Council's Survey of Future Health Needs Funded

Eight-Parish Area Target in Southwest Louisiana

$38,295 Federal Help for Acadia Work

By TRENT ANGERS

LAFAYETTE, La. — Acadia Health Planning Council has taken on a project designed ultimately to provide better health care for the sick and aged of an eight-parish area of southwest Louisiana.

The council, signs a form accepting a $38,295 grant which enables an eight-parish survey to be conducted to study those currently in the health services field, but it would also provide career opportunities in the field for more people, Schneider said.

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For AHPC to demonstrate that the area does need a center, surveyors must show that there is a need for continuing education in the field and that there is a need to restructure the health education program, said

A 1970 report by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, a commission established by President Nixon, indicates there is a health manpower shortage exists. It says that there is a need for continuing education in the field and that there is a need for restructure the health education program, said.

Besides the Lafayette region, three other Louisiana regions were funded for this program, said, naming Acadiana, Monroe, and Baton Rouge. If the Lafayette region can show the need for the center, AHPC will apply for federal operational funds to run it for three years. While the program would be operated for three years exclusively with federal monies, it would be operated thereafter on a matching-funds basis, with the federal government putting up probably 75 percent and the state and region putting up a 25 percent share, Schneider said.

Schneider listed four phases in the feasibility study:

1. Establish a committee to monitor the project, to be composed of educators, health personnel and representatives of the public at-large.
2. Accumulate data through interviews with hospital administrators, nursing home executives, trade school administrators and health personnel on their educational and service-related needs.
3. Develop a health profile booklet which lists all the health services provided in the eight-parish area, as well as the needed health services.
4. Select the appropriate agency to assume responsibility for the center. It would be an existing agency or one in yet unformed. It could be AHPC or any other public or non-profit institution, Schneider said.

Dr. Martin J. Ducote Jr., (seated right), president of the Acadia Health Planning Council, signed a form accepting a $38,295 federal grant to study those currently in the health services field. Also seated is Jim Gallery, executive director of AHPC and director of the project.

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