

1998 Highlights of Accomplishments

Acute\Primary Care

Completed the *Guide for Small Businesses in Choosing Health Insurance Plans* Presented workshops with TC Chamber of Commerce and Cornell Cooperative Extension agents.

Collaborated with others on Congressman Maurice Hinchey's conference on women's health issues.

Organized two seminars on *Managing Patient Education in Private Practice*. Reached about half of practitioners in TC; resulted in significant increases in patient education in participating offices.

Supported a County proposal to ban self-service tobacco sites and a State proposal to extend deadlines to sue for misdiagnoses based on medical tests.

Took a lead role to increase **Child Health Plus enrollees from 690 to 902, a 31% increase**, more than our goal of 10%. Organized CU students to distribute flyers in mobile home parks and other places.

Long Term Care

Organized a **Gala Luncheon to honor Home Health Aides** in the County. Included a dynamic speaker, interactive theater troupe, the Health Department singers, proclamations by Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca, and door prizes. More than 170 people attended the Gala which generated much publicity. Volunteers, home health agency staff and Cornell University interns made this event possible.

Worked with others on discharge planning, recruiting more home health care workers, and assisted living care.

Committee initiated efforts for the **beginning of multi-agency Home Health Aide training** in cooperation with BOCES.

Fought the Federal Kyl Archer proposal to change how physicians can charge for Medicare services.

Continued the Bathroom Safety Equipment Program by distributing bath benches, hand-held showers.

Advisory Board

Increased Council membership, including more consumers.

Implemented our **survey to track the effects of health care reform** in Tompkins County.

Was lead agency in a coalition of five agencies which applied for funding to increase access to medical and human services for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered individuals and their families.

Hosted NYS Health Dept. speaker about Chronic Disease: Causes, Economic Impact and Changing Community and Health Care Responses.

Coordinated ten informative presentations for the Board and public on professional and consumer health issues.

Had liaisons to CNYHSA, Maternal Child Committee, Cayuga Medical Center, AIDS Coalition, Family Resources Coalition, and the TC Planning Advisory Board.

Increased press contacts, securing **media coverage more than 34 times, up from 22 times** last year.

Reported regularly to the Health and Human Services Committee of the TC Board of Representatives; thanks to them for their ongoing support.