

September 5, 1975
Grandview, Washington
98930

Hector Sanchez
Dept. of HEW
Public Health Service, Alcohol
Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration
5600 Fisher Lane
Rockfield, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Sanchez;

The Need for Bi-Lingual Nurses, Medical Technicians, Dental Assistants and other Health-related personnel is critical in the Yakima Valley.

The need is expressed by Hospital Administrators and Medical Supervisors as well as the lay people.

Along with this need, the interest is also noted, at this point. Evidence of this is shown by the large number of applicants that apply yearly for entrance into the Practical Nurses Program; with only a small number being accepted. Because the trend has been to channel Mexican-Americans into General Math and General Science areas, the students lack Biology, Algebra, and Chemistry; the pre-requisites for entrance into these programs.

To help meet this problem a meager attempt has been made by establishing a Pre-Health (Pre-Nursing) Program. We are now in the process of completing this program.

As a pilot Program, we started by interviewing and screening approximately fifty applicants for the available fifteen slots. Of these initial fifteen applicants; twelve are Mexican-American of which nine have now passed the pre-entrance exam for Practical Nurses School. Eight Mexican-American students are now completing the six month study.

This program was geared primarily to meet the requirements of Chemistry, Algebra, and Biology prior to entrance into the Practical Nurses Program.

Also included in the curriculum were Pre-Nursing subjects to enhance progress in the Practical Nurses School. At this point these subjects were also an incentive to these students.

At the completion of this course, in Pre-Nursing, the students will be entering the Practical Nurses School which receives accreditation through Yakima Valley College.

As Co-ordinator-Instructor it has been a rewarding experience. The Program, sponsored through "Manpower Monies", was initially for \$ 53,000 for a nine month program. This was later reduced to \$ 23,000 and shortened to a six months program.

Many obstacles, which hindered progress and student learning potential were encountered. Among the most prevalent problems were the continual turnover of part-time academic instructors. For the most part these instructors were insensitive to the students needs.

Supplies and textbooks were not provided until late in the program. In addition the academic climate was hindered by the poor classroom facilities provided. Initially the students were in a classroom where adult-education classes were also being conducted at the same time. From this atmosphere the fifteen students were moved to a classroom about one-third the size of a normal classroom.

Other individual problems dealt with transportation and repeatedly delayed stipends.

In spite of all these obstacles we have eight students who have successfully completed this program.

Also precipitated from this program is the new valley-wide program orientation between Yakima Valley College and CETA (Manpower). This program consists of two weeks of individual training, then channeling them into prospective areas.

My role as CO-ordinator-Instructor of the Pre-Nursing(Pre-Health) Program was in curriculum development, before and during the program, daily classroom scheduling, counseling of students, conducting advisory board meetings, evaluations, secretarial work, and Co-ordinating the entire program.

My qualifications for Co-ordinating this program were: Being Bi-Lingual and Bi-Cultural, a three year Registered Nurse graduate of St. Elizabeths School of Nursing in Yakima, having various work experiences in Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington during my twenty years of nursing. In addition my having lived in the Yakima Valley for over thirty years gives me a first hand knowledge of the Health problems of the Valley.

My deepest desire is to help develop solutions to the Health problems of the Yakima Valley

As this program delt only with Health-education, there are still many health areas, and problem to be solved.

It has been suggested to me by concerned citizens to make you aware of our situation.

I would greatly appreciate any suggestions, information, or support in this matter.

Cordially yours,


Mrs. Eva Bratton

cc: M. S. W. Project Administration

D. P. Garcia, M.D. ✓

Rodolfo Sanchez

Lucio Martinez