

Planning Group Told:

Home Health Care Should Be High Priority

By MARTIN TOOMBS Southern Tier Editor

Painted Post—The medical director of Monroe Community Hospital called on health care providers to work to keep long term patients out of hospitals and nursing homes at the annual meeting of the Southern Tier Subarea Council of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency here March 6.



DR. WILLIAMS

Dr. T. Franklin Williams, also a professor of preventive medicine and long term care at the University of Rochester Medical School, emphasized that "the most important priority, in my mind, for long-term care" is home care, adding that there is "considerable room for improvement in New York State" in the provision of home health care services.

Williams was commenting on recommendations from a conference last December at Arden House, outside New York City, "to consider state policy on long-term care." Williams was one of approximately 40 participants from health fields and government who participated.

Williams reported that he recently traveled in Australia and New Zealand examining their health care systems, and was impressed by "the degree to which they have support services" for the elderly and chronically ill. Agencies in each area take responsibility for home services, he explained, and "what they did is what a person needed." He said that if a door needs to be widened for a wheelchair, it is done; if homemaking is needed, it is supplied. There is "no dividing line" between responsibilities, he noted; they gave "the agencies

responsibility to provide what people needed" without regard for the nature of the need.

The agencies receive funds to provide the services in their area from the government, he explained, and are not paid on a fee-for-service basis.

One criticism he had is that the agencies did their job so well that they tended to cause dependence, he said, and didn't stress achieving independence enough.

The program has other benefits, he pointed out. Auckland is a New Zealand city nearly the same size as Monroe County, he noted, and has about the same number of hospital beds per thousand of population. But Monroe County has 6,500 long term beds, while Auckland has only 2,100. "The difference is the home support program," Williams stated.

He also pointed out that currently there are "fiscal disincentives" to home care, as insurance and government health payment programs often pay only for institutional care. Williams observed that health insurance was first intended to "relieve people from the most catastrophic load" and so covers the more expensive care. He said that he hoped the health care industry was "past that now" and could instead consider the best way to provide services.

Williams reviewed other recommendations of the conference as well.

The conference recommended that all long term care providers in the state "work together on an overall state plan" for providing services. "We cannot simply go on with the fragmented" policies in

existence, Williams explained.

The group also called for consideration of social components of care. Williams said that "health services really are services" and "should serve people's goals." Social effects need to be studied, he noted, and commented that he hasn't heard much discussion of such implications in current health planning.

The conferees also recommended that local committees be established to insure that patients "get care appropriate to their needs." This would involve preventing persons from receiving a higher, and therefore more expensive, level of care than needed, as well as supplying the level that is necessary, he explained.

Other recommendations, Williams reported, favored multi-level nursing facilities, as movement within a single institution would be less disruptive to the patient; assuring user rights; and increased training of health professionals in geriatrics.

He also pointed out that comparisons of the costs of home health care and institutional care show that

St. Stephen's Liturgists Get Professional Advice

Geneva — The Liturgy Committee of St. Stephen's Church has completed a five-session study under the

direction of Ralph Middlecamp, a newcomer to the parish who serves as director of folk music and

as Minister of Music for the Catholic Community at Hobart and William Smith colleges.

'Godspell', March 22

Elmira—The Celebrate Life Choir will be presenting "Godspell" at the Samuel Clemens Performing Arts Center in downtown Elmira Wednesday, March 22 at 8 p.m. The choir, based in St. Mary Our Mother Parish, Horseheads, is reviving the

Holy Week production of past years. Tickets are available from the Clemens Center box office, Rudy Baer's, Horseheads, and from Celebrate Life members. Special student tickets also are available at area schools.

Middlecamp has an extensive background in church music and liturgy. His book, Ministry of Music in Catholic Worship, is about to be brought out by the Pastoral Arts Associates of Phoenix, Ariz.

In the recent workshop, the committee considered its goals and objectives and how to achieve them. Their instructor is a 1974 graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he was employed as liturgy coordinator for the University Catholic Center, and, until last June, music director at the Lutheran Campus Center. He was a member of the board of directors of the Wisconsin Association of Theater and the Church in 1976, and a member of the Moravian Church Worship Commission. He led a workshop at the National Moravian Music Festival in 1974 and has written music reviews for the National Catholic Reporter.

ABSOLUTION

Seneca Falls—A general absolution is

scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday, March 20, at St. Patrick's Church.

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA



String Art

Eighth graders from St. Hyacinth's School, Auburn, display "String Art" designs they made recently. Sister Conrad Marie (upper left) principal and math teacher at the school, explained that String Art is created by making simple geometric designs with a multitude of straight lines.



Mary Lu Walker entertains at meeting.

Corning CWU Observes World Day of Prayer

Corning—About 100 women attended Church Women United's World Day of Prayer observance at St. Patrick's School March 3.

The women, representing many Corning area churches, used a prayer service titled "Community Spirit in Modern Living," prepared by Canadian Church Women United (CWU) groups.

The World Day of Prayer is sponsored by the International Committee for the World Day of Prayer in 140 countries around the world, and in the United States by CWU.

The prayer service's theme was Christian community, and the

program's speaker, Sister Susan Novak, SSJ, pointed out the model Christian communities described in Scripture.

"Faith belief brings us to community," she told those attending, noting that it is important for Christians to determine "what is our community presence, what is our spirit presence, to the world today?"

It is from the faith of our ancestors, Sister Susan noted, that people can understand community today.

Christians need to examine "how we strive to live" a Christian existence "in our daily lives," she noted. The Acts of the Apostles offers a model for Christian living, she pointed out, a community in which

"the faithful all lived together and shared everything in common."

Before Christ's ascension, she stated, He "promised them (the Apostles) the Spirit," and "here our strength lies too, for the promise is ours also."

Offerings from the day will support CWU self-help projects.

Organizing the event were Sisters Agnes Catherine and Ann Miller; Mary Lu Walker led the singing. Evelyn Clark of Painted Post Presbyterian Church is president of the Corning CWU chapter.

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