
1997 Highlights of Accomplishments

Acute\Primary Care

! Finished Health Education Directory of Community Resources. Distributed more than 500 copies.

! Monitored changes in plans for the Medicaid and Medicare managed care programs in Tompkins County. Publicized the recent NYS Managed Care Bill of Rights.

! Produced a bookmark listing sources of after-hours medical care.

! Provided guidance on a local survey of workplace beliefs and policies about health promotion. Hosted speakers on workplace wellness programs.

! Provided some information on health insurance options. Monitored significant changes in six plans.

! Publicized existence of Child Health Plus. Increased enrollees from 585 to 690, an 18% increase. Worked with community agencies, schools, pharmacies and the medical community. Secured support for outreach from an anonymous source.

Long Term Care

! Completed the 50-page Long Term Care Needs Assessment including surveying senior residences, adult homes, nursing homes, home health agencies and community services. Projected need for future services. More than 70 people participated in this project.

! Worked with others to start implementing Needs Assessment recommendations about discharge planning, case management and others issues.

! Reviewed the need for an 80-bed adult home in the Village of Lansing and a 62-bed adult home in West Hill.

! Fought items in the Governor's budget: cuts in personal care aide rate, decrease in nurse aide training. Distributed data about potential impact of reductions. Also protested the use of a federal 86-page assessment tool for LTC.

! Had speakers on new programs: Ithacare/Longview's expansion, assisted living and Ithaca College Gerontology Institute.

! Continued the Bathroom Safety Equipment Program by distributing bath benches. Gave six presentations to help prevent falls for seniors; these included the video "Head Over Heels", handouts and a discussion.

Advisory Board

- ! Increased Council membership, including many consumers.
- ! Developed a mechanism to track the effects of health care reform in Tompkins County.
- ! Participated in a coalition which applied for Rural Health Network funding.
- ! Publicized the NYS program to subsidize health insurance premiums of new plans in small businesses.
- ! Invited many informative speakers to the Board meetings, providing information to the Council as well as the public.
- ! Appointed liaisons to other County and regional boards, including CNYHSA, Maternal Child Committee, Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca, Aids Coalition, Family Resources Coalition, and the Healthcare Coalition.
- ! Substantially increased press releases, securing media coverage more than 22 times (up from 15).
- ! Reported regularly to the Health and Human Services Committee of the TC Board of Representatives.
- ! Moved with the Human Services Coalition to the Women's Community Building.