

October 29, 1973.

Dear

We, the members of the Inter-Area Committee, wish to express our dissatisfaction with the methods by which the U.B.C. proposal for mental services in the West Side Service Area was accepted and passed. The Citizens Committees were not consulted for input or criticism on a decision-making level that might have modified the proposal in any meaningful way. We are now faced with a proposal that in many ways contradicts the principles of citizen participation.

Our most urgent concern in this area is the way by which the teams in the West Side Service Area are to be established. It is our understanding that citizen participation will be invited after the teams have been implemented. At the Inter-Area meeting of October 12th Andrew Selig and Barbara Herrick, representing U.B.C., stressed that they had worked hard in trying to instill citizen interest in the project; however, a worker from Catholic Children's Aid in the West Side Service Area attended the October 24th meeting "to find out what was happening" in his area. He had not been informed of the U.B.C. project. It appears that the efforts of those at U.B.C. have been confusing to some and have overlooked others altogether.

The suggestion in the report for a "multi-professional consultant group to provide needed role models" is perhaps the most typical example in the proposal of the general tone in which negotiations between citizens and members of the medical profession have been conducted. We do not want to see this relationship carried over into the function of the future teams with their clients, hence our concern.

Sincerely,

Beverley Bond, Chairperson  
Inter-Area Committee