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AREA

V

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AN AREA V ACTIVITY IN "LOS ANGELES EAST"

Three groups representing educational institutions, health facilities, and consumers, lost no time on October 22 in reaching agreement to act collectively as a Steering Committee for Minority Health Manpower Education. George A. Wistreich, Ph.D., Director of the Allied Health Sciences Department of East Los Angeles College was the unanimous choice for Acting Chairman.

The basic concerns in minority recruitment and retention in the Public Health Districts of East and Northeast Los Angeles, and San Antonio--as perceived by educators--were readily confirmed by members of community organizations and health facility representatives at this second meeting convened by AREA V on the topic of minority health manpower education.

Some of the issues defined at the first meeting, held September 23, were verified by individuals who are obliged to cope with these difficulties on a day-to-day basis. It was pointed out that minority cultural and social studies must be integrated into the health careers training programs if minority communities are to utilize the services of health professionals; that counseling at the high school level must prepare students for health careers; that special programs aimed at the adult population might provide an immediate solution to the urgent need for health service workers (such as clerks, nurses, audiometric technicians, and health service aides) in the school system; that incentives must be provided to motivate students to stay in the community once training is completed; that barriers imposed by professional associations that tend to limit changes within the professions must be removed.

It was suggested that an efficient approach might be modeled on the system used in development of the San Fernando Valley Health Consortium which is credited with achieving more effective use of resources and better utilization of health manpower for the benefit of the community it serves.

(continued on page two)

Addie L. Klotz, M.D., Director of the San Fernando Valley Health Consortium, described the growth of the Consortium, from its beginning when the Interim Steering and Planning Committee was created at the request of the community, up to recent events, such as incorporation, and appointment of a permanent director, and board of directors. Dr. Klotz noted that the necessary planning and organizing was carried out by eight task forces, each chaired by a member of the Interim Steering and Planning Committee and composed of equal numbers of health providers, health educators, and consumers.

Dr. Wistreich recommended the use of task forces to deal with some of the defined areas of concern, such as availability and utilization of facilities (current and future), liaison with state and national organizations, health needs of community and placement, sources of funding articulation between education and health facilities, core program, and organization. Thirty people volunteered to serve either on the Steering Committee or on Task Forces. Appointments will be announced at the next general meeting of the group, scheduled for December 2.

Organizations represented at the October 22 meeting, jointly hosted by AREA V RMP and USC School of Medicine, were: Community Health Foundation of East Los Angeles; East Los Angeles Chicano Mental Health Training Center; East L. A. Child and Youth Clinic; East L. A. Child and Young Parents Corp.; T.E.L.A.C. (The East L. A. Community Union); ELAHTF (East L. A. Health Task Force); ELARCA (E. L. A. Retarded Children's Association); Joint Health Venture, Hollywood; Trabajadores De La Raza, Pico Rivera; Bella Vista Community Hospital; Beverly Hospital; City View Hospital and Keiro Nursing Home; LAC/USC Medical Center; Santa Fe Memorial Hospital; Visiting Nurse Association of Los Angeles; L. A. County Health Department; Model Cities; National Planning Association; Archdiocese of Los Angeles; California State College, Los Angeles; Downey Unified School District; East Los Angeles College; L. A. City Unified School District; Pasadena City College; San Fernando Valley Health Consortium Corp.; UCLA and USC.

AREA V Staff was represented by Donald W. Petit, M.D., Area Coordinator, Miss Dorothy E. Anderson, R.N., Mr. Elias Chico, Mrs. Jane Z. Cohen, and Mrs. Kay D. Fuller, R.N.

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(Los Angeles East is the AREA V term for the communities encompassed in East Los Angeles, Northeast Los Angeles, and San Antonio Public Health Districts.)

RMP-COMP Activities

A series of meetings which have been going on since mid-spring between the Coordinators of RMP Areas IV, V, and IX (Watts-Willowbrook) and the Executive Director of Comprehensive Health Planning of L. A. County, has resulted in agreement to establish joint task forces on health delivery systems and health manpower. AREA V has agreed to undertake the principal staff responsibility for the task force on health manpower, with Area IV accepting a similar responsibility for health delivery systems. Each of the four cooperating agencies is to contribute staff assistants to both task forces; chairmen will be formally appointed by COMP-LA, in consultation with each RMP; task force members will be appointed by the respective chairmen subject to approval by each organization. Overall planning and direction of task force activities will be in the hands of the four organization heads--Donald W. Petit, M.D., (Area V); Donald F. Brayton, M.D. (Area IV); M. Alfred Haynes, M.D. (Area IX); and Albert V. Whitehall, Executive Director, COMP-LA. Chairmen of the task forces will be volunteers but salaries of the principal staff persons for each of the task forces will be shared by the four participating agencies. Each will devote 50% to the task force for which he is responsible and the remaining 50% to the Area from which he draws the largest portion of salary, and at which he is based. The appointments of Dr. Charles E. Lewis, Professor of Public Health, UCLA as Chairman of the Health Service Delivery Task Force, and of Robert C. Davidson, MD, MPH, as principal staff person have been announced. Counterpart appointments in health manpower are pending.

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The National Health Service Corps, a unit within Health Services and Mental Health Administration/U.S. Public Health Service, has been authorized to assign NHSC personnel to areas of the U. S. where health services are inadequate because of critical shortages of health personnel. Copies of Interim Guide for Applicant Communities are available upon request to Clyde E. Madden, Assistant Coordinator, Area V. Applications and additional information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Donald P. MacDonald, Regional Programs Director, Community Health Service, Room 317, 50 Fulton Street, San Francisco, 94102, telephone: (415) 556-6070.

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Elias Chico is representing AREA V on the Planning Committee coordinating arrangements for a community-wide Health Fair to be held Sunday, November 7, in the parking area of Community Hospital of Los Angeles. Under the aegis of the East Los Angeles Health Task Force, cooperating agencies will offer eye, ear, heart, feet, and lung tests among other life-preserving procedures, as well as education about drugs and other health problems.

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