

September Recognized As Sickle Cell Month

By Deborah Gates
Post Staff Writer

In recognition of National Sickle Cell Month this September, persons are urged to support their local Sickle Cell program.

An inherited blood disorder that primarily affects blacks, Sickle Cell Anemia or Sickle Cell Trait may be affecting some and they don't know it. A simple blood test can tell if you have either.

According to a spokesman from the Association for Sickle Cell Disease for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc., to get information about Sickle Cell Anemia, persons may contact the local Sickle Cell Clinic or their physician.

In compliance with the regulations of the National Sickle Cell Disease Program, it is mandated that all employees, board members, volunteers, and any other persons so involved with the Association For Sickle Cell Program maintain confidentiality in regard to all patient information and any project information at all times. Breaches of confidentiality will be identified as: information revealing the identification of a screened patient by name, address, phone number, or any other identifying entity, without the written consent of the patient in addition to authorization by the Executive Director or the Genetic Counselor information revealing the test results of any patient to persons both within and outside the project, without authorization by the Executive Director, Genetic Counselor and designated office manager; information re-

vealing the activities, plans and-or finances of the project without the expressed permission of the Executive Director or the Project Director.

According to Ms. Peggy Beckwith, Project Director and Executive Director for the Association for Sickle Cell Disease for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the association is presently sponsoring a membership drive to reach a goal of \$10,000. The money will be set aside for funds that facilitate medical care for indigent persons. "This is our first year as participants in the United States Civil Service Commission, Combined Federal Campaign," Ms. Beckwith said.

Ms. Beckwith said that persons wishing to be tested for Sickle Cell Anemia or Sickle Cell Trait may do so at no charge at the Independence Medical Center, 951 South Independence Boulevard, Suite 365 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. She said that services are available to groups also. "They may call and make the date and we will go to them," she added.



JCSU ALUMNI LAUNCHES RECORD SALE

Charlotte Chapter of Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Association has launched an album sale of the University Chorus Latest recordings. The more than 60 member choir, under the direction of Dr. Christopher W. Kemp features a medley of songs of the 1930's, along with sacred and contemporary music. Also included in the album is the

Johnson C. Smith University Loyalty Song arranged by Mr. Kemp. Pictured above is Rufus Spears on the left, former chapter president who started the project, making the purchase of the first record from sales manager Clyde Brown. The album can be purchased by calling Clyde Brown at 334-1368 or by going to 1400 Waddell St.

Alcohol Program Lily White?

Raleigh (CCNS) - Are you black, unemployed, and looking for a job?

Now hear this! The unaware, who for any reason, happens into suite 1100 of the Albemarle Building in Raleigh might leave thinking that blacks are not hired in the Alcohol and Drug Services Section of the N.C. Department of Human Resources. If a person did reach that conclusion it would not be totally incorrect.

The section develops policy and programs for \$22 million in federal and state funds for treatment of alcoholism.

The section employs in its Raleigh office one part-time black woman as a clerk, while all of its professional staffers and the other three clerical workers are white.

Dr. R.J. Blackley, acting Section head, says the lack of blacks in the section is the result of past discrimination and failure of blacks to qualify for professional jobs. A medical doctor, Blackley says, "I would like to say whoever is qualified gets the job" when a job is vacant. According to Blackley, the last vacant position was for a grantsman to write and attain funds for the alcohol programs, a position

formerly held by a black attorney. When he left state employment, Blackley said, a qualified black applicant could not be found.

The hiring of blacks in the Alcohol and Drug Services Section throughout the state is no better. The latest figures available for the section showed that in September black employment was concentrated in service and maintenance, skilled craft, and para-professional jobs, a persistent pattern in overall state hiring. Take a look at the following table which are about the same for black men and women in the section.

A state plan required for federal funding by the National Institute of Mental Health declared that the Division of Mental Health Services under which the Alcohol and Drug Section is administered, is "striving to overcome the many and diverse factors which have resulted in the under-representation of various minority groups on our staffs."

Prior to submission of the report to the NIMH a Task Force on Black Alcoholism was organized which recommended changes in personnel policies. Change in testing

procedures for hiring and the career ladder to provide advancement opportunities to para-professionals head the list. The task force also recommended establishment of a quota system in hiring, and a training program for black leaders to enable them to understand the nature of alcoholism and alcohol abuse in the black community.

Counselors are currently being trained by the Alcoholism Training Program at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Jerry Lotterhos, the Center's white director, in a proposal submitted to the Alcohol and Drug Section which was funded for \$22,000, identified the problems of hiring blacks in the state alcohol program very critically.

"The staffing patterns of our state alcohol-abuse programs do not reflect an equitable percentage (based on black population ratios) of black staff members, especially in the professional and administrative levels." Discrimination of blacks in hiring filters all the way down to an inferior quality of services Lotterhos's proposal claimed. Drug abuse programs are insensitive to the black alcohol abuser.

Mecklenburg

County Receives

LEAA Grant

The Governor's Crime Commission has awarded a federal grant of \$123,570 to Mecklenburg County for a remedial education program, according to J. Phil Carlton, Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Available through the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the grant will be used to establish specialized training for students who have been unsuccessful academically and socially in the traditional school setting.

"This program will provide a highly individualized educational setting to emphasize the development of personal, social, and intellectual skills in these young people," Carlton said.

The Governor's Crime Commission, housed in the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, regularly distributes LEAA funds to similar projects throughout North Carolina.

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