

Health Services

Human needs exist from conception to death. However, just as each individual differs from all others, so do one's needs vary from infancy through old age. To the sensitive observer, the presence within the community of many people having different needs is a reality that cannot be ignored.

Our objectives are: to promote good health to prevent illness and to detect symptoms of disability or disease before they develop to more serious stages. The classical ideal of a sound mind in a healthy body will always be a worthy goal for Lions service.

The Health Services Committee

- Studies needs of the community and what is being done to meet those needs.
- Proposes one or more service activities to the club board of directors.
- Assumes responsibility, as directed by the board, for performance of the activities adopted.
- Cooperates with other committees whose work might be closely related to its work.

Organizational Meeting

1. Chairman checks first with the president as to his or her goals for the year and budget considerations, and with the vice president under whose responsibility the committee operates as to committee duties. An invitation to both officers to attend is extended for all meetings.
2. Chairman sets date, time and place for meeting; notifies committee members at club meeting, by mail or telephone, at least a week in advance.
3. The first meeting is most important. Here achievements or any unfinished plans of the previous year's committee are discussed; ideas and goals for the year are brought to light, and the ways of promoting and ensuring the success of these goals through work of the committee itself or all of the entire club are discussed.
4. Chairman reads list of suggested activities from this or any other sources and leads discussion of community needs emphasizing the club's role.
5. Goes over those activities in which committee members have shown interest.
 - a) Type of activity.
 - b) What will be the reaction of the community to this activity?
 - c) What will be the reaction of club member?
 - d) How greatly will the community or the individual benefit?
 - e) How long will it take to complete this activity?
 - f) How much will it cost, and how will it be financed?
6. After thorough discussion, committee narrows choice to two or three activities, long-range or short-range as seem best for club plans.

7. With assistance of committee members, chairman prepares a written report for the board of directors. It should include project recommendations and project cost estimates.

Suggested Activities

Community, Education and Referral

1. Sponsor, establish and support a clearing house of information on local health agencies and services, whom they serve and what services they provide.
2. Compile or update an existing directory of available community health services and distribute an easy-to-use listing of these health services.
3. Urge public awareness of deficiencies or needs in your community's health programs.
4. Sponsor "information nights" with guest speakers from local health organizations to explain their services and functions in the community.
5. Promote health education programs to inform the community of good health habits, dangers from improper sanitation measures, etc.
6. Distribute literature on disease warning signs (the warning signs of cancer, symptoms of anemia, leukemia and other diseases).
7. Urge citizens in your community to seek proper medical attention for their problems and to avoid "cure all" patent medicines or treatments.
8. Consider support of qualified national and international health programs.

Detection and Prevention

1. Sponsor free medical, dental, sight and hearing examinations for the underprivileged and underwrite follow-up treatment if necessary.
2. Conduct screening tests for school age and adult population – single test screening or multiphasic screening – for tuberculosis, communicable diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.
3. Cooperate with school and health officials in insuring maximum turnout for immunizations (polio, rubella, mumps, typhus, typhoid, measles and other vaccines).
4. Conduct sanitation improvement programs such as trash disposal, insect control, pest extermination to remove possible breeding places for harmful organisms.
5. Urge citizens to have their pets vaccinated yearly for distemper and rabies.
6. Sponsor a health fair providing display areas for health agencies and their prevention programs.
7. Distribute literature on the importance of good health habits and personal hygiene in connection with disease prevention.
8. In countries where necessary, organize or support mass vitamin distribution programs, especially vitamin A, to prevent harmful deficiencies or disease.

Physical Facilities and Equipment

1. Sponsor or contribute to construction or expansion of hospitals, clinics.
2. Finance special diets, medicines clothing, bedding for clinics or hospitals.

3. Donate incubators, kidney dialysis machines and other needed equipment to hospitals and clinic.
4. Provide reading aids, films, ceiling projectors, radio and tape equipment for bedridden patients.
5. Assume responsibility for upkeep and maintenance of local clinics.
6. Provide a bus or other transportation for pick up and return of patients to a hospital or clinic.
7. Provide wheelchairs, crutches, canes and other ambulatory equipment for hospital "free loan" to outpatients.
8. Establish, support equip mobile examination and treatment units.
9. Provide equipment and furnish citizen auxiliary for community ambulance and rescue service.
10. Establish a blood bank program or actively support an existing program by donating blood, volunteers, funds for improvements and expansion.

Research

1. Provide funds for research and scholarship grants to medical schools, universities and hospitals.
2. Purchase or provide research equipment for hospitals or clinics.
3. Generate a public interest in research.

Cooperation with Community Health Organizations

1. Arrange programs in observance of special health days or weeks which are sponsored by local health agencies.
2. Provide financial support for health centers, clinics or camps maintained by your community health organizations.
3. Provide medicines and necessary equipment to local health organizations which treat the needy of the community.
4. Cooperate with local physical and mental health agencies to promote a campaign of community awareness of health problems, prevention measures and methods of cure.
5. Cooperate with private and governmental agencies in providing assistance to people in disaster areas.
6. Cooperate with local officials and community health organizations in a drive to get a doctor, dentist, etc. for the community.

Health Manpower

1. Furnish volunteer services at clinics, hospitals, sanitariums, nursing homes, etc to be readers, letter writers, entertainers, etc.
2. Distribute literature on the variety of public health careers available to students, adults and volunteers.
3. Urge members of the community who used to be technicians and medical assistants to consider either returning to their profession or volunteering to work in their area of specialization on a part-time basis.
4. Encourage the development of health careers programs in localities where no programs exist.