



directing council

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

X Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

IX Meeting



Washington, D. C.
September 1957

CD10/64 (Eng.)
25 September 1957
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Topic 40: PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU COLLABORATION WITH THE
GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIELD OF ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS
AND PRACTICES

Proposal Submitted by the Representative of Chile

All activities in medicine and in public health involve the application of technical standards through the medium of an administrative procedure. The best public health programs can be seriously handicapped by inadequate administration. If the methods and measures applied to make available to the population the facilities for preventing and curing disease and promoting health are not expeditious, a program will not attain its objectives and will not justify the monies invested.

Of special importance in public health activities are policies and procedures in matters of finance, budget, personnel, supplies, etc., to cite but a few of the functions essential for good administration. In the public health services, administration should be considered not as an end unto itself but as a means, and a very important one, of accomplishing the objectives of protecting, promoting, and restoring health.

The progress made by the national public health organizations has brought out, as a consequence, the need for having increasingly effective administrative machinery and procedures so that the resources, which are usually limited, may be invested in accordance with the nature and the scope of the problems. The growing demand for collaboration through the international health organizations has led to the same result. The need has become evident for increasing the number of professional and auxiliary personnel capable of performing the complex and varied administrative functions directly related to health programs.

The teaching of public administration at the university level is a relatively recent development in the Continent. There had been a tendency to consider that common sense was sufficient for the performance of administrative functions. The basic principles of public administration are contained in laws. The body of methods and techniques to put them into

practice gives administration the character of a separate discipline that specialized training. Those who hold the responsibility of directing national or local services in individual or collective medicine should have an extensive knowledge of the administrative principles and methods of the country. Without this prerequisite, they are not in a position to coordinate efficiently the work of the technical and administrative staff under their supervision. This fact has made it necessary to include in the curriculum of public health schools, where those professionals are trained, fundamental legal principles, management techniques, and other administrative procedures.

For these reasons, it is to be recommended that the governments give their attention to the constant review and improvement of administrative practices and to the training of personnel in this field, in order to ensure the success of public health programs. The excellent results achieved by the international organizations justify the requested collaboration in the form of advice to the national and local services, training opportunities, through either fellowships or in-service training, and provision of equipment.

The above considerations serve as a basis for the proposal of the delegation of Chile to give more emphasis, within the general policy of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, to collaboration in public administration practices as applied to health activities.

On the basis of these views, the following draft resolution is proposed:

Draft Resolution

The Directing Council,

Considering that the progress made by the public health services has demonstrated the growing importance of administrative functions;

Recognizing the need for improving, in the national health services, the administrative machinery and procedures necessary to ensure the efficient operation of the programs; and

Considering that it is essential to offer the administrative personnel opportunities for training and for specialized study,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Member States give their attention to the improvement of administrative practices related to public health programs.

2. To give emphasis, within the general policy of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, to collaboration in matters concerning administrative methods and procedures in public health services.

3. To request the Director, when preparing the program and budget, to take the necessary steps to provide this collaboration on a gradual basis.