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# NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

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## CONTRACT SIGNED WITH OEO TO DIRECT 2000 PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT U.S.

### AAP Launches Head Start Medical Consultation Program

The American Academy of Pediatrics has undertaken a major community health responsibility to insure that health services provided Head Start children throughout the country adequately meet the health needs of these children, their families, and their communities.

Under a contract signed with the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, the AAP will organize and direct the Medical Consultation Program of Head Start child development programs in nearly 2,000 communities in the United States.

The Academy has chosen Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., F.A.A.P., a pediatrician from Chicago, and formerly medical director, Project Head Start, Cook County Office of Economic Opportunity, to direct the program.

#### Sargent Shriver Comments

Commenting on the program, Sargent Shriver, director of OEO, welcomed the wholehearted support offered to the program by the AAP, which now represents more than 10 thousand pediatricians in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. The AAP, to a large extent, has set the standards for child health care both in this country and abroad.

Mr. Shriver stressed that this contract represents a new type of relationship between an agency of the Federal Government and a voluntary professional organization.

#### Consultants

Initially, the AAP will select about 300 physician consultants from its membership, and from among other leaders in the field of child health, to evaluate the medical aspects of Head Start programs at the state and local level.

As more of these physicians gain experience in working in community health programs, their increased skills and knowledge will make their advice more valuable in planning and carrying out those programs requiring co-operation between physicians and government agencies.

#### Duties

Each medical consultant selected will work with the

medical director and other health professionals in Head Start projects.

He will review the medical aspects of Head Start applications submitted by a community; meet with local planning committees to map out Head Start medical programs; maintain contact with program medical directors; follow up and evaluate programs, and maintain liaison with OEO regional and national offices.

Consultants will work with the Office of Economic Opportunity representatives responsible for funding and evaluating Head Start health programs, helping them interpret the needs of the children, the resources of the community, and the success of Head Start programs. The consultant will supplement rather than replace, the medical and administrative skills available in each community.

#### AAP Responsibilities

In addition to choosing local and state Head Start consultants, the Academy, at the national level, will assume major responsibilities to effectively coordinate and administer the program.

These responsibilities will include:

- Assigning continuing Head Start projects to consultants.
- Setting up a reimbursement system for consultant services and expenses.
- Establishing a supervisory system to assure effective use of Head Start consultants.
- Maintaining records of consultation activities and costs.
- Tabulating and evaluating consultant reports, and
- Developing and staffing a national Head Start Advisory Committee for the AAP Medical Consultation Service.

Commenting on the program, William S. Anderson, M.D., F.A.A.P., Academy president, pointed out that "the Academy Executive Board and staff are enthusiastic

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## Chicago Pediatrician To Direct AAP Head Start Consultation Program

Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., F.A.A.P., a private practitioner from Chicago, Ill., has been named medical director, Medical Consultation Service – Project Head Start, for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Mendelsohn formerly served as the medical director, Operation Head Start, Cook County Office of Economic Opportunity.

In his new post, Dr. Mendelsohn will organize and direct the national Head Start medical consultation program for the AAP.

Dr. Mendelsohn, a native of Chicago, was born July 13, 1926. He received his Ph.B. degree from the University of Chicago in 1947, his B.S. degree in 1949, and his M.D. degree in 1951, also from the University of Chicago.

### **Internship**

From 1945-46, Dr. Mendelsohn served in the U.S. Armed Forces. He interned at Cook County Hospital from 1951-52, and took residencies at Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, from 1952-55. From 1955-56, he did postgraduate work at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis.

In 1956, Dr. Mendelsohn entered private practice, and continued practicing until his appointment to the Academy staff.

Dr. Mendelsohn held many key health and medical posts in addition to practicing pediatrics fulltime.

### **Consultant Pediatrician**

He has served as consultant pediatrician, Illinois State Department of Mental Health, consultant pediatrician, Virginia Frank Child Development Center, and a member of the faculty of the Chicago Institute for Early Childhood Education, in addition to holding the medical post for Cook County OEO.

From 1965-66, Dr. Mendelsohn served as co-chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Project Head Start, Chicago Committee on Urban Opportunity.

He is presently serving on the Chicago Medical Society's Advisory Committee to the Medical Director of the



Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D.

## Chicago OEO Executive Named AAP Head Start Deputy Director

Mr. Harry Ellsworth Smith, formerly director of Head Start operations, Cook County Office of Economic Opportunity, Inc., has been named deputy director, Medical Consultation Service – Project Head Start, for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

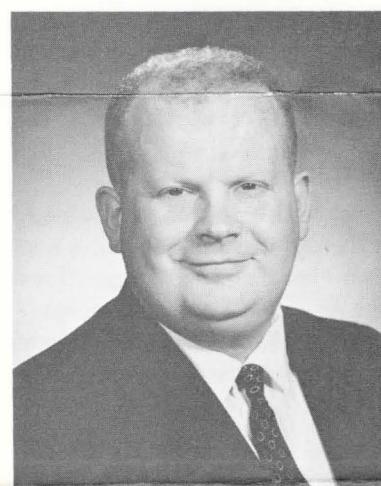
Mr. Smith, an Episcopal priest, will assist the medical director in organizing and directing the national Head Start medical consultation program for the AAP.

Mr. Smith, a native of Lapel, Ind., was born Oct. 22, 1929. He received his A.B. degree from Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, Ind. in 1952, and received his B.D. degree from Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Ill. in 1955.

From 1955-58, Mr. Smith worked as an Evangelical United Brethren pastor. He later directed a community center in Bloomington, Ind., from 1958-60.

### **Varied Activities**

Mr. Smith became an Episcopal priest in 1961, and from 1961-63 held positions including vicar, Christ Church, Harvard, Ill., and chaplain and instructor, Northwestern Military and Naval Academy, Lake Geneva, Wis. Mr. Smith was rector at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, Chicago, Ill., from 1963-67, when he joined Cook County Head Start.



Mr. Harry E. Smith

Start Operations for Cook County in 1967.

Mr. Smith is married, and has three children.



Board of Education; is chairman, Public Relations Committee, Institute of Medicine, and is a member of the board of trustees, Tikvah Institute for Childhood Learning Disabilities.

Dr. Mendelsohn is a member of the Chicago Pediatric Society, a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, a fellow of the AAP, a member of its Section on Child Development, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago. He is married and has two children.