

1999 Highlights of Accomplishments

Acute\Primary Care

- More than 300 people participated in “*Imagine Action*”, our spring **community-wide physical** activity campaign; co-sponsored with the TC Health Department. Awarded about 30 doorprizes including a \$500 travel certificate from Baker Travel .
- Surveyed primary care doctors; found a marked decrease in numbers over the last two years, with none now taking new Medicaid patients.
- Continued to market our ‘*Guide for Small Businesses in Choosing Health Insurance Plans*’.
- Participated in plans for a harm reduction program that includes a syringe exchange component.
- Took a lead role to protest the low reimbursement for dental care under Child Health Plus. Supported our County securing funds to have a facilitated enrollment project.
- Updated the “Health Education Directory” to include email and web site addresses.

Long Term Care

- Organized two **Gala Recognition events to honor Certified Nursing Assistants** in the County. Included certificates, longevity awards, favors, flowers, door prizes and recognition by Board of Representatives members. More than 170 CNA’s were honored. *Special thanks to Lakeside Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and the Reconstruction Home, and area businesses for their support of these celebrations.*
- Publicized the problems caused by the new Medicare home care restrictions; advocated for changes.
- Developed a community-wide job fair display to recruit health care aides.
- Thanks to the Board of Representatives for working with the HSC and increasing hourly wages to health aides in EISEP, the Expanded In-Home Services to the Elderly Program.
- Hosted speakers to discuss the discharge planning process.
- Authored **the Health Care Financing section** of the County Office for the Aging Millennium Report.
- Reviewed the Bathroom Safety Equipment Program and working to develop a new loan closet downtown.

Advisory Board

- Implemented our **survey to track the effects of health care reform** in Tompkins County; have 2 ½ years of data to trend. Sent results to legislators and other policy-makers.
- Advocated that a significant portion of the **tobacco settlement funds** be spent on health-related issues. Participated in the Tobacco Control Coalition.

- Hosted Dr. Roy Coates speaking about “Improving End-of-Life Health Care Decision Making”.
- Participated in IHCAN (Ithaca-area Health Care Action Network) to identify issues with **uninsured people not receiving health care**. Advocated for better NYS programs.
- Coordinated ten presentations for the Board and public on professional and consumer health issues.
- Had liaisons to Cayuga Medical Center, Maternal Child Committee, Drowsy Driving Coalition, regional planning boards and the TC Planning Advisory Board.
- Increased press contacts, securing media coverage more than 48 times, up from 34 times last year.
- Thanks to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives for their ongoing support and **increasing the Program Director’s time from 80% to 100%**.