

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27710

VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

July 16, 1974

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Dr. Manson Meads
Vice President for Medical Affairs
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103

Dear Manson:

Thank you for your follow-up from our discussion at Sea Level regarding the Physician's Assistant and a possible capitation program. By coincidence, in the same stack of mail, Bucky Waters had relayed his conversation with Lt. Governor Hunt on the same subject. I shall discuss this with Tom and Bud and we will make sure that we are coordinated with you in any further developments.

We enjoyed having you and your colleagues at Sea Level. We look forward to "annualizing" the event.

With every good wish and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Anlyan, M.D.

WGA:jp

cc: Dr. Thomas D. Kinney
Dr. Ewald W. Busse
Mr. R. C. Waters

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From

MANSON MEADS

Bill

A copy for you and Tom
as requested. We need
to organize an approach
to support (i.e. capitation,
scholarships with 2 yrs
of N.C. service, or loan
funds thru the medical
care commission at the
very least) - I think
we should touch base
with Bill Friday however
so that he will be
aware and supportive of any
action we may take.
Many thanks for the fine
hospitality at Sealevel Maus

THE SECOND INSTITUTE:
PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT SERVICE PROGRAM

This Institute was presented on the evening of June 14th and the morning of June 15th. In addition to the people named on the program, the Institute meeting on Friday evening was attended by the local representative to the State Legislature, by the Chancellor of Western Carolina University, and representing North Carolina Regional Medical Program, Mr. James Dias. There were about 60 people in attendance at the evening session of whom, some 15 were practicing physicians. The morning session on Saturday was attended by only about six physicians. Two physician's assistants, one a Duke graduate employed in the student health facility at Western Carolina University and the other a Northeastern graduate who is now employed at the Job Corps Training Camp near Murphy, attended both sessions.

In spite of the very small number of physicians at the Saturday morning session I think it might have been a productive one. Those in attendance were interested. The philosophy, training and use of physician extenders was thoroughly covered and the response was positive. Frequent questions turned the meeting into a good discussion session. The few who attended may represent staunch support for increasing the use of P.A.s in the area.

One physician in particular should be kept on our mailing list. He identified himself as a new resident of the area and is opening a practice in Haysville. His name is Dr. Ed Spiller. When his practice has become established (within the next few months) he plans to employ a physician assistant and will volunteer to serve as a preceptor.

The meeting on Friday night was probably more valuable because it gained wider publicity. Lt. Governor James Hunt was the speaker and he strongly supported the

concept of training and using physician extenders. The fact the meeting was in progress; the presence of the Lt. Governor and his support of P.A.s was carried on the evening television news program in Asheville and on the front page of the Asheville paper on Saturday morning. All the publicity was favorable in nature. During private discussions en route to Asheville and after his speech on Friday evening, the Lt. Governor stated and then restated his interest in seeing that state support is made available for training physician assistants. It is my belief that The Bowman Gray and Duke programs should develop a rationale for State support, perhaps on a capitation basis, and send it to the state legislative budget committee along with the next medical school capitation request. Mr. Hunt should be informed of such action when it is taken.

Jimmie L. Pharris, Ph.D.
Director of Evaluation
Physician Assistant Program

Hunt Calls For Wider Use Of Doctor-Assistant Plan

Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt said here Friday night that the rural areas of North Carolina are "in desperate need of qualified medical care personnel.

"There are people in these areas today who simply aren't receiving adequate care, and who have no hope to ever receive adequate care."

One of the ways in which this problem could be most quickly dealt with, Hunt said, is through the physician's assistant service program.

Physician's assistants are



LT. GOV. HUNT

paramedical personnel who with two or three years training can assist medical doctors with a lot of the "busy work," such as physical examinations, checkups, record management and treatment for less complicated diseases.

Hunt was guest speaker at an institute on the physician's assistant program at Holiday Inn West, a two-day program being sponsored here by the School of Health Sciences and Services at Western Carolina University.

Hunt said another way to bring more health care to the rural areas is through the establishment of a network of community clinics.

"Many of the people trained as physician's assistants will be able to work at community clinics staffed by visiting teams of doctors. By being part of the community, they will bring a far higher level of medical care to the people there than they have ever had," Hunt said.

Hunt said physicians were at first "reluctant to embrace these new concepts in medical care," but, today, much of the leadership in this area is coming from the medical profession itself."

Hunt said physician's assistants are no substitute for doctors and must work under a physician's close supervision.

"But as one physician's assistant said, he was, "an extension of the hands, eyes, ears, to some extent the brain, and, to a large extent, the feet

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Hunt Calls For Use Of Doctor-Assistants

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of the physician with whom he is associated."

Early statistics from the new program show that many physician's assistants are choosing to work in the rural

areas, Hunt said. "This, in itself," is of great importance."

Hunt listed medical care delivery as the "leading problem in North Carolina today. You know for better than I do that the counties surrounding Buncombe County have an acute problem in this regard.

"The situation here is mirrored in the far eastern part of our state, where some counties have only one practicing physician.

"In the state as a whole," Hunt added, "the number of physicians per capita is far below the national average."

Hunt said the physician's assistant program "goes hand-in-hand with our efforts (to solve the problem) in other areas—increasing the number of doctors, utilizing Area Health Education Centers to train those doctors, building more community clinics and increasing the number of available internships and residencies."

The lieutenant governor listed expansion of the East Carolina University Medical School and increased support of the state's three four-year medical schools as other steps are being taken to increase health care delivery.