

Model City Asks Medical School's Help

College To Seek Contract To Draft Health-Care Plan

The Medical College of Ohio will negotiate a contract with Toledo's model city program to plan a comprehensive health-care program for the inner-city area.

College trustees Monday authorized Dr. Glidden Brooks, president, to negotiate the contract, just four days after a 24-hour family health care center, proposed by Mercy Hospital for the model city area, was described as defunct. Dr. John Brunner, Mercy project director, said that project was at an impasse because the model city citizens' organization had demanded "decision-making power" over the multimillion-dollar outpatient health center.

Planning Only

Dr. Brooks told trustees that the model city request to the Medical College is not a substitute for the Mercy project. He emphasized that Mercy's proposal was to operate the health program, while the college's agreement would provide only for planning such a program.

"They (model city residents) want to operate it themselves," Dr. Brooks told the trustees, adding that, "We prefer it that way, too." Once the health program is established, the president said, the medical college's formal involvement will be finished, unless it is asked to participate in the operations and chooses to do so.

Wants Veto Power

The model city program has a federal planning grant of \$100,000 to \$150,000 for establishing the program, but it cannot be implemented without an agreement with the medical school, Dr. Brooks said. He said that the planning work will be financed entirely by the model city grant, and that the college would be reimbursed for its efforts.

Dr. Brooks said that the college had been approached by model city officials about helping plan the program. He said the college has made it clear in all preliminary discussions that it wants veto power over planning personnel in any planning work undertaken. He said model city officials so far have been agreeable to this.

The planning contract, once worked out, would have to be approved by the college trustees.

Dr. Brooks voiced the view that if both Mercy Hospital officials and those affiliated with the model city and its affiliated organizations had it to do over again, the health care center project would have come out differently. He said the Mercy proposal should have been preceded by joint planning sessions.

He said it is "ridiculous" to plan any comprehensive health center for the inner-city area without, in some way, including Mercy Hospital.