

Highlights of Accomplishments – 2002

Acute/Primary Care

- Developed “Finding Lower-Cost Prescriptions: A Community Guide for Tompkins County.” Distributed to physician offices, advocacy agencies, libraries, county departments and other key community venues.

*Many thanks to **an anonymous donor** for \$1,000 to produce the prescription manual.*

- Held a training of Rxassist, a free software program with tools to help access medications from pharmaceutical companies.
- Began exploring the possibility of a community pool of free generic prescription medicines.
- Worked with the Tobacco Control Coalition to distribute **\$43,000 in mini-grants** to local groups for tobacco cessation and prevention. Encouraged physician offices to use the Coalition manual on tobacco assessment and cessation; secured \$2,000 to support meeting with physicians and their staff.
- Supported the proposed dental case manager program to increase access for Medicaid and Child Health Plus patients. Surveyed TC dentists to identify specific obstacles to their participation in Medicaid.
- Worked with Chamber of Commerce to seek funds for the Cayuga Waterfront Trail.

Long Term Care

- Participated in a Community Coalition on Caregiving to promote conversations on family caregivers and to enhance support for them. Organized a meeting of discharge planners to discuss connecting with family caregivers. Thanks to Alterra for hosting the luncheon.
- Contributed to a workgroup exploring ways to improve the guardianship process; organized by the Long Term Care Services.
- Participated in a fifteen-county Area Health Education Center which works to increase the supply of health care workers.
- Helped plan a workshop for women with disabilities organized by the Finger Lakes Independence Center.
- Organized meetings on advance directives and enhancing the involvement of the religious community in aging concerns.

*Much appreciation to the **Helen Thomas Howland Foundation** for \$10,000 for benches on the Cayuga Waterfront Trail.*

The HPC secured the funds and dedicated the benches to three community groups which encourage their members to be more physically active.

Advisory Board

- Implemented our survey to track the effects of health care reform in Tompkins County; have 5 full years of data to consider trends.
 - Compiled a chart about the **“Percentage of County Share for Selected Health Care Subsidy Programs”** and eligibility income limits.
 - Organized presentations on stem cell research and policy implications and new requirements on confidentiality of medical records with HIPAA.
 - HPC represented at Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca, four-county Healthy Living Partnership, and the DSS Medicaid Managed Care Committee.
 - Helped design a major revision of the HSC web site; posted more than 12 HPC reports available for download.
 - Compiled an **“Inventory of Selected Health Statistics About Tompkins County Residents Available on Websites.”**
 - Participated in TC Planning Advisory Board and represented health issues in discussion about a comprehensive county plan.
 - Thanks to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives for their ongoing support and maintaining the program at full staffing.
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