



Health Planning Council Highlights of Accomplishments – 2010

Community Health and Access

- **Urgent Rx** issued 1,593 vouchers to support medical treatment for patients without insurance who received care from Cayuga Medical Center and Ithaca Free Clinic. Provided vouchers for 2,978 medications worth about \$66,676 (\$53,414 of actual costs to program). Offered information about health care subsidy programs.

Kudos to Urgent Rx partners
**Cayuga Medical Center,
 Ithaca Free Clinic, Kinney
 Drugs, Wegmans, Tompkins
 Health Network, and United Way
 of Tompkins County**

- Monitored the **Affordable Care Act** providing information to consumers and agencies working with the uninsured. Publicized changes in insurance reform including the dependent age to 26 expansion, NYS Bridge Plan for pre-existing conditions, and new measures implemented in 2010.
- Facilitated the purchase of equipment for physical activity programs at **Southside Community Center** using funding from NYS DOH administered by the Tompkins County Health Department; part of building capacity for healthy communities initiative.
- Changed name from Acute and Primary Care to Community Health and Access Committee to better reflect the current focus.

Tompkins Health Network received 269 calls for information on health insurance or prescription drug access. Directed callers to manufacturer patient assistance programs for free medicine and helped to secure prescription drugs totaling \$45,000.

Long Term Care

- Secured a **Falls Prevention** planning grant of \$10,000 from the *Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York*. Will lead a coalition of local agencies in the development of a multi-dimensional falls prevention plan. Upon successful completion of the plan, \$100,000 may be awarded to fund implementation of falls prevention initiatives.
- Offered the **Healthy and Active Living** workshops, a chronic disease self-management program, at locations in Dryden, Cornell campus, Danby, and Trumansburg. Partnered with FLIC to train 6 additional leaders. Participating in the State Office for the Aging challenge award program for partial workshop reimbursement. Became certified to offer the diabetes module.

Thanks to the Legacy Foundation for \$4,500 to support diabetes workshops.

- Publicized recommendations of the 2010 Long Term Care Needs Assessment; started implementing priorities including exploration of Eden at Home and the Green House concept.

Advisory Board

- Secured **Creating Healthy Places** grant for Tompkins County receiving funding of \$240,000 to implement specific environmental strategies that support physical activity and improved nutrition in the community and selected worksites as part of a statewide initiative to reduce obesity and chronic diseases. Core partners are Cornell Cooperative Extension and Tompkins County Health Department.
- Advanced understanding of the Affordable Care Act sponsoring a presentation that was well attended by the community.
- Continued **advocacy for the uninsured**. Presented information on health insurance options at local forums and meetings.
- Continued distribution and monitoring of **TompkinsRx**, a free prescription discount card.
- Provided input on the potential health impact of municipal plan components to the Town of Ithaca.
- Hosted John Hughes of the CNY Area Health Education Center who presented on health care workforce needs in Central New York and approaches that can help.
- Received funding from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield to purchase a bike rack for the Ithaca Free Clinic and resistance bands for Creating Healthy Places.

Special appreciation to the Tompkins County Legislators for their ongoing support