

Highlights of Accomplishments – 2004

Secured \$130,000 for implementation projects:

- *increase access to prescriptions and health care*
- *improve health care staffing shortages*
- *support design of interactive health promotion project*

Launched Tompkins Health Network, as a program of the HPC, with funds from the New York State Office of Rural Health.

Acute-Primary Care

- Launched PMAP (Prescription Meds Access Program); talked with 100+ individuals who had difficulty affording **prescription medicines**. Helped 69 obtain drugs valued at more than \$12,300 free or low-cost from pharmaceutical companies; over 50 additional applications currently in process.
- Provided information and support to the Tompkins County Legislature in their development of a free prescription discount card for all residents. **TompkinsRx** is planned to start in early 2005. *Many thanks to the Health and Human Services Committee for their leadership on TompkinsRx.*
- Created the legal-sized “**Guide to Potential Eligibility for Selected Human Service Programs**” compiling data about income eligibility criteria, local contacts and websites for 35+ programs, including health care.
- Developed materials on saving money by considering generics or therapeutically-equivalent brand name prescription medicines.
- Contributed to **Tobacco Free** Tompkins Coalition to analyze the results of a TC survey on tobacco issues, behaviors, and attitudes.
- Received Trailblazer Award for help in raising matching funds to bring the **Cayuga Waterfront Trail** up to the Farmer’s Market

Long Term Care

- Gathered local comments to provide expert testimony about a proposed “**Single Point of Entry**” into the LTC system, being considered as part of NYS Medicaid Reform strategies.
- Reviewed new American Red Cross program on training for **Family Caregivers**. Purchased video, CD and booklets for loan.
- Contracted with FLIC to enhance their **falls prevention** program and to increase the use of assistive medical equipment offered through area loan closets.
- Participated in the **End-of-Life Care Coalition** to enhance quality of choices about medical care.
- Promoted awareness about **health careers** to address staffing shortages. Supported training in “Exploring the Health Professions” curriculum for eight adults who work with youth.
- Contributed to TC Workforce Development TF on recruitment /retention of health care workers and the CDRC “**Wise Talk**” Steering Committee on expanding mediation services to seniors.

Advisory Board

- Contributed ideas to an inter-municipal committee exploring ways to reduce costs of health insurance.
- Publicized the effects on health care services of **budget changes in the County and State**; advocated for adequate funding.
- Organized presentations on the four-county merger of the Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes, and the expansion of Cayuga Medical Center.
- Helped seek funding for LTC strategic planning and outreach on the Medicare Prescription discount card program.
- Participated in TC Planning Advisory Board and provided **health care facility data** for the comprehensive county plan.

Developed a report on finding lower-cost prescriptions which included information about Canadian sources; posted onto website, www.hsctc.org.