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AREA
the V-minute news

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AREA V SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS COMMITTEE met June 25 and heard a presentation of the Southern California Regional Information Study (SCRIS) by Mr. Forrest Key of the L. A. County Regional Planning Commission. Dr. Petit had requested the committee to advise whether or not it would be of benefit to AREA V to participate in this data study. The group considered SCRIS a worthy project but did not recommend the support of a full-time person from AREA V. Regular attendance of an AREA V staff person at the monthly meetings of the SCRIS steering committee was suggested. Progress reports of two proposals--CHAIRS and Computerized ECG Analysis for Community Hospital Use--were given. Visitors to the meeting were Mr. Martin Donabedian of the L. A. County Health Department and Mrs. Sheila Cadman, AREA ADVISORY GROUP member.

Meeting in an all-day session on June 12 in San Francisco, the nurse core staff members the California RMP's considered implementation of some of the recommendations which came out of the Allied Health Conference held in April. Another important item on the agenda was a decision to formalize the committee and seek categorical committee status under the Staff Consultants Committee of the California Region. It is proposed that the committee be developed as the California Allied Health Committee, with representation from a broad variety of health care disciplines and services. It was suggested that in addition to developing cooperation and coordination among allied health groups and related education and service programs, the committee might provide a means for allied health groups to have a voice in RMP, stimulate and coordinate regional planning, recommend or act as specific consultants in allied health, to assist with projects development and technical reviews, provide a forum for program development and develop position statements and guidelines related to the allied health field. More work will be done on committee structure and purposes at the next meeting on July 2.

The Interdisciplinary Committee on Continuity of Patient Care (a spin-off of the Continuity of Care Workshop conducted by the California League for Nursing, Unit E in November 1968) met June 27 to begin planning for an educational workshop to be held in November and focused on planning activities in the San Fernando Valley. Kay Fuller, R.N. (AREA V representative on the committee) reports, "The Feder, Coordinator for the S. F. Valley District RMP Area IV and the S. F. Valley group are so dynamic and energetic that this should prove to be a unique workshop experience."

The classification of medical services in the areas of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for the medical problems previously catalogued for CHAIRS has been drafted and is now ready for preliminary review by the categorical committees of AREA V. The assistance of physicians is essential in making this system valid and reliable and Dr. Joy Cauffman and her team are hopeful there will be maximum involvement at the meetings scheduled this week for this purpose--CARDIAC (June 30) STROKE (July 1) CANCER (July 2) and CHRONIC DISEASES (July 7).

AREA V SOCIAL WORKERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, on June 25, reviewed Proposal No. 3-005 (Extended Care Facilities Center) and recommended that the proposer meet with staff and Dr. Joy Cauffman to explore whether this suggestion might become part of the CHAIRS project; approved some changes in methodology for the Health Transportation Agency study, which is slated for conclusion by October, 1969; and planned to hear Dr. John Zaro relative to exploration of mutual interest in social work with a group of five downtown L. A. hospitals whose Chiefs of Staff have been meeting throughout the past year. Wilson Mizener, M.D. AREA ADVISORY GROUP member was a visitor at the meeting.

The second Joint Staff Meeting of Areas IV and V was hosted by Area IV the morning of June 30. After an exchange of reports on progress in the respective Areas, Drs. Brayton and Petit engaged in a dialogue about boundaries and coordination of effort in communities which might relate to more than one RMP, such as San Fernando, Watts-Willowbrook and others. Dr. Petit restated his belief that a community or institution should be free to relate to any RMP, or to more than one RMP, as the community or institution wishes or as seems expedient under the prevailing circumstances. There was some general discussion about projects of mutual interest which are under development by both Areas and Drs. Gary Dean and John Lloyd were encouraged to exchange evaluation information and measurement techniques used in the CCU projects. A third meeting is tentatively scheduled for December.

Mrs. Kay Fuller, R. N. and Miss Gladys Ancrum, Dr. P.H. of AREA V STAFF were participants at the Visitor's Conference on Continuing Education Programs in Nursing held June 23-26, University of Colorado School of Nursing, Denver. REPORTS TO FOLLOW!

Plans of the CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE to meet on June 25 were struck down by "Vacation-itis." The meeting will be

Calendar

STAFF MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO SUDDEN CHANGES--PLEASE CHECK WITH OFFICE FOR LATEST INFORMATION.
ALL MEETINGS ARE IN CONFERENCE ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

JULY			
4		No funds, cannot travel -- have fun anyway!	
7-11		Tumor Registry Training Program (Southern California Tumor Registrar's Assn.)	UCLA
7	11:30 a.m.	CCRMP Site Visit	Los Angeles
7	8:00 p.m.	AREA V Chronic Disease Committee	
8	6:30 p.m.	AREA V Library Services Committee Meeting	
9	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	CCRMP Full Committee Meeting	Los Angeles
9		AREA V Staff Meeting (Cancelled)	
11	11:30 a.m.	AREA V Committee Chairmen's Meeting	
16	9:30 a.m.	AREA V Staff Meeting	
16	7:30 p.m.	Watts-Willowbrook RMP District	Los Angeles
18	9:30 a.m.	AREA V Staff Meeting (Special meeting)	
23	9:30 a.m.	AREA V Staff Meeting	

"WORKSHOP TOWARD IMPROVED HEALTH PLANNING"

By William A. Markey

This workshop, sponsored by the Division of Regional Medical Programs, was conducted by the Department of Engineering, University of Wisconsin (extension), at Madison, May 19-23, 1969.

Emphasis was upon recent developments in "systems" approaches, and on modern refinements which may make these approaches more useable in seeking solutions to health care or health facility problems. Other topics covered included involving people in planning, layouts for estimating such as PERT, forecasting and decision-making, resource allocation, cost effectiveness analysis, objective setting, problem selection, group approaches, and problems in implementation and evaluation. Almost any of the component topics could be (and most are) presented as full semester courses.

The complexities of developing a working interface between relatively advanced engineering-philosophical-psychological techniques and any sort of health agency, field, or program is at best experimental, and most approaches are empirical. The methodologies are "clean" only in their theoretical stages, and become tarnished and burdensome when application to a "real" problem of significance is approached. However, they do offer substantial and worthwhile ways to identify, arrange, and verify problem components; they also give indications of ways to resolve more complex problems into more workable components.

One aspect of this conference which made it somewhat different from other "systems" approaches is that it proposed and pursued an "ideals" philosophy. This approach focuses more on how the answers to a problem should be rather than on a detailed analysis of how the needs are now being met, and recommending corrective measures only. In the "ideals" viewpoint, data gathering becomes secondary to goal definition, and is all functionally oriented.

Another important concept which was brought out is that every planning objective must have an "owner." This implies the personal commitment of an individual or a group to achieve the definition, development, and implementation of a given objective. The setting of the objective in specific terms is invariably a negotiation process, but once this is achieved, the commitment of the "owner" prevails. The problem cannot be "given" to a "systems man" for solution: it remains with the owner, and it behooves the owner to use various methods (perhaps including the "systems man") to seek the desired solution.

Some follow-up to this conference is planned. The format and detail will depend upon feedback from the participants, and the yield of the evaluation techniques used at the conference. Much food for thought was presented--an appreciable digestion period is in order. Much gained at the conference attributes to the good company of the participants and personal interest of several of the faculty members.