

# American Academy of Pediatrics

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James B. Gillespie, M.D., Secretary for Chapters

TO: Chapter Chairmen

July 1968

FROM: James B. Gillespie, M.D., Secretary for Chapters

Recently, the minutes of the June 21, 1968 Executive Committee Meeting of the Council on Pediatric Practice came to my attention.

Several items will be of interest to all chapter chairmen. Dr. John Connelly has reported on the training program in Boston for nurses who will assist the practicing pediatrician. The program is also being developed in other areas and may continue to expand.

You will note that the Council has proposed that the Academy assume responsibility for studying these programs and offering technical assistance to persons planning them.

Dr. John Connelly reported on the twenty week course which he has organized at the Massachusetts General Hospital for the purpose of providing special training to nurses in the child health field. Nurses so trained have allowed the pediatrician in practice to transfer tasks, such as those outlined in the suggested schedule for Preventive Child Health Care in the Standards, to this newly trained person. The pediatrician, of necessity, is the teacher in these courses. He is also the employer. Additionally, he has changed his practice so that well child care can be transferred to this nurse. In addition to training in well child care, the nurse is receiving training in telephone answering, office managements, etc. The initial program at the Massachusetts General Hospital has proved to be very successful as evidenced by practitioners on the verge of leaving practice who have found the necessary relief they were looking for with these newly trained nurse assistants.

In addition to the January program offered in Boston, another twenty week course is being planned for September. Dr. Connelly reported that in Cincinnati a program has been developed and will begin in September. He has also received inquiries from Virginia on setting up such a program as well as having had the opportunity to meet in Florida with important physicians within that state to discuss the development of a similar program.

It was pointed out that if we are seeking to relieve the problem of providing enough quality care, then a national delivery system must be married with a national training program. The Academy and its State Chapters are in a unique position to provide the organization which will insure the development of these programs throughout the country. Other programs to provide assistance to the pediatrician are being developed outside of nursing. The handicap with these is that they will apply only to local needs and provide relief to very

limited numbers of practitioners. It was observed that by using the large nurse output system which is already licensed, has standards set, and is solidly based in the health system, the danger of duplicating health workers is avoided, as well as the time consuming processes of developing state laws which will permit the use of such ancillary workers.

The Executive Committee also considered the development of the junior college and the commercial training programs for physician assistants which seem to be catching on rather rapidly in this country. Since the majority of child health delivered in this country is provided via the practitioner's office, the Executive Committee considered the need for the coordination, curriculum development, and quality training within the programs of these institutions.

In consequence of the discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed by the Executive Committee:

That the Council recommend to the Executive Board that the American Academy of Pediatrics, through its Council on Pediatric Practice, accept the responsibility for becoming aware of and studying programs proposed for the training of personnel to provide assistance in the delivery of health care to children under the supervision of pediatricians either in their offices or in other programs for the delivery of such care so that the Council may eventually be in the position to offer informed judgment to the Academy membership regarding the nature of these programs.

The Council accepts the responsibility for offering technical assistance to persons planning and developing such programs, and further offers to the Executive Board its help in furthering the ultimate development of means of accreditation when deemed necessary, as recommended March 1968. Whenever feasible, the close collaboration of state chapter pediatric practice committees in the first phase of this endeavor is deemed highly desirable.

The Council also went on record as recording its willingness, at the request of the Executive Board, to attempt a series of recommendations for the Board to consider concerning the very important and critical matter of accreditation of such personnel.

Dr. Connelly reported that he has received a grant of \$61,000 designed to evaluate the effect of these programs in the pediatrician's office.

A motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried recording the Council's general approval of the course developed at the Massachusetts General Hospital as well as supporting the evaluation of that program.