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T. Macdonald  
District 7--Malden, Mass.

### TRI-STATE REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Mr. Macdonald's district is situated within the Tri-State Regional Medical Program which includes the three states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Since a planning grant totalling \$439,037 was awarded only three months ago, the program is in its early stages of staffing and planning. The Tri-State Region, through its newly created Medical Care and Educational Foundation, Inc., brings together in a powerful and unprecedented coalition through six medical schools (Harvard, Boston University, Tufts, the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and Brown), with the practicing profession, the university and community hospitals, public health agencies and the public. It is expected that by July 1968 high-level staff will have been appointed and planning and feasibility studies begun. Activities and studies will focus on strengthening relationships among health institutions, establishing local community-wide planning groups, evaluating and expanding resources for continuing education and training inventories, patient care facilities and services, and demographic studies.

Three State Advisory Committees are assisting in local planning, and the 30-member Committee, includes outstanding representatives from the key relevant health and medical institutions in the state. A listing is attached.

TRI-STATE REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

<u>REGION</u>	States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island
<u>COORDINATING HEADQUARTERS</u>	Medical Care and Educational Foundation, Inc.
<u>STARTING DATE</u>	December 1, 1967
<u>FUNDING</u>	
<u>Current Award:</u>	\$439,037
<u>Projected Next Year:</u>	\$1,300,000
<u>OPERATIONAL STATUS</u>	Anticipated to begin operational activities in Fiscal Year 1969
<u>PROGRAM COORDINATOR</u>	Norman S. Stearns, M.D. Acting Director Medical Care and Educational Foundation, Inc.
<u>ADVISORY GROUP</u>	1. Chairman, Mac V. Edds, Jr., Ph.D. Division of Medical Sciences Brown University President, Medical Care and Educational Foundation, Inc.  2. Medical Center Officials, 12; Practicing Physicians, 12; Hospital Administrators, 6; Voluntary Health Agencies, 12; Public Health Officials, 6; Other Health Workers, 7; Public, 11

Organization and Staffing

Despite the fact that the Tri-State Regional Medical Program has just received its planning grant award, there has been rapid progress in the Region. The need for the systematic involvement of the area's great medical resources required a significant amount of pre-planning activity. The Medical Care and Educational Foundation, Inc., was founded to act as the focal point for the coordination of regional activity. Dr. Stearns, formerly Associate Director for Continuing Education and Director of the Postgraduate Medical Institute in Boston, is Acting Program Coordinator. The Regional Advisory Group will advise the trustees of the corporation and will review the operational proposals. A central planning unit will be headed by a director who will be responsible for

planning finances and administration. He will be assisted by two associate directors responsible for data collection, analysis, medical education, and patient care services. The six medical schools are the corporate members of the corporation and have representatives on many of the committees within the RMP.

### Subregional Development

It is the opinion of the staff and the trustees of the regional program that regional planning for medical care must have two principle foci - the local medical service area and the central regional planning group. While the major element of local planning will be the community hospital, emphasis will be placed upon the involvement of all the health resources in the area.

### Regional Advisory Group

The Regional Advisory Group contains representatives from Massachusetts (30) New Hampshire (19) and Rhode Island (15). These members will play a key role in expanding the base of the RMP through involvement of the key health institutions in the three State region.

### Planning Activities

Since this program is now beginning, it is difficult to project its future activities. It is anticipated, however, that by July 1968, they will have completed recruiting for high-level staff and will embark upon planning studies in the following areas:

- a) the involvement of institutions and individuals in RMP.
- b) the establishment of community based planning organizations.
- c) the evaluation of on-going in-person educational programs.
- d) the expansion of the Dartmouth TV network to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- e) the expansion of the Postgraduate Medical Institute consultation service program for planning and developing community hospital education programs.
- f) the development of a consultation service for planning, and the development of education programs for nurses and allied health professionals.
- g) the development of a consultation service for community hospital medical libraries.
- h) data collection for medical service area definition.
- i) demographic studies.
- j) inventories of nursing homes, hospitals, and medical manpower.
- k) inventories of continuing education activities.

### Relationship to Comprehensive Health Planning

It is too early to tell how the Tri-State RMP will relate to Comprehensive Health Planning. Dr. Stearns has indicated that the region will focus on this matter

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throughout the planning phase. A strong relationship is developing between the Rhode Island group and Dr. Ernest Cook, Director for Comprehensive Health Planning in Rhode Island.

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