

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

NEWSLETTER

BIRTH ALTERNATIVES FORUM A SUCCESS

More than 100 consumers attended and participated in a CCHCC forum in July. The focus was on birth alternatives and the panelists included: Louise Halstead, Lamaze instructor; Shirley Moore, maternity nurse; Theodore Frank, obstetrician-gynecologist; and Debbie Karplus, home birth advocate. Discussion centered on increasing the involvement of the whole family in the birth process. Topics ranged from the spiraling costs of hospital births to the safety of childbirth in different settings. The CCHCC thanks the four panelists and all those who attended this forum. The responses was so enthusiastic that future CCHCC forums on related issues are now being planned. All are welcome to participate in these forums.

HEALTH AND AGING FORUM ANNOUNCED

Attend the CCHCC forum on health and aging on September 6th at the Downtown Senior Citizens Center, 9 Main Street, Champaign. Topics include illness and aging, food choices in aging, and depression and physical health. There will be two sessions, at 1:30-3:30 and 6:00-8:00. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Invite any who may be interested.

FALL, 1977

HEALTH SYSTEM AGENCY (HSA)

The Health System Agency is the agency responsible for health planning in our local area. It is authorized to formulate local health plans and priorities and has a powerful voice in how money for local health care will be spent. The federal law which created the HSA requires consumer majorities on local governing boards and stipulates that the boards be representative of the area population served. But a study by CCHCC members (entitled POWER, PARTICIPATION, AND HEALTH) has found that the local HSA board gives preference to people of higher socioeconomic status, that attendance at board meetings is inadequate, and that there is an immediate need for more consumer involvement. Consumers must join the HSA in greater numbers and organize to increase their participation on its governing board. JOIN TODAY!!! An HSA application is attached for your use.

ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF CCHCC

Attend the next meeting of the CCHCC at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, September 20, at the Urbana Civic Center (108 E. Water Street, Urbana). There is no substitute for an independent health consumer organization. Major improvements in health will come only with the involvement of consumers. The September organizational meeting will provide a chance for you to express your priorities for health care planning. If you have questions or wish to join CCHCC by mail, please contact:

Margie Checkoway
1811 South Carle, Urbana
344-5727, or

Mary Lenti
1010 North Busey, Urbana
384-0310, or

John Peterson
1210 West Stoughton, Urbana
344-5338.

I WANT TO:

- Join CCHCC and continue to receive the CCHCC NEWSLETTER
- Donate \$_____ to help CCHCC continue its work

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(Telephone) _____

WHAT IS CCHCC?

The Champaign County Health Care Consumers is an organization of local citizens and health care providers concerned with improving health care delivery to all residents of Champaign County.

The aims are:

1. To be a catalyst of information exchange and cooperative action for those individual consumers and citizens wishing to address health issues, especially cost and accountability services.
2. To participate in health care planning by promoting consumer involvement in HSAs, monitoring health care activities, and providing back-up services to health consumers. The HSA is the local health planning body in Champaign County (see inside).
3. To join in efforts to modify behavior of the general consumer public regarding discriminating usage of the health care system and pursuit of personal lifestyles conducive to good health.

Among the initial activities is a series of education forums to increase consumer awareness on important health issues.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HEALTH
CARE CONSUMERS
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