

thus providing for the grouping of rural community hospitals for more efficient use of existing resources.

WASHINGTON-ALASKA REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

The Washington-Alaska Regional Medical Program operational projects concern themselves largely with continuing education and training activities to enhance the medical and paramedical capability. They focus on communications techniques and instruction materials and methodologies which are adaptable to the far flung and remote communities in the vast State of Alaska and the many scattered rural communities in Washington State. Several projects are being conducted to improve the health manpower resources in communities with limited or no specialty health services, which are distant from a major medical center.

Operational Projects

1. *Central Washington—Communication System for Continuing Education for Physicians: Direct Cost, \$18,181*

To bring the medical resources of the University of Washington to physicians and community hospitals in Yakima, who in turn will act as consultants to surrounding smaller communities through seminars and conferences, educational TV, other audio-visual instruction; and exchange of teachers and practitioners. To connect internists in Central Washington to Yakima cardiologists via EKG telephone hot-line, to permit quick analysis (starting with 5 community hospitals). Yakima is a community of about 45,000. The total population in 6 Central Washington counties exceeds 300,000. In addition to three general hospitals in Yakima—St. Elizabeth, Yakima Valley Memorial, and New Valley Osteopathic—nine other community hospitals to be reached initially are located in small rural communities of Ellensburg, Moses Lake, Othello, Toppenish, Prosser and Sunnyside, (population ranges from 500 in Moses City to some 8,600 in Ellensburg.)

2. *Southeast Alaska—Postgraduate Education: Direct Cost, \$27,062*

To improve communication between Seattle Medical Community and the university to alleviate problems of the isolated physicians in southeast Alaska cities and communities: Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan (3 largest). As in Central Washington several methods will be used such as telelectures, consultant services, seminars and the EKG hot line to hospitals in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. The population in these 3 cities totals about 17,000.

3. *Postgraduate Preceptorship for Physicians—Coronary Care: Direct Cost, \$17,610*

A pilot project to provide opportunity for practitioners from remote and isolated communities to spend a week or more under a preceptor at major medical centers to study advances in care of coronary heart disease and carry out these practices in their communities. The 4 major medical centers in Seattle are Providence Hospital, Swedish Hospital, Virginia Mason Hospital and Medical Center, and University Hospital and Medical Center and two in Spokane are Deaconess Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital.

4. *Cardiac Pulmonary Technician Training: Direct Cost, \$41,554*

Develop a formal program for training cardio-pulmonary technicians to perform non-critical function in coronary care units and free physicians for other duties. Four larger general hospitals in Spokane—Deaconess, Holy Family, Sacred Heart, and St. Luke's—will participate in this training program with Spokane Community College.

5. *Two-way Radio Conference and Slide Presentation: Direct Cost, \$8,445*

Six pilot programs on heart, cancer and stroke topics to be transmitted via two-way radio-telephone slide conferences, to physicians and hospital staffs on topics selected by panel of physicians, starting with 20 hospitals in Washington. To explore potential for continuing network series with local and remote regions.

6. *Alaska Medical Library Facilities: Direct Cost, \$21,754*

To develop a community medical library for Alaska at the PHS Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage for Alaska physicians and health related staffs and agencies; to have close ties with community agencies, Arctic Health Research, University at Fairbanks and to supplement continuing education project for Southeast Alaska and the Anchorage cancer project.