

Highlights of Accomplishments – 2006

Acute/Primary Care

- Helped the County Legislature with **TompkinsRx**, a free card for prescription discounts. Since 1/05 the 750+ users a month have saved more than \$421,928, an average of 23%. Distributed cards to medical offices, pharmacies, human service agencies and individuals.
- Hats off to our Urgent Rx partners: Cayuga Medical Center, Kinney Drugs, Tompkins Health Network, and United Way of Tompkins County for a \$25,000 United Way challenge grant and to the **Park Foundation** for a \$10,000 development grant for UrgentRx.
- Launched the pilot **Urgent Rx**. It offers free generic medications from a limited formulary to people with no insurance who receive care at Cayuga Medical Center's Emergency Room or its Urgent Care facility on Warren Road. Also provided follow-up and information about other health care subsidy programs. Have provided 859 prescriptions valued at about \$22,000 to more than 500 people.
- Adopted a “No Thanks Tobacco” policy to decline funding from tobacco companies as part of the T-Free Zone coalition.
- Participated in the Planning Advisory Board and other groups, and in raising funds to extend the **Cayuga Waterfront Trail** from Cass Park to the Farmer’s Market.

Long Term Care

- Thanks to the Wiggans Fund and the many **businesses and agencies** for their support of the Home Health Aide Gala Recognition.
- Honored Home Health Aides in our community-wide gala event. Hosted a talk on “HHAs – Key to our Community’s Future”, Health Department singers, and skits of home care scenarios. Developed a booklet on home care employment and training.
- Led “**Sharing Your Wishes**” Coalition to encourage and support advance health care planning. Enhanced skills of 46+ health care professionals and volunteers, distributed 3000+ booklets, and gave many presentations including “Talking with your family about your wishes” for senior groups and employers.
- Partnered with the emerging Singe Point of Entry for LTC in the County; will collaborate on a needs assessment in 2007.

Tompkins Health Network implementation projects:

- PMAP (Prescription Meds Access Program): Counseled 400+ clients about **prescription medicines**; helped people receive drugs valued at \$35,000+ free from pharmaceutical companies or at low-cost.
- **Health insurance clearinghouse**: Developing an interactive, web-based tool for individuals and very small businesses; hope to launch by “Cover the Uninsured Week” in May, 2007.
- **Health Careers Awareness**: Co-sponsored the Home Health Aide Gala Recognition. Also distributed career awareness materials for youth. *Supported by funds from the New York State Office of Rural Health.*

Advisory Board

- Publicized the effects on health care services of **budget changes in the County and State**; advocated for adequate funding.

- Organized presentations on the Ithaca Free Clinic, electronic medical records system at Cayuga Medical Center, mental health care services and trends, and MOLST in NYS (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment).
- Participated in the “Future of Rural New York Symposium” sponsored by the NYS legislature.
- Hosted Health Department talk about “Pandemic Influenza, Public Health & the Community: A Preparedness Discussion”
- Shared strategies and best practices with other Rural Health Networks in the State. Helped plan a conference on the health needs of agricultural workers.
- ***Special appreciation*** goes to the Tompkins County Legislature for their ongoing support of the Health Planning Council.