved, a certification process has been developed, and is applicable to all HEW grant assistance programs. The newly established process requires written certification on a special form completed by each Director of a Model City Demonstration Agency certifying that each of the proposed activities or projects has involved acceptable citizen participation, is adequately linked with the total Model Cities Program, and that the sponsor has consulted on the project with a representative of the city's chief executive. The HEW Regional Director must also sign the certification document to indicate his knowledge and approval of the activity."

The 11 Model Cities neighborhoods in California are in Fresno, Oakland, Richmond, Berkeley, Compton, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Pittsburg, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose.

Conferees at a recent Comprehensive Health Planning-Model Cities workshop, held August 20-21 in Oakland, were told that California has \$65 million for the first action-year (after the one-year planning period) and that all the funds must be spent in one year.

A CCRMP representative reports of the two-day meeting: "What Model Cities can do for CHP and CHP can do for Model Cities, and where RMP fits in, were all subject to polite but prolonged argument. At the end of the two-day meeting, it was apparent that there is plenty of homework for everybody, including RMP. It was also very clear that everyone attending the workshop needed to understand the others better."

RMP and Comprehensive Health Planning in California are moving toward a strong, well-coordinated effort between the two programs. A joint RMP-CHP Ad Hoc Committee has proposed that by December 1, 1970, every effort will be made to have voting representation of CHP on RMP committees and RMP on CHP committees of state, areawide and local levels. Staff persons from each program will be designated to work with respective areas and regions of the programs so that planning can be reviewed from the inception and planning efforts can be brought before the appropriate bodies.

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AREA V REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

CALENDAR

September 1970

Friday, Sept. 11

AREA V Committee Chairmen 11:30 a.m. Conference Room

Monday, Sept. 14

AREA V Nursing Advisory Committee 12 noon RMP Conference Room

Wednesday, Sept. 16

AREA V Social Workers Advisory Committee 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. RMP Conference Room

AREA V Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Conference Room

AREA V Cancer Planning Committee 12:15 p.m. RMP Conference Room

Thursday, Sept. 17

AREA V Patient & Patient Family Committee ACS 12 noon - 2 p.m. RMP Conference Room

Monday, Sept. 21

CCRMP Allied Health Committee 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Airport Marina Hotel, L.A. Airport

CCRMP Cancer Categorical Committee 5 - 9 p.m. Hilton Inn San Francisco Airport

Tuesday, Sept. 22

AREA V Council of Free Clinics 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. RMP Conference Room

AREA ADVISORY GROUP MEETING:

November 10

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S MEETINGS

October 2 and October 16

October 7	CCRMP Full Committee	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Airport Marina Hotel, Los Angeles
Oct. 28, 29, 30	Regional Conference	Asilomar, California

CANCER

A new consulting service to assist in planning for the regional availability of radiation therapy facilities for the treatment of cancer patients has been announced by Dr. Robert D. Moreton, Chairman of the Committee on Cancer Management of the American College of Radiology. The new service, available to hospitals, community health leaders and planners, is offered by the College as a result of support provided under a contract awarded to it by RMP Service. The contract provides funds to support the cost of this new service through which qualified radiologists, donating their time to the College, will be assigned to consult with individuals and institutions calling for their professional opinion and recommendations regarding maximum use of existing radiation therapy resources, and the development of new resources where necessary. Inquiries should be directed to Committee on Cancer Management, American College of Radiology, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

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NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RMP

has recommended conditional approval of two California projects but at lower support levels than requested, according to Paul D. Ward, Executive Director of CCRMP. The successful projects are Community Resources and Information Services by Area VIII - Irvine, and Medical Information Services by Area VI - Loma Linda. Two other proposals submitted for the June-July Review were returned by Area I - San Francisco and Intergraded Assistants Program, Area III - Stanford.

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CCU

Milford G. Wyman, MD, Program Director for AREA V's CCU Program has announced the appointment of Mrs. Marilyn Kemptes, RN, to work on the RMP-Rand CCU Study, effective Sept. 1. Mrs. Kemptes will be calling on the Directors and personnel of established coronary care units throughout AREA V to assist them in collecting the data required to complete the RMP-Rand CCU study. Mrs. Kemptes is presently Clinical Coordinator of Hospital of the Good Samaritan.

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CARDIAC

Newest member to join the Cardiac Coordinating Committee is Richard Bing, MD, Director of Cardiology and Intramural Medicine at Huntington Memorial Hospital.

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AREA V is an active participant in L. A. County Heart Assn.'s new program to promote widespread professional proficiency in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and will be sharing the costs of training, production, and personnel. The program will consist of 8 full-day training sessions including didactic and laboratory practice. Each session will be attended by a maximum of 80 physicians, nurses, and allied health personnel. Upon completion the trainees will be given a CPR instructor card and will be expected to teach CPR in their respective agencies for at least two years. The courses will be given Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 18 and 25, Jan. 2, 6 and 13. Dr. George Griffith, Chairman of Area V Cardiac Committee, represents Area V on the CPR Subcommittee.

V minute news

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