

FINAL REPORT OF THE

Program on Food and Nutrition

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



Senate Document No. 3

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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Final Report to the
General Assembly of Virginia
by
Program on Food and Nutrition
College of Human Resources
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
July 1, 1986

The Program on Food and Nutrition was established by the General Assembly effective July 1, 1982 (S-274). Purposes were provided in the enacting legislation. The program terminated June 30, 1986.

As outlined in the legislation, an Advisory Committee was established. The following representatives were appointed: Ms. Lisa K. Phillips (Virginia Dietetic Association), Ms. Doris Clements (State Department of Health), Ms. Elizabeth Crawford (Office on Aging), Mrs. Jean Goad (State Department of Education), Dr. James Haugh (private citizen); Ms. Susan Simpson (Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service), Ms. Betty Thompson (private citizen), and Dr. Munsey Wheby (University of Virginia Medical School). Dr. Ann Hertzler and Dr. S. J. Ritchey, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, serve in staff roles.

The Advisory Committee met twice to provide a basis for the work. The Advisory Committee identified several important issues related to food and nutrition programs within the Commonwealth and to the nutritional health of the citizens. The following issues were considered important: identification of sources of reliable nutrition information, the incorporation of nutrition in the education of health professionals and certain educators, improved utilization of present resources, monitoring of present food programs, control of misinformation and quackery, improved use of currently collected data for evaluation of food and nutrition programs.

Nutrition education and coordination of efforts by public and private agencies formed the central thrust of the issues. Increased attention to the

issues has excellent potential for reducing the costs of medical and dental treatment of the population; for enhancing the health and well-being of most individuals, particularly those who have high-risk for poor health; and for achieving efficiencies in present efforts through a monitoring effort.

Two resolutions were prepared as the outcome of the work of the program and with the support of the Advisory Committee. These resolutions were transmitted to the General Assembly (draft copies are attached). The resolutions were concerned with support for the nutrition efforts in the State Department of Health and for the inclusion of nutrition in the education of health professionals and certain educators. Recognizing that the proposed work of the Program cannot be achieved without support, the Advisory Committee submitted a request for minimum support (copy attached).

Efforts to generate support for the program were not successful. The primary sponsor of the legislation, Senator Evelyn Hailey, did not continue in the General Assembly after session in which S-274 was passed. Senator Hailey and I met with Secretary of Human Resources, Dr. Joseph Fisher, and contacted members of the General Assembly in efforts to generate support. However, we were not successful in having the program budget included in the Governor's budget nor in having a member of the legislative body work for support of the program.

This report concludes the work of the program unless the General Assembly acts to continue it.

Respectfully submitted,



S. J. Ritchey, Dean
College of Human Resources
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Advisory Committee of the Program on Food and Nutrition has responded to the legislation enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, and

Whereas, the Advisory Council recognizes a significant problem in the Commonwealth to be the lack of nutrition training for health professionals and certain educators, and

Whereas, the inclusion of such training would constitute a considerable force in combating the increasing level of quackery and misinformation based on false beliefs and this training would provide a better basis for recognizing and treating medical and dental problems having a nutrition etiology, be it

Resolved, that the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry be encouraged to include in the educational program of these students one course (or unit) focused on the principles of nutrition and that this course be taught by a qualified professional in human nutrition, and further be it

Resolved, that the State Department of Education require for certification for teachers in grades K-5, health and physical education, and science (biology, chemistry, etc.), successful completion of one course (or unit) focused on the principles of nutrition and that this course be taught by a qualified professional in human nutrition.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Advisory Committee of the Program on Food and Nutrition has responded to the legislation enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, and

Whereas, the Advisory Committee recognizes that the present placement of the Bureau of Nutrition within the State Department of Health suggests that only nutrition programs directed toward mothers and infants be funded, and

Whereas, there are other populations, such as senior citizens and the handicapped, within the Commonwealth who require support for nutritional well-being, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the State Department of Health review seriously the current organizational structure for the purpose of providing increased visibility and additional funding to the Bureau of Nutrition to enable the Bureau to provide nutrition support to other needy population groups within the Commonwealth.

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The Program on Food and Nutrition was established by the General Assembly (S-274) effective July 1, 1982. Although the Program has made some progress on the issues identified in the legislation, significant progress seems unlikely without a minimum of financial support.

Achieving coordination by agencies, collecting and analyses of data for purposes of monitoring current programs, and preparing position papers to be utilized by the Advisory Committee and state agencies requires considerable time and resources. For example, appropriate and effective monitoring of present food and nutrition programs will involve collection of information from agencies and/or individual participants, conducting analyses of the data, and preparing summaries for review by the Advisory Committee and agency representative. Accomplishing this is a major task and cannot be done by individuals having full commitments to other tasks.

In the judgment of the Advisory Committee, the work of the Program can be invaluable to future food and nutrition program efforts in the state. Further, the support of these efforts are clearly cost effective. Thus, a "minimum" budget is requested (see attached).

Proposed Annual Budget¹
Program on Food and Nutrition
College of Human Resources
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Salaries

Professional Staff	\$30,000	
Clerical (one-half)	6,000	
Assistants (two @ \$7500)	15,000	
Salary totals		<u>\$51,000</u>
Fringe Benefits		\$12,750
Travel (for staff person and assistants)		\$ 2,000
Meetings of the Advisory Committee (to support travel for members not supported otherwise)		\$ 1,000
Supplies and Equipment (office, computer analyses, publication costs, postage, etc.)		\$ 7,650
Communication (telephone, etc.)		<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total		\$75,000

¹Budget requested on an annual basis through June 30, 1986. Amendments will be submitted on annual basis as well.

