

1996 Highlights of Accomplishments

Acute\Primary Care

! Finished Primary Care Needs Assessment which identified the need for an additional 5.5 family practitioners and 7 internists, particularly in Ithaca and the southern part of the County.

! Monitored changes in plans for the Medicaid Managed Care program in Tompkins County.

! Started a health education needs assessment including developing a resource directory and a health status profile.

! Provided community comments on the operation of HMO-PHP to concerned parties.

! Publicized existence of Child Health Plus. Increased enrollees from 507 to 591, a 16% increase. Worked with community agencies, libraries, mobile home parks and the medical community. Secured support for printing flyers from the TC Youth Bureau, the TC Health Dept. and TC Social Services.

! Advocated for the continued need for the downtown dental clinic.

Long Term Care

! Participated in the Senior Citizens' Council's Health and Wellness task force.

! Completed the Long Term Care Insurance brochure. Distributed over 2000 copies to senior citizens, businesses, insurance companies and the public. Funded by Cornell University Faculty Fellows in Service program.

! Fought cuts in the Governor's budget. Collected data about potential impact of reductions. Testified at meetings. Sent letter to Ithaca Journal protesting cuts in home health care services.

! Started LTC needs assessment including surveying senior residences, adult homes, nursing homes, home health agencies and community services.

! Had speakers on new programs: TC LTC assessment unit, nursing home ombudsman, and consumer-directed personal care aides.

! Supported Hospicare's request for County funds to re-open beds.

! Continued the Bathroom Safety Equipment Program, purchased a videotape on preventing falls.

Advisory Board

! Increased Council membership by 14%, including many consumers.

! Requested \$7,950 one-time funds from the County Board to work with the physician community in identifying health education needs and maximizing the use of existing resources.

! 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, TC Planning Committee, Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca, Aids Coalition, Family Resources Coalition, and the Healthcare Coalition.

! Substantially increased press releases, securing media coverage more than 15 times (up from 5).

! Urged the Ithaca City School District Board to 1) continue their health coordinator position and 2) approve an expanded HIV/AIDS prevention program to include availability of latex barriers and more workshops for parents.

! Reported regularly to the Health and Environmental Quality Committee.