



alamo area council of governments
three america building san antonio, texas 78205 phone (512) 225-5201

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Regional Drug Abuse Plan Outlines Needs

The newly-published AACOG Regional Drug Abuse Plan clearly shows that the drug abuse problem exists in the rural as well as the urban areas across the 12-county region, dispelling a myth that drug abuse occurs only in the "big city".

Using compilations of drug abuse "indicators" gathered from statistics on the number of drug arrests, incarcerations for drug offenses, serum hepatitis cases, drug admissions to state hospitals, drug related deaths and number of clients at drug abuse treatment facilities, the plan identifies marijuana as the most extensively abused drug in the region.

In the hard drug category, over 20 percent of the drug arrests made between 1975-77 were for opium/heroin use. However this figure does not take into account drug-related arrest statistics such as robbery or burglary. San Antonio Police officials place the cost of one-half gram of heroin at \$14 and an average addict is estimated to require 2 to 3 grams of heroin daily, therefore requiring \$56 to \$84 a day to support the habit. SAPD estimates the resale of stolen merchandise to be approximately one-third the value. To feed the "monkey on his back," the addict would have to steal \$168 - \$252 of merchandise daily. With a projected population estimate of 7,000 addicts in the region, the value of goods stolen annually could reach as high as \$134 million.

The use of non-narcotic drugs such as barbiturates, anti-depressants, tranquilizers, inhalants and hallucinogens is also on the upswing in the region.

The AACOG study identifies drug users by ethnic and age groups. Specifically, males in the region have more problems with drugs than females, and there is an over-representation of Spanish-surname males between the ages of 20-29. Also, Spanish surname males represent over half of all incarcerations for drug offenses in the region, based on Texas Department of Corrections data. Juvenile probation referral data points to the Mexican American youth as having an increasing problem with toxicant inhalants. But all the data does not point to a single type of drug abuser in the region. For example, based on drug-related deaths by occupation the professional or "white collar" worker heads the list, followed by housewives. In a three year period, this is a dramatic increase from 14 percent in 1975 to 34 percent in 1977. The leading cause of these drug-related deaths was drug usage in combination with alcohol.

The AACOG Regional Drug Plan, adopted by the Executive Committee, is the region's analysis of the incidence and prevalence of drug abuse and sets forth a policy statement on the region's needs. The plan states, as a status goal, that the negative aspects of drug use should be reduced by increasing the availability and accessibility to drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

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Summary of Executive Committee Action

During the month of September, the Executive Committee reviewed 60 applications totaling \$21.2 million in local, private, state and federal funds. The Committee approved the Executive Director to apply for a continuing Planning Assistance grant from the state and a Regional Strategies grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In a report from Janie Goforth of the Regional Alcoholism Advisory Committee, juvenile substance abuse programs in Comal County, Medina County and Wilson County totaling \$48,800 were given favorable review. Five other projects in Bexar County also received favorable review comment.

In presentations from AACOG staff members, Frank Adamo and Minnie Williams, Title V monies for renovation of senior center facilities were allocated. Those centers who requested and received funds were, from the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee report which distributed \$47,182, the Cities of Pleasanton, New Braunfels, Hondo, Kenedy, Poteet and Seguin (and Guadalupe County) plus centers located in Gillespie County and Kerr County. From the Bexar Senior Advisory Committee report distributing \$134,736, Presa Community Service Center, Health, Inc., Jewish Community Center, San Antonio Housing Authority, Calvary Mexican Baptist Church, the Centro del Artesanes, Meadowood Acres Center, and Ella Austin Community Center received funds to renovate or alter the facilities. Some were allocated monies at a lower amount than they requested. The Executive Committee endorsed the two committee's recommendations.

In a report from Chairman Bob Blase from the Regional Human Resources Advisory Committee, the Committee favorably reviewed three immunization projects for \$1.3 million from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and the Texas Department of Health. The Committee also gave unfavorable comment to an application for a \$19,463 grant to survey 600 residents.

Lt. Jack Summey, chairman of the Criminal Justice Planning Committee, presented six applications, including three projects for a mini-Reasonable Budget Expectation. The priorities of the Criminal Justice Committee and the Executive Committee were #1, the San Antonio Police Department Latent Print project, #2, Hi-Speed Telecommunications equipment for the Counties of Atascosa, Comal, Gillespie, Karnes and Medina plus the Cities of Pleasanton and Schertz, and #3, the Hondo Police Department Juvenile Division Unit.

Two Join Executive Committee

In the past six month, the Executive Committee gained two new members.

Bexar County Commissioner Jeff Wentworth replaced eight-year veteran Earl Hill as one of the County's representatives in June. In July, L.E. Boulden, of City Public Service Board, was appointed to represent Public Utilities, replacing Tom Fuller.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governmental units joined together in a cooperative effort to meet the challenge of today's problems.

The AACOG Region is published monthly by the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Three Americas Building, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Copies are available without charge to members and other interested persons.

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GLEN HARTMAN, Chairman
San Antonio Councilman

GRESHAM AKIN, Vice Chairman
Wilson County Judge

AL J. NOTZON, III
Executive Director

PAULA MARVEL
Public Information Coordinator

JANIE SANTOS
Editor

Application Review Agenda

October 1978

HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY

Committee meets: Thursday, October 19, 1 p.m., Three Americas Building
 Comments to: Wednesday, October 18

- 8-10-18-701 APPLICANT: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
"General Practice Residency in Dentistry": Total Cost: \$133,242. Funding Agency: PHS/DHEW.
- 8-10-18-702 APPLICANT: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
"Dental Effects in a Population Exposed to Water Flouridation Levels in the 'Critical' Zone": A study involving Southwest Research Institute as well as the Health Science Center Dental School. Total Cost: \$207,782. Funding Agency: EPA - \$178,150. Local Match: \$29,632.
- 8-10-18-703 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Solar Utilization/Economic Development and Employment": To provide solar related training and employment to CETA enrollees; to retrofit and maintain various types of solar energy systems for low income homeowners; to expand minority business a development in the solar market. Total Cost: \$199,307.80. Funding Agency: DOE/CSA - \$101,633. DOL - \$97,674.80.
- 8-10-18-704 APPLICANT: Texas Migrant Council, Inc.
"Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Program": Comprehensive Employment, Training and supportive services to farmworkers in South Texas. Total Cost: \$1,593,506. Funding Agency: DOL - \$1,593,506.
- 8-10-18-705 APPLICANT: CSA of Dimmit, LaSalle and Frio Counties
"Local Initiative Increase": Provide administration and management support to central staff and maintain Credit Union and other sources of low cost credit for the poor and provide multi-purpose services to the poor. Total Cost: \$48,314. Funding Agency: CSA - \$41,294. Other: \$7,020.
- 8-10-18-706 APPLICANT: Economic Opportunities Development Corp. of San Antonio/Bexar
"Regional Migrant Manpower Program": To provide a comprehensive range of manpower services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Total Cost: \$259,200. Funding Agency: DOL - \$259,200.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Committee meets: Tuesday, October 17, 9 a.m., Three Americas Building
 Comments to: Mel A. Goodwin by Monday, October 16

- 8-09-18-004 APPLICANT: McQueeney Municipal Utility District
"Step I - Facility Plan and Environmental Assessment": Applicant is complying with request made by AACOG Executive Committee when they gave favorable review comment to the Step I application in October 1974.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW Continued

8-09-18-003 APPLICANT: City of Pearsall
"Step I Project for Preparation of Facilities Plan and Related Elements": Total Cost: \$39,330. Funding Agency: EPA - \$29,498 (Grant). Applicant: \$9,830.

8-09-18-002 APPLICANT: City of San Antonio
"Draft - Chapter IV of the Master Plan of the City of San Antonio": Briefing to the Regional Development and Review Committee.

REGIONAL ALCOHOLISM ADVISORY

Committee meets: Tuesday, October 10, 1:30 p.m., Three Americas Building
 Comments to: Martha Reyes by Monday, October 9

APPLICANT: Mexican American Unity Council
"Casa del Sol": A fifth year bilingual/bicultural alcoholism project for the operation of Casa del Sol Halfway House. Total Cost: \$194,238. Funding Agency: NIAAA - \$144,766. Applicant: \$49,472.

Housing for Handicapped Approved by HUD

The Department of Housing and Urban Development notified AACOG that four housing projects for the elderly and one housing project for the handicapped recently reviewed by the Executive Committee were approved under the Section 202 loan program. AACOG Housing Coordinator Claude Guerra was especially gratified, since the handicapped residents project had been previously denied funding.

However, persistence of a Coalition of Agencies involved with serving the handicapped and the AFL-CIO "paid off" for the 96+ residents who will be affected by the project to be built in four locations in the city. Realizing the special problems of the handicapped citizen, the federal government is more aware of his needs. Approximately three years ago, a Coalition was formed by the Cerebral Palsy Association, Goodwill, the Easter Seal Society, and other agencies. This Coalition met with City of San Antonio Henry Cisneros, HUD, and other housing officials to explain that the demand for specially-equipped handicapped units exceeds the supply. The Coalition asked the AFL-CIO to sponsor the project because of their previous housing management experience and their genuine concern for the handicapped citizen. Utilizing a survey of handicapped persons, the Coalition requested technical assistance from AACOG in developing an application because the agency is involved with both housing and human service needs.

The following is a list of the approved projects:

Project	Number of Units	Loan Amount	Rental Asst
Unnamed (AFL-CIO)	96	2,373,600	300,672
Pilgrim Allena	107	3,104,655	448,776
Palacio Del Sol	107	2,649,600	335,676
Inman Christian Center (above all in San Antonio)	107	3,123,285	455,760
Eden Home for the Aged (New Braunfels)	94	2,581,636	375,156

911 . . . Coming January, 1979

911 - the emergency telephone number linking life-saving services throughout the San Antonio Metropolitan Exchange area - will begin operation January 1979. An exact start-up day and time will be announced to the public at a later date.

In a recent Status Report to all the governments participating in the 911 program, the 911 Management Committee detailed the work of the three subcommittees it has named to coordinate the various phases of the 911 program: Technical, Public Education and Implementation Manual. According to the report, the 911 central answering point will be the Communications Center of the San Antonio Police Department. A timetable has been established for hiring and training of the City's 911 answering personnel, and an internal procedures manual and training aids are also being developed.

The equipment and hardware necessary to the 911 system have been identified and ordered, with installation to be accomplished in early December. All but three of the contracts with participating municipalities have been approved, and the remainder are expected to be acted on shortly.

Current plans are for 911 calls to be answered: "911. What city and what service?" Once this information is given, the caller will automatically be connected by the 911 operator to the appropriate agency by means of a pre-dialed number. The 911 operator will remain on the line long enough to insure that communication is established between the caller and emergency dispatcher. The public education program is being coordinated with the Technical Subcommittee so that the public is informed about how 911 calls will be handled and when 911 should be used.

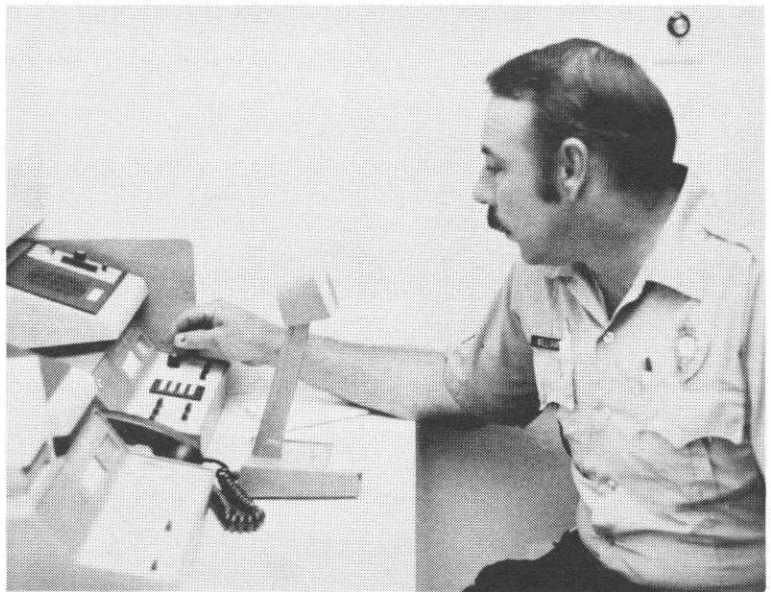
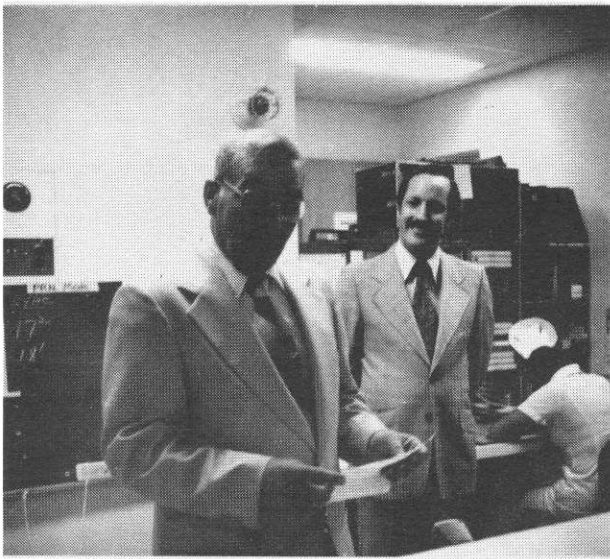
The first phase of the 911 education campaign is underway with the establishment of a Speaker's Bureau to make presentations explaining how the 911 system will work. Requests for 911 presentations for clubs, PTA's or other groups should be made to Elizabeth Rowland, AACOG public information, at 225-5201. The public education campaign is being financed through contributions from local individuals, businesses and organizations.

The experiences that the San Antonio area has had in developing a 911 system will be made available to other communities interested in establishing 911 in their areas. The Management Committee has authorized a subcommittee to develop a manual that can be used as a "how to do it" guide. The manual will use the local experience to suggest a mechanism for successful implementation of a 911 system at minimum expense to the participating governments and public. Due to be completed in January, 1979, the manual will be made available at cost through AACOG.

Southwestern Bell, according to their status report, has established an inter-departmental committee to oversee all aspects of the 911 installation. Among the activities are engineering and delivery of the new Automatic Call Distributor to answer 911 calls, preparation of new dialing instructions for area coin phones, and determining the volume of calls expected to be handled when 911 is in service. To insure rapid and reliable completion of 911 calls, all central offices in the San Antonio Metropolitan Exchange are also being modified.

DIAL
911
EMERGENCY
POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL

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Judge Jerome Decker and Al Notzon at Medina County ceremonies (left). John Williams, of New Braunfels Fire Department, tests the base station in Comal County.

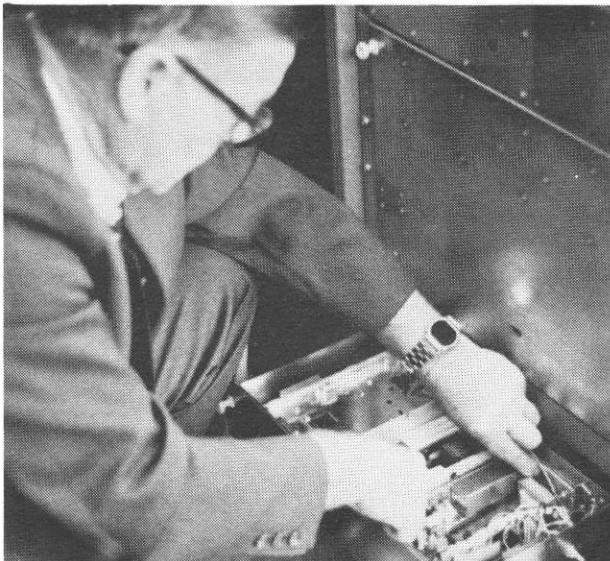
EMS Communication Systems — Accepted and Inspected

Medina County Judge Jerome Decker officially opened the EMS Communications System for the County at a dedication ceremony at Medina Memorial Hospital on September 15 in Hondo. Al J. Notzon, AACOG executive director, cited the importance of the improved communications as a vital link in the EMS system for Medina County and the 12-county region.

Numerous local and county officials were in attendance to recognize the significance of the system to the County's volunteer ambulance personnel. The already-in-use equipment was provided by a Department of Health, Education and Welfare grant through AACOG.

Using the hospital base station, Judge Decker spoke to one of the ambulances to symbolize the acceptance of the equipment. In 1975, according to a survey prepared by Southwest Research Institute, the hospital did not have a communications base. With the Regional EMS Communications Plan developed by SWRI for AACOG, the hospital and County have increased emergency medical service effectiveness, and the communications system is flexible to allow more equipment or refinement when needed.

During this phase, the system will allow communications between 1) hospital to hospital



J.T. Bradberry, General Electric



Kathy Fisher, Comal County

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Regional Drug Plan - Continued from page 1

Goals determined for the coming year are:

- Drug abuse prevention programs should be made available to all segments of the region's population.
- Drug abuse planning should insure coordination among local, regional and state agencies. A continuum of quality treatment and rehabilitation services meeting the needs of clients should be available.
- Research on the etiology and epidemiology of drug abuse should be expanded.
- Diversion programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of certain substance abusers within the criminal justice system should be identified and expanded.

For more information on what you can do to combat drug abuse in your area, contact the Substance Abuse division at the AACOG offices, 225-5201.

911 - Coming January, 1979 - Continued from page 5

The 911 Management Committee is chaired by Pat Broach, representing the City of San Antonio. Members include San Antonio Mayor Pro Tem Glen Hartman, Bexar County Commissioner Jeff Wentworth, and Mayors Ruby Weinholt of Hollywood Park and Bob Williams of Leon Valley, representing the Bexar County Council of Mayors. The Technical Subcommittee is headed up by Capt. Jacques Hardy of the San Antonio Police Department. Glen Hartman is chairman of the Public Education Subcommittee, which is co-chaired by Paul Jones of the American Heart Association. Stephen Seale of Southwest Research Institute chairs the Implementation Manual Subcommittee.

911 - to be used only in a true emergency situation - is coming ahead of schedule reflecting the cooperation of all the parties involved.

EMS Communications Systems - Accepted and Inspected - Continued from page 6

(regional), 2) ambulance to hospital, 3) hospital and ambulance to MAST, 4) ambulance to county law enforcement or local police, fire or city dispatcher, and 5) paging receivers for ambulance crews, hospital staff and physicians.

The equipment is under a one-year warranty after acceptance, and was installed with training to personnel provided by General Electric Company.

Similar ceremonies will be conducted throughout the Region as the counties accept the installation of equipment.

Specialized Course Offered on Rape/Homicide Investigation

A 40-hour specialized in Rape/Homicide Investigation will be offered November 6-10 at the Alamo Area Law Enforcement Training Academy held in the San Antonio College Continuing Education Center. The section on rape investigation will be geared toward the psychological problem of the victim. Detective Barbara Nieman, SAPD Rape Investigator, will teach this section. Homicide investigation will include a mock crime scene and, if possible, an autopsy. Enrollment is limited to 25 students, and all registrations must come from agency/department head. For further information contact AACOG Criminal Justice at 225-5201.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held in Room 532, Three Americas Building

- Monday, October 9 Housing Advisory, 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 10 Regional Alcoholism Advisory, 1:30 p.m.
Wilson County RC&D/Goals, 12 Noon, Marvin's Rest., Stockdale
- Wednesday, October 11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12 Regional Drug Abuse Advisory, 3 p.m.
Medina County RC&D/Goals, 12 Noon, Sammy's Rest., Castroville
- Friday, October 13 Bexar Senior Advisory, 10 a.m.
Alamo Senior Advisory, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 17 Regional Development & Review, 9 a.m.
Vandalism Task Force, 1:30 p.m.
Atascosa County RC&D/Goals, 12 Noon, Poteet
- Thursday, October 19 Human Resources Advisory, 1 p.m.
EMS/MAST Task Force, 7:30 p.m.
Task Force on Women & Alcohol/Drugs, 5:30 p.m.,
Luby's Cafeteria, 719 North Main
- Wednesday, October 20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m.



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