

Highlights of Accomplishments – 2003

Acute/Primary Care

- Completed producing “Finding Lower-Cost Prescriptions: A Community Guide for Tompkins County.” Distributed to 170 physician offices, advocacy agencies, libraries, county departments and other key community venues.
- Many thanks to Social Service League for \$1,400 to produce the prescription manual.
- Surveyed primary care physicians to ask if they were accepting new Medicaid clients; posted on the Human Services Coalition web site, I&R section.
- Co-sponsored with the UW and the Chamber of Commerce a very successful public forum on “Getting a Handle on Health Care Costs.”
- Worked with the TC Tobacco Control Coalition to publicize the Clean Air Act and its provisions. Celebrated the successful “Golden Ash Awards” of Reality Check, the teen smoke-free coalition.
- Supported the newly funded dental case manager program by publicizing its launch and success.
- Worked with Chamber of Commerce to produce “Walk Through History” an interpretive pamphlet for the Cass Park section of the Cayuga Waterfront Trail. Thanks to the Howland Foundation for design and printing costs.

Long Term Care

- Participated in conducting a survey as part of the Community Coalition on Caregiving to recognize unpaid family caregivers and to enhance support for them.
- Tabulated results of survey from the 225 TC respondents; developed presentation “When Employees Become Caregivers.”
- Assisted COFA in organizing the distribution of gift baskets to 100 unpaid caregivers of older adults. Thanks to IC students and community volunteers for delivering the baskets. Thanks to Alterra for a grant to COFA for the project.
- Worked with FLIC to expand the bathroom safety equipment offered through their loan closet.
- Participated in a fifteen-county Area Health Education Center which works to increase the supply of health care workers.
- Much appreciation to the Ithaca Journal for publishing the HPC’s six-part Op-Ed series:
 - Health Care Dollars
 - Myths and Facts about the Uninsured
 - What Businesses / Individuals Can Do to Reduce Costs
- Costs to Society and Possible Solutions

Advisory Board

- Compiled a chart about the “Eligibility Income Levels for Selected Health Care Subsidy Programs” and percent of county share. Worked with Human Services Coalition and Cooperative Extension about plans for a chart to include eligibility for additional human services.
- Gathered local comments and presented testimony at the Roundtable of the NYS Senate Task Force on Medicaid Reform.
- Organized presentations on terrorism and the public health implications and participated in local American Red Cross disaster preparedness meetings.
- Hosted panel on the potential impact of proposed County budget cuts on health care services.
- Publicized the new Veterans Administration services at Cayuga Medical Center clinic in Lansing.
- Contributed to “COMPASS,” community-wide needs assessment organized by the UW and HSC
- Participated in TC Planning Advisory Board and represented health issues in development of a comprehensive county plan.
- Thanks to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives for their ongoing support and maintaining the program at full staffing.