

City of Cambridge

The City Council Committee on Health and Hospitals and the Committee on Human Services held two joint meetings on Monday, August 4, 1980 and Monday, August 25, 1980 at 8 a.m. in the second floor Conference Room at the Hospital.

The purpose of the first meeting as stated by Councillor Vellucci was to discuss the issue of additional bilingual interpreters for the Hospital.

Councillor Vellucci stated that he believed there exists a tremendous need at the Hospital since Cambridge has such a diverse community language that barriers are becoming more prevalent. He further stated that some people feel that the Hospital could use as many as fourteen (14) interpreters.

Mr. MacLeod, Hospital Director stated that he believes additional interpreters are needed and he had taken steps to advertise and post three (3) existing vacancies. He further stated that he did not believe the city needed three (3) interpreters per shift at the Hospital since someone is on call for emergencies, etc. and many personnel within the Hospital speak a second language. He also outlined the staffing at other area Hospitals in the field of interpreters and stated that no Hospital thus far has interpreter service available on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. He further indicated that bilingual/bicultural people make the best interpreters.

At this time Councillor Vellucci stated and Councillors Wylie and Walter Sullivan agreed that the Hospital should consider establishing a permanent educational program with the School Department in the bilingual area.

The Committee then requested the Hospital Director and the Human Service Coordinator to prepare a comprehensive memorandum on the entire matter and forward same to the Committee for further discussion.

At the second meeting held on August 25, 1980 the Committee received the memo from Mrs. Isabella Hinds of the newly created Department of Human Service Programs.

Essentially the memorandum provided a summary of the data available that describes the needs of non-English speaking patients at the Hospital.

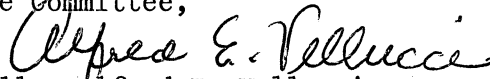
Both Mr. MacLeod and Mrs. Hinds stated that they thought the memo outlined as adequately as possible the current needs, problems and alternatives in dealing with non-English speaking patients.

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Councillor Vellucci stated that he would discuss the report with the Superintendent of Schools with a view in mind of creating a six (6) member task force to establish and implement a program to aid non-English speaking patients at the Hospital.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci,
Chairman.

Comm. from Alfred E. Vellucci, Chairman,
Committee on Health and Hospital, trans-
mitting report from said committee rela-
tive to the issue of additional bilingual
interpreters at the Cambridge Hospital.

In City Council,

September 8, 1980

*Referred to the
Hearing- Room
on File*