



*executive committee of  
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

*working party of  
the regional committee*

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



78th Meeting  
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Provisional Agenda Item 15

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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), the Minister of Health of Costa Rica, Dr. Herman Weinstok, presented a project for the establishment of a Pan American Community Health Training Center, the headquarters of which would be in Costa Rica.

The purpose of the project was to support the countries of the Region in their activities for accomplishing the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas to extend the coverage of services in rural and/or shanty town areas by means of a specialized center that would be responsible for the training of personnel at different levels, the dissemination of information, the provision of technical assistance, and the conduct of research in pertinent areas:

Its objectives would be as follows:

- To conduct programs for the training of personnel responsible for the direction and execution of health activities in the countries and of projects for the extension of coverage, the determination of policies and strategies and the conduct of such activities.
- To disseminate experience of programs for the extension of coverage through:

Field trips to the Rural Health Program of Costa Rica, which, to that end, would organize demonstration areas;

Organization of a data bank that would be made available to the countries that requested information.

- Provision of technical assistance in the planning, organization, operational and technological design, execution, and evaluation of programs for the extension of health service coverage.

- Conduct of research on methods and techniques for extending health service coverage, especially the motivation, acceptance and participation of the community and the development of pragmatic solutions compatible with local cultural patterns and the financial possibilities of each country.

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 that resolution, a feasibility study was made between 13 August and 6 September 1976, and the findings were submitted to the XXIV Meeting of the Directing Council, which was held in Mexico, D.F. in September/October 1976.

Having analyzed that study and the pertinent presentations the Directing Council approved 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 its 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 extrabudgetary 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 these negotiations and seek further guidance and recommendations on subsequent steps."

On the basis of that resolution, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau contacted the Minister of Health of Costa Rica (directly and through the Country Representative in that country) to finalize the establishment of the above-mentioned center.

In April 1977, representatives of the Pan American Health Organization held conversations with the Minister of Health in which they reaffirmed the interest of the Director in continuing the necessary negotiations for drawing up a definitive plan for the establishment of the proposed center.

To that end, the Minister decided to appoint a national committee composed of four members, which was to prepare a preliminary draft for the organization and start-up of the Pan American Community Health Training Center.

After studying the background information available and alternative solutions as regards the structure and organization of the center, the Committee, with the assistance of PAHO, submitted a preliminary draft to the Minister who, although he agreed in principle with many of the aspects dealt with in it, was of the opinion that other aspects needed to be further studied before he could give a definite reply. Consequently, he decided that the National Committee should continue to provide him with advice on the final draft of the preliminary project.

The PAHO Representative in Costa Rica will continue to assist the national authorities and will be in constant touch with the National Committee.