

Correspondence: Geller, Michael to Mischel
Rozelle, Executive Director of Northeastern PA
Heart Association, 1970 December

Judge Rosen

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
383 Wyoming Avenue
Kingston, Pennsylvania 18704

December 6, 1972

Miss Priscella Rozelle, Executive Director
Northeastern Pennsylvania Heart Association
Kirby Memorial Health Center
71 North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Miss Rozelle:

Consequent to my speaking to Senator Murray, to whom you suggested that we were duplicating some of your services, let me hasten to report to you on our telephone conversation of this afternoon. It should be made perfectly clear that the main object of our limited, pilot multiphasic screening program highlights dental care, nutritional care, social profile, and tonometry for the prevention of glaucoma. Hemoglobin is taken for blood value, glucose for the diabetic program which is already approved; BUN and other tests are performed which would be useful in a well-rounded program. An automated Electro-Cardio Analyzer screening is done -- no tracings whatsoever are made, and it is used strictly as a screening device. Blood pressures are taken in addition to heights and weights. The exit interview is done with the object of educating the patient so that he may be better able to understand his own health profile. A copy of these results is available for a physician should this be necessary. On the other hand, it should be remembered that many patients do not have a physician or medical facilities available to them. Follow-up of the cases which show signs of illness is done by public health nurses, and every effort is made to get the patient to a physician.

It is our intention to provide preventive and some primary care to the indigent and unfortunate people of the Wyoming Valley who were inundated with the flood problems and many of whom do not have physicians available to them. All of our results will be tabulated and analyzed and compared with other populations in Pennsylvania. Progress Reports at regular intervals will be mailed to Department of Health heads, to the senators and representatives of the various interested counties, and above all to the medical societies who have approved this project wherever it is being done.

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I say that it is possible to work together and to compare the results that you get with the population results that we get, and so by comparison we should be able to find significant differences which might be of great professional value. Let me again indicate that we fully support your program and would like to cooperate with you to the fullest extent. We would be willing, for example, to do follow-up for you where the patient is reluctant to go to his physician for treatment. Furthermore, it is our primary aim to reinstate the patient with his physician wherever possible.

If it is your feeling that you would like to work with us, we would be honored and extremely sympathetic to the support of your goals. I trust that this letter will begin to bring about an understanding of our willingness to work in cooperation with all agencies particularly in the flood area. Apart from the flood area, we also have a duty to perform services in the many surrounding counties, and we do hope to develop coordinated efforts with other agencies, e.g., Rural Health Corporation, Regional Medical Program, Health and Hospital Planning Council, NY-Penn Health Planning Council, comprehensive health agencies, etc., so that the total effort will not be a fragmented one.

Your reference to reporting to Congressman Flood the services which we offer to the unfortunate flood victims is perfectly acceptable to me. However, discussions with politicians are not primary for the delivery of services because we must, at all times, try our very best to provide services to those poor and unfortunate victims of floods, disasters, and disadvantaged areas. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is mandated to provide services and evaluations of the area so described.

As you will probably be informed, copies of this letter are being sent to a large number of interested parties, and I would welcome an evaluation by the comprehensive health agencies to see how we may be coordinated.

Yours sincerely,

R. Michael Yeller
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R. Michael Yeller, M.D.
Regional Medical Director
Region II

RMY:es

bcc: Governor Milton J. Shapp
Lt. Governor Ernest P. Kline
Governor's Health Services Director
Secretary of Health
Deputy Secretary of Health
Director, Bureau of Special Health Services, Dept. of Health
Director, Division of Chronic Diseases, Dept. of Health
Regional Consultants, Region II-N, Dept. of Health
Secretary, Department of Community Affairs (Chairman, Governor's
Council of State Agencies for Flood Recovery)
✓ Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman, Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
President, N.E. Division of American Heart Association
Medical and Dental Societies, Region II
Kirby Health Center, Wilkes-Barre
Health & Hospital Planning Council of N.E. Pennsylvania
Home Health Services of Luzerne County
Model Cities Agency, City of Wilkes-Barre
NY-Penn Health Planning Council, Inc.
Regional Medical Program, Greater Delaware Valley
Rural Health Corporation of Luzerne County
Senator Richard S. Schweiker
Senator Hugh Scott
Congressman Daniel J. Flood
Congressman Joseph M. McDade
State Senators Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties
State Representatives Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties
Democratic Chairmen, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties
Republican Chairmen, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties

