

COOK COUNTY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INCORPORATED NOT FOR PROFIT

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August 12, 1970

Reverend Charles Koen
Executive Director
United Front of Cairo
414 - 14th Street
Cairo, Illinois 62914

Dear Reverend Koen:

Sorry I have not heard from you recently. This letter is to report a summary of our activities in attempting to follow through in establishing continuing clinic services in Cairo. There have been meetings -- a luncheon affair participated in by Mr. Leon Page, Mr. Robert Fulton and Mr. Harvey Lorberbaum of OEO, Dr. Jasper Williams (a United Front) associate of Mr. Page's and myself. Another meeting was held in the office of OEO with Sister Marie, Mr. Lorberbaum, Mr. Otis Mitchell, Mr. Fulton and myself. In addition there have been telephone conferences and conversations. I have also talked to Dr. Franklin Yoder, Director, Illinois State Department of Public Health; the President of Meharry, and the University of Illinois white senior medical students. All have shown considerable interest. Dr. Snoke has also shown interest in our efforts.

In summary there seems to be willingness and readiness on the part of Mr. Fulton, until recently head of the Regional Office of OEO, to make funds available for a project in which the "Flying Medical Group" of Chicago would serve as consultants. It was tentatively agreed by all parties mentioned above, including Sister Marie, that we would pursue the establishment of a continuing clinic at a place designated by black Cairo citizens but probably in the Pyramid Courts. A second clinic would be designated in a white housing project with St. Mary's as a back-up coordinating facility. We have been promised cooperation from Meharry which would send alternating teams of senior medical students serving in alternating periods of a few months each and supervised by one and perhaps two faculty members from the college. A team would remain on location on a continuing basis. A similar plan has been discussed tentatively in which the University of Illinois would cooperate in a similar manner at the same time. All teams would be involved in both clinics and the hospital. The flying medics of Chicago would send down team consultants to begin with, three teams flying down alternately every two weeks as consultants with the doctors on location. Of course, the Illinois senior medical students would be supervised by faculty from their school. We would hope that the County Public Health services in Alexander and Pulaski Counties, including available nurses there and other professionals and non-professional citizens would be

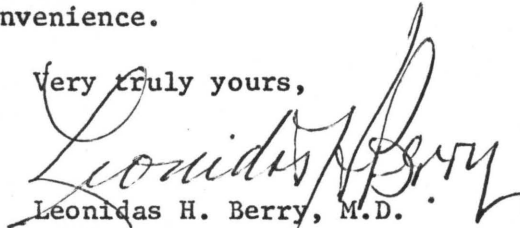
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recruited in that area to give important supportive, administrative and advisory services in these areas. The flying group of doctors in Chicago would attempt to set up conferences, the first one with the county medical society there in order to explain their (Chicago dentists, doctors, nurses, technicians, nutritionists and social workers) interests in helping to deliver better service in the area and to see if some cooperative effort could be established.

There would be an administrative group which we suggested would include biracial citizens of Cairo and 2 or 3 people outside of Cairo; for example, a faculty member of Southern Illinois University and a member of the flying medics. This would take the administrative advisory authority out of the hands of any active groups such as a United Front and the administration of St. Mary's Hospital. In other words there would be an independent cooperative group of people in the community with 1 or 2 outside members who would serve as buffers (for the strained race relations in the area) to establish this ongoing and continuous service. This service would necessarily start small and proceed as a demonstration project with support and anticipated endorsement of the State Public Health Department. We have been promised funds, perhaps in the vicinity of \$50,000 to be available immediately with perhaps \$5,000 to \$10,000 of this amount to serve as planning for the future -- such planning to consider the future extension of this kind of service into other areas of Southern Illinois. This is a brief summary of the tentative agreement which was made with the full understanding that they must be concurred in or modified by members of the United Front and other Cairo citizens who would make some of the selections of individuals to the board and staff of these facilities. At the last meeting I was very much encouraged that Sister Marie stated that she would tentatively agree to this overall plan and will cooperate to the best of her ability. Everybody, of course, is quite busy and the program has slowed down. I believe that it is important to get some immediate stimulation from your group and for some further conferences to get the whole thing off the ground before it is too late for fiscal budgetary requirements. We of the flying medics are as busy as anyone else and would appreciate communications from you to us as well as with Mr. Otis Mitchell and Mr. Lorberbaum at your very earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,



Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.
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LHB:db

Copy to: Mr. Leon Page, United Front
Mr. Robert Fulton, OEO
Mr. Harvey Lorberbaum, OEO
Mr. Otis Mitchell, OEO
Sister Marie, St. Mary's Hospital
Dr. Franklin Yoder, Ill. State Dept. of Public Health
Dr. Jasper Williams, Williams Clinic
Dr. Lloyd C. Elam, President, Meharry Medical College
Dr. Albert W. Snoke, Coordinator, Health Services

P.S. -- Recent events in Cairo beckon us to act!