

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXV Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
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ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

Progress Report

At the 76th Meeting of the Executive Committee (Washington, D.C., June-July 1976), Dr. Hermán Weinstok, Minister of Health of Costa Rica, presented a project for the establishment of a Pan American Community Health Training Center, to be headquartered in Costa Rica.

The purpose of the project was to support the countries of the Region in their activities to meet the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas in the extension of service coverage to rural and urban-fringe areas, by setting up a specialized center to provide personnel training at different levels, disseminate information, provide technical cooperation, and conduct related research.

The functions of the center were described as:

- Carrying out, for managerial and executive staff responsible for health in the countries and in charge of projects that contribute to the extension of coverage, programs of training in the devising of policies and strategies and in the efficient and effective conduct of those activities.
- The dissemination of experience in coverage extension programs through:
 - Visits to observe the operation of the Rural Health Program of Costa Rica, which to this end would set up demonstration areas.
 - The organization of a data bank from which countries could obtain needed information.
- The provision of technical cooperation in the planning, organization, operational and technological design, execution and evaluation of programs for extending the coverage of health services.

- The development of projects of research in procedures for the application of techniques and methods for the extension of service coverage, with special emphasis on the motivation of and acceptance and participation by the community and on the search for practical solutions consistent with distinctive local features and cultural usages and with what each country can afford.

In Resolution VI the Executive Committee resolved: "1. To thank the Government of Costa Rica for its kind offer. 2. To request the Director of PASB to carry out a feasibility study for consideration by the Directing Council at its next Meeting in September 1976 with a view to the establishment of such a Training Center."

In compliance with this Resolution, a study was carried out between 13 August and 6 September 1976 and its findings were presented to the Directing Council of PAHO in its XXIV Meeting, held in México City in September-October 1976.

The Directing Council analyzed that study and the related presentations, and adopted Resolution XI, in which it resolved: "1. To thank the Director for the preliminary study carried out. 2. To thank the Government of Costa Rica once again for its kind offer. 3. To accept the establishment of such a Center and to authorize the Director to continue to work with the Government of Costa Rica in: a) developing a detailed plan for such a Center including the role, function, method of operation, costs and anticipated benefits, and b) negotiating acceptable arrangements between the Center and the Organization. 4. To request the Director to consider the use of extra-budgetary funds to meet any anticipated increase in the costs of the Center, as a result of the detailed plan, so as to enable it to serve the whole of the Region. 5. To request the Director to report to the Executive Committee at its 78th Meeting and to the Directing Council at its XXV Meeting on the development of the plan and the results of his negotiations, and seek further guidance and recommendations on subsequent steps."

Since this Resolution was passed the Director of PAHO has kept in touch with the Minister of Health of Costa Rica (directly and through the PAHO Representative in that country) on the establishment of the Center.

In April 1977 the representatives of PAHO called on the Minister of Health and reaffirmed to him the interest of the Director of PAHO/WHO in continuing the activities involved in drawing up the final project for establishment of the proposed Center.

To this end, the Minister agreed to appoint a National Commission of four persons to draw up a draft project for the organization and operation of the Pan American Community Health Training Center.

After reviewing all the material on the subject and studying a number of options for the structure and organization of the Center, the Commission, with the cooperation of PAHO, presented a draft project to the Minister who, while in principle agreeing to much of it, felt that other points needed further study before a final answer could be given. He accordingly decided that the National Commission would continue advising him in the final preparation of the draft project.

The PAHO Representative in Costa Rica will continue to work with the national authorities and remain in permanent contact with the National Commission.