

Office
Equal Health
Opportunities
New file folders

April 11, 1966

COPY

Jasper Williams, M. D.
Chairman
Committee on Medical Education
and Hospitals
408 E. Marquette Road
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Doctor Williams:

I am writing you at the suggestion of Dr. Leonidas Berry in order to bring to your attention a new program of the Department of Health Education and Welfare through its Office of Equal Opportunities for the enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As a MCHR and NMA member, I attended the orientation course in Atlanta on April 4 and 5. I am now a consultant to a Regional Coordinator for OEHO, ~~Dr. Blotk~~ in Chicago, who is in charge of these activities for Region V. PHS Region V includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. OEHO which is headed by Mr. Robert Nash in Washington is making its first effort in the south but also evaluates compliance in hospitals in the north and other parts of the United States. The job is being done under considerable pressure with many investigators in order to disqualify hospitals for Medicare that do not conform to Title VI. I would strongly urge that NMA members who are aware of discriminatory practices including segregation of patients, differential care of patients, refusal to accept Negro medical staff members or other qualified professionals bring this matter to the attention of Mr. Nash in Washington. If this is done, I would suggest that copies of these complaints be sent to Dr. Berry at his office as NMA president so that a record may be kept of these specific complaints. While it is OEHO's mission to investigate each complaint as well as other evidences of non-compliance, it may be that lack of personnel or other factors would delay such investigations. If this does happen, the availability of a duplicate of these complaints in a central source would be valuable. I discussed this program personally with Dr. Berry and I am sure he can give you further information. However, you may feel free to contact me in Detroit if you wish any further details.

Sincerely,

Paul Lowinger, M. D.
Associate Professor

CC: Dr. Berry
enc.