

Philanthropy Journal

OF NORTH CAROLINA

Early diagnosis

Nonprofits upbeat on Clinton health-care plan

Despite some worries about how they will be affected by the process, nonprofit hospitals, health-care agencies and social-service organizations in North Carolina like what they've heard about President Clinton's plans to reform the U.S. health care system.

BY BARBARA SOLOW AND KATHERINE NOBLE

When it comes to health care, North Carolina nonprofits are enthusiastic about reform. Although President Clinton's

plans to reform the nation's health-care system simply are a proposal, leaders of Tar Heel hospitals, health-care associations and social-service agencies say they are eager to be part of the process.

Small nonprofits, however, are worried about how the plan will affect their ability to provide health coverage for their employees.

And some nonprofit leaders wonder whether the plan provides enough incentive for state officials to involve the nonprofit sector in the delivery of care.

We are going to see more competitors linking up and working arm in arm.

ALAN TAYLOR

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority

In a televised speech to the nation on Sept. 22, Clinton presented the broad outlines of a plan to bring down soaring health care costs and improve delivery of health care services.

The major elements of the complex proposal, which now goes to Congress for debate, are:

- Universal health-care coverage for all U.S. citizens that includes hospital care, emergency services, hospice care and family planning.

- State-established health-care alliances that could be run by nonprofits. A National Health Board would set spending levels for the alliances.

- A mandate that employers pay at least 80 percent of the average health-care premiums for employees. Workers would pay the rest and the government would offer assistance to low-income people, the unemployed and small businesses - including many nonprofits.

Critics have called the plan unworkable, claiming the only way the government can meet its goal of halving health-care spending by 1999 is to cut medical services.

Some Tar Heel hospitals already are positioning themselves to be health-care providers under the new system.

In Charlotte, the parent organizations of Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital South and Carolinas Medical Center recently announced they will collaborate to avoid duplication of health-care services.

While not a formal merger, the arrangement will be managed by a

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Fighting addiction

Addicts recover in self-run nonprofit

Alcoholics and drug addicts change the people, places and things in their lives by living together in nice houses, nice neighborhoods and by learning to be responsible members of society.

BY KATHERINE NOBLE

Facing life's daily challenges can be difficult for anyone, but for the newly recovering alcoholic or drug addict, just getting through the day sober is challenge enough.

Especially if the addict is around other people who are using drugs or alcohol.

But throughout North Carolina, hundreds of addicts are staying sober by living together in neighborhoods like Wilmington's Echo Farms and High Point's Hayworth Circle, working and paying the rent and the bills themselves and supporting each other emotionally as they learn to live responsibly, substance-free lives.

In the past two years, more than 30 Oxford Houses have sprung up from the mountains to the coast of North Carolina. In the next year, that number is expected to triple.

North Carolina is home to many nonprofit, public and for-profit alcohol and drug treatment centers.

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Helping hands



Volunteer Judy Biber rocks a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery at Carolinas Medical Center.

Photo by Robert Miller

Volunteers pump heart and spirit into North Carolina hospitals

These days, the typical hospital volunteer does a lot more than sell gift-shop items and deliver flowers. A visit to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte shows the diverse duties of the more than 600 volunteers.

BY BARBARA SOLOW

Rogerline Lee learned a hard lesson during her first few months as a volunteer at Carolinas Medical Center in

Charlotte.

She had grown especially fond of a child of during her weekly visits to pediatric patients. But the child died, making Lee reluctant to return to Children's Hospital.

"The first week after that happened, I made up an excuse not to come," says Lee, who retired in 1991 after 30 years as an elementary school teacher. "Then I realized I had to put this behind me. I came over to the hospital and saw another baby in that room with eyes as big as saucers. I picked her up and that did

it. I was back."

Striking a balance between caring and composure is a daily challenge faced by the hundreds of volunteers who work at the medical center, the state's second-largest after Duke Medical Center.

Administrators say the more than 600 volunteers who worked at the center last year created a "continuum of care" by performing tasks that could not always be performed by paid staff members.

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No strings

Hospital takes gift, spurns donor

Julie Courts of Winston-Salem learned the hard way: If you want to set conditions on a charitable gift, you'd better make that clear to the recipient before you give the gift.

BY JOSEPH NEFF

The relationship between Julia Courts and Annie Penn Memorial Hospital had such a romantic beginning. During the courtship, the hospital-dined Courts, sent her roses on Valentine's Day, a lily at Easter and a poinsettia at Christmas.

Several weeks before Christmas in 1988, Courts donated her life's savings to the Reidsville hospital - unprompted, unsolicited and unknown to the hospital. The hospital directors were flabbergasted and grateful when 7,954 shares of RJR Nabisco stock arrived in their coffers - worth more than \$700,000 at the time.

The elderly Winston-Salem woman gave the money in memory of her grandfather, William James Courts Sr., a prominent Reidsville surgeon who served as a Confederate Army captain and surgeon. Less than a year and a half later, the romance soured, and the

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Bottom line for the arts

Arts organizations are stealing a chapter from business, with repackaged programs, innovative pricing and recruitment of sponsors

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Giving millions anonymously

Joel Fleishman has left Duke University to head a New York consulting firm that advises anonymous clients about giving away millions of dollars.

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VOLUNTEERS

Time, money for children

Charlotte's Jack Tate has devoted nearly half a century to nonprofit service and leadership. His passion is helping children.



Jack Tate

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CORPORATE GIVING

Volunteers boost company morale

Corporate employers are finding that employees who volunteer feel better about themselves and the companies they work for.

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FUND RAISING

Smedes York's public works

Raleigh's former mayor is one of the Triangle's leading civic leaders and philanthropists. Family and community keep him on the run.

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