

HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1977

CCHCC CALLS FOR HSA PUBLIC HEARINGS

The East Central Illinois Health Systems Agency is in the process of developing a Project Review Manual which will establish procedures, criteria, and standards for local health project review decisions (like hospital expansion and construction). It has been learned that the HSA intends not to conduct public hearings on the Manual. Henrietta DeBoer (367-5134) of the CCHCC Health Planning Committee has written (and urges other CCHCC members to write) to all members of the Champaign-Ford Subarea Advisory Committee urging them to conduct hearings to allow public comment and consumer involvement. Major improvements in health will come only with the involvement of consumers.

VICTORIOUS CONSUMERS ATTEND FIRST HSA MEETING

Newly-elected CCHCC-endorsed members of the Champaign-Ford Subarea Advisory Committee of the HSA attended their first meeting on October 20. The Project Review Manual and the nomination of a candidate to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council were discussed. Fran Friedman (344-6533) has agreed to report in this newsletter on a regular basis.

CCHCC MEMBERS ATTEND REGIONAL HEARING ON CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT

CCHCC members Joe Ahearn and Barry Checkoway attended the Regional Public Hearing on Consumer Involvement in Health Planning on November 9 in Chicago where Barry gave invited testimony on "Consumer Access to Local Health Care Planning." The hearings were sponsored by the Association of Health Care Consumers and co-sponsored by the CCHCC.

ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS AFFILIATION CONSIDERED

The Association of Health Care Consumers in Chicago has organized to promote consumer involvement in HSAs. Formed by a core of veteran consumer groups in Illinois, the AHCC has recruited consumer members for HSA boards, developed consumer education programs, and testified on behalf of consumers at state hearings. The AHCC is the first health consumer organization of its kind and has supported the CCHCC from its establishment. The AHCC has invited us to become a full-fledged affiliate. This will be discussed at the next CCHCC meeting.

HOSPITAL PRACTICES AND COSTS FORUM ANNOUNCED

Attend the CCHCC forum on hospital practices and costs on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 PM, in the Urbana Free Library Auditorium (Race and Elm Streets, Urbana). A panel of local hospital administrators and social service representatives will discuss efforts to lower costs, practices regarding low-income and uninsured patients, admissions and discharges procedures, and other issues of concern. Come with questions and encourage others to attend. More than 100 consumers have attended each of our previous forums.

ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF CCHCC

Attend the next meeting of the CCHCC on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 PM, in the Urbana Free Library Auditorium. CCHCC action proposals and programs will be considered from the Health Planning Committee (Mike Doyle, 344-8896) and the Access to Health Committee (Paul Wilson, 367-5371). WCIA-TV Channel 3 intends to cover the meeting for television. Come join the effort to improve health care to all residents of our area.

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.

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CARE CONSUMERS

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