

# Metro Council of Health Seeks

The long process of organization and community involvement climaxed successfully when the new "Metropolitan Atlanta Council for Health" met for the first time and accepted formally the responsibility for guiding the destinies of comprehensive health planning in the six-county metropolitan area.

The six counties represented are Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Clayton, Gwinnett, and Douglas. The

membership of this Council represents in the truest sense the "Partnership for Health" concept which is the basis of Federal support of such health planning. The Council comprises local governments, major planning agencies, health providers, the poor and the middle class.

Attending the meeting from Gwinnett County were Hon. W.R. Pruitt, Chairman, Gwinnett County Commission and Rev.

E. B. Broughton of the Gwinnett County EOA.

The term "comprehensive" means that every aspect of the health landscape will be taken into account. This includes planning for illness and injury as well as environmental controls of air, water, soil, food, disease vectors, housing codes and construction and waste disposal. The fields of mental health, dental health, and rehabilitation must

also be considered.

Mr. A. B. Padgett, Trust officer, Trust Company of Georgia and Chairman of the Community-wide Steering Committee which brought the Council into being presided over the initial meeting of the Council.

Dr. Raphael B. Levine, Director of the Comprehensive Area-wide Health Planning Project, the organization which is doing the groundwork for the establishment

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## Area Progress

of the new Council, reviewed technical and organizational progress to date. He commented on the authority which the Council will have for reviewing all health-related plans originating in the community-wide plan.

He concluded by saying, "Ideas of excellence need corresponding institutions. Ideas need feet, so the pioneering march toward healthful, social change on a magnitude never before undertaken

has begun. This Council and its potential for salutary change and innovation must be supported vigorously. We must marshal all our technologies and disciplines in order to preserve and improve our environment as we know it now. If we do not plan wisely with a sense of urgency, we will miss what is possibly the best opportunity we will ever have to improve the health of this community

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