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AREA
V

minute news

vol.4 no.6

April 21, 1972

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS • AREA V

THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM....

sponsored by AREA V in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Medicine of LAC/USC Medical Center, administered the final phase of testing to the 32 trainees on April 18. The students--five from private ambulance companies and 27 civilian and fireman personnel serving with the Rescue Ambulance Division of the Los Angeles City Fire Department--demonstrated their skill in handling emergency treatment of cases ranging from cardiopulmonary arrest and obstetrics to injuries in various parts of the anatomy, and their expertise in solving problems of extrication, transport, communications, law, etc. The class completed a written examination on March 30 and on April 4, took the National Registry written examination. Dr. P. G. Flynn, Coordinator of the EMT-I Course states that on the basis of preliminary grading, it would appear that the class average is approximately 85 per cent on the latter examination. Instructor Martin Morris, M.D., who used the 81-hour Dunlop Curriculum, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons text on Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured in designing the course, is pleased with the enthusiasm of the trainees; there were no drop-outs, despite the fact that most of the students were taking the course on their own time, after working hours. A second session is planned and by September, 1972, it is anticipated that a total of 60 individuals will have been trained to the level of EMT-I.

The need for continuation and expansion of similar courses to raise the baseline level of training of all ambulance and emergency rescue personnel in L. A. County to this level of competence, has received high priority in the request for funding submitted jointly by California RMP Areas IV, V, and IX.

Included in the proposal is a request for support of the County Conference on Emergency Medical Services, scheduled for June 19 and 20. The Conference

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will concern itself with public education, communications, transportation, facilities, manpower training, special problems of minority communities, systems development, and the implications of a regionalized system, and is expected to develop major recommendations for the improvement of emergency medical service in the County. Enquiries have just been mailed out to the leaders of numerous organizations and agencies in the County, asking them to suggest participants, from which a selection will be made to ensure adequate representation from all geographic areas and functional levels. Tentative plans are to limit the Conference attendance to 500.

The format of the Conference is a plenary session, followed by workshops in which participants will consider alternatives and develop specific recommendations in each topic area. These recommendations will be further refined at later regional and functional sub-conferences.

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A SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON NEPHROLOGY MANPOWER....

sponsored by AREA V on March 23, 24, 1972 was attended by 50 people, reports F. L. Orrell, Ph.D., Program Coordinator of the Training Program for Nephrology Assistants now in process at LAC/USC Medical Center, as part of the California RMP Regional Kidney Program. Dr. Orrell sums up the results of the conference as follows: "There is a recognized, but not adequately quantified, need for an increasing number of all members of the Nephrology Health Care Team. It was held desirable to improve the preparation of new manpower for their roles by setting qualification standards and by augmenting on-the-job training for each member of the team with didactic orientation in Nephrology, provided this material can be delivered under practical, realistic conditions. It was agreed that the current distribution of functions in the delivery of care to patients with kidney disease placed an intolerable burden upon the physician and surgeon. It was, however, questioned whether this maldistribution was best resolved by introducing a new role (Nephrologist Assistant) or by effecting redistribution by expansion of existing roles. It was the consensus that the role of Dialysis Technician should be redefined to emphasize his technological responsibilities and limit his role in delivering patient care, that his qualifications for employment should include two years of specific education, culminating in an Associate degree and possible certification." Publication of the proceedings is promised.

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AREA V PEOPLE

David Odell, Director of Hospital Planning for LAC Dept. of Hospitals, is joining the AREA V Professional Advisory Group as Advisor, Health Care Administration. Mr. Odell will be working with quality of care standards and their relation to medical care delivery systems, management training efforts with community groups, and valuation of proposals concerning health delivery systems. His first assignment has been to assist Dr. George C. Griffith with the activities surrounding the forthcoming Countywide Conference on Emergency Medical Services. Also, on assignment to the Emergency Medical Services effort, as a consultant from AREA V, is Mr. Vince Garza, Special Assistant Planning, Hospital Administration, LAC/USC Medical Center.

Four new members joined AREA V Advisory Council at the April 4 meeting: Mr. Arnold Martinez, Deputy to Ernest E. Debs, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for L.A. County, will represent Mr. Debs on the Area Advisory Council, Mr. Frank F. Aguilera (replacing Jose Carlos as representative for the East L. A. Health Task Force), Mrs. Grace Martinez, and Mr. Albert Zapanta. The latter two members were selected from a group of candidates suggested by ten ELA community groups, and will act as representatives from that community. Mrs. Martinez is Office Manager of the One-Stop Immigration Office in ELA, a Board Member of the Community Health Foundation, and of the ELA Health Task Force, and is Chairman of the Subcommittee for LAC Community Health Center. Mr. Zapanta is Director of Barrio Industries for the Handicapped, Manpower Administrator of LAC Manpower, Assn., and Assistant Project Director of Space Utilization Analysis. Mr. Aguilera, formerly an employee of AREA V, is currently Executive Director of the ELA Health Task Force and Project Director of Environmental Health Services and Delivery Systems in ELA.

Teresita P. Moreno, MSW, of AREA V staff, has been invited to become a member of the Advisory Committee on Urban Health, a National Task Force of minority group RMP employees, who will address themselves to the involvement of RMP's throughout the country in the problems of the inner cities. Other members of the committee are John A. Mitchell, MD, Deputy Director of CCRMP; Cleveland R. Chambliss, Acting Director Division of Operations and Development at RMPS; John W. Hall, Ph.D. Director, Division of Urban Health, ORMP; and Mr. Henry M. Wood, Director of Urban Health Planning, New Jersey RMP. Two additional members are to be named from the following groups--Appalachian whites, American Indian, Puerto Rican, Oriental.

Reverend Emmett Sarracino, Administrator of the American Indian Free Clinic in Compton (an AREA V-sponsored activity) recently appeared, by invitation, before the Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and the House, to testify on the health needs of Urban American Indians.

Edward M. Skowrup, a member-at-large of the AREA V Advisory Council, has accepted chairmanship of the AREA V Evaluation Committee, a group of volunteers which will be asked to make periodic reports which, if adopted by the Council, will be submitted to CCRMP staff for transmittal to the Regional Program Review Committee. Also named to the Committee, which will be staffed by John S. Lloyd, Ph.D., are: Lewis T. Bullock, MD, Mrs. Alice Chu, Mrs. Opal Gilliam, MPH, Miss Evelyn M. Hamil, RN, Mr. Joe I. Hori, Raymond M. Kay, MD, Adrian F. Ortega, MD, Miss Dolores Rodriguez, ACSW, and Mr. Russell B. Williams. CCRMP, which urged the formation of AEC's in each Area, suggested as responsibilities of the committee negotiations for changes in program direction to meet objectives more closely, recommendations as to funding level, procedures for supervision and monitoring of individual projects within the Area, and the relation of achievements of projects to the overall objectives of the Areas.

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An Ad Hoc Committee, composed of representatives of AREA V staff, Area Advisory Council, and Professional Advisory Group members, has been appointed by Dr. Donald W. Petit and Mr. Liston A. Witherill to look into the matter of parity at all levels of the program. Mr. Louis R. Baker (AAC) has agreed to chair the group, and Clyde E. Madden will staff the committee. Other members will be: Daniel Grindell, Joe I. Hori and Mrs. Grace Martinez (AAC); Dr. Dale Garrell and Jose Carlos (PAG); Teresita P. Moreno and Elsie M. McGuff (AREA V staff); Frank St. Denis (Hospital Council of Southern California).

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Frank F. Aguilera, who was nominated by AREA V, has been named by the California Committee on RMP as one of their public members, to serve a term of one year. Mr. Aguilera, formerly Assistant Coordinator with AREA V, is now Executive Director of the East Los Angeles Health Task Force.

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A recent visitor to AREA V was Peggy L. Noble, who is a Public Health Advisor/Analyst Trainee with RMPS (Rockville, Maryland). Miss Noble is spending some time with each of the California RMP's, as part of a one-year field training program which includes 4-5 month assignments within RMPS. She has an MS in Hygiene, Maternal & Child Health from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

IMPROVED PATIENT CARE IN EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES....

is the goal of courses now in mid-session of three Southern California locations-- East Los Angeles, Laguna Beach, and West Covina. Three more sessions will be offered June through August, 1972, at San Fernando Valley, Santa Barbara, and Fresno. The program, limited to administrators and directors of nursing in extended care facilities, is offered through a \$62,280 RMP grant which was a joint submission of California RMP Areas IV, V, and VIII.

The courses, which stress the development of interprofessional teamwork, in addition to the enhancement of skills, provide a total of 80 hours of instruction dealing with personal and therapeutic care of patients, medical care of the nursing home patient, the role of consultants, the national health and safety codes, patient environment, personnel and financial management, and related subjects. The curriculum, developed by key nursing home personnel, has been submitted to the State Board of Nursing Home Examiners, who have approved the programs so that participants will receive either 40 hours of preparatory credit; 40 hours of preparatory and 40 hours of continuing education credit; or 80 hours of continuing education credit.

The program is guided by 35 health professionals who serve on a Steering Committee and on subcommittees. Kay D. Fuller, RN of AREA V staff is Chairman of the Committee on Reporting and Evaluation. Dorothy E. Anderson, MPH, is on the committee for Coordinator and Faculty Orientation. Chairman of the Steering Committee is Dr. Hoyt Crider, Ph.D., formerly president of the California Nursing Home Assn. The project director is Mrs. Kelly Swaryck, RN, formerly supervisor of education, and Executive Secretary to the Washington State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators, Olympia, Washington.

Of the 131 personnel participating in the first three courses, 72 are nursing home administrators and 59 are directors of nursing. More than 300 attendees are expected to enroll in the series of six courses.

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Mrs. Gail Olson, RN--one of AREA V's six Stroke Rehabilitation Liaison Nurses-- reports that an average of 90 people attended each session of the first series of stroke classes offered at Inter-Community Hospital, Covina during March. The six classes, conducted by doctors, nurses, physical therapists and occupational therapists, were open to five area hospitals, to interested RN and LVN students from Mount San Antonio and Citrus Colleges, and to personnel from nearby convalescent homes.

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V**minute news**Published by
AREA V**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS
USC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**P.O. Box 1390
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Alhambra, Calif. 91802
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