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A five county regional conference on comprehensive health planning ... an outgrowth of the first statewide Governor's Conference on Health held in late April in Seattle ... is scheduled October 25 in Yakima at the Chinook Motel.

The regional meeting, one of a series of similar area conferences, will be sponsored by the State Planning and Community Affairs Agency and the State Comprehensive Health Planning Advisory Council.

Conferees will be drawn from the counties of Yakima, Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan.

Representatives of organizations, agencies and individuals concerned with health will discuss ways and means of expanding and improving health care for all who need it. Special efforts will be made to invite citizens whose health needs are poorly met and whose voices are frequently unheard.

Discussion will include the content of enabling legislation and the roles and inter-relationships of the state, regional and local planning bodies. Workshops will deal with forming the organizational structure to initiate the planning process in each area.

The passage by Congress of Public Law 89-749 in 1966 was the first step on the road leading to the Conference in Yakima. This bill for the first time requires states to bring order to a chaotic uncoordinated

health picture through the development of a statewide plan which will look at all aspects of health concern, check out current resources, project future needs, find the gaps in service and establish priorities for action. This information will permit rational deployment of always limited facilities, manpower and money.

Governor Evans, in June of 1967, placed the responsibility for such comprehensive state health planning into the hands of the newly created State Planning and Community Affairs Agency.

Knowing that health needs are best known at the local and regional levels, Federal funds for planning will be available only if health councils are organized at these levels to insure that state planning reflects reality, not assumptions. Hence the October 25 organizing conference in Central Washington.

Hopes are high that the Conference will be a significant start to ending duplication and poor coordination of services and, more importantly, spreading the umbrella of good health care over every citizen.

Registration will be at 9:15 a.m. and a no-host lunch will be served at noon at the Chinook Motel, conference headquarters.