

Priority Problems List

The Cheatham County Health Council reviewed a considerable amount of data related to the health status of its residents during 1997. A summary of the data, as related to each of the preliminary problem areas, was assembled to establish the degree each problem posed in the county. Each of the preliminary problems were validated by the council as a major problem, and no additional issues were added after a complete review of available data sets.

To establish the priorities among the identified health problems, the council used a modified version of the J.J. Hanlon method. The ten problem areas were ranked 1 through 10 in two categories, size and seriousness. The rank assigned in each category was based on the data and each member's perception of the problem. The rankings for both categories were combined for a total score for each problem. The problem area with the lowest total score became the individual's #1 ranked problem, and the problem area with the highest total score became the individual's #10 ranked problem. Score sheets of the entire council were combined in the same manner to obtain the council's priority problem ranking. The outcome of this ranking, along with the supporting data utilized to validate and rank each problem area, is provided below.

1. Medically Underserved (Physician Shortage)-No Obstetrics-

Lack Of Facilities-Specialized Services-Full Service Health Care [21 Points]

- Data Observations: Cheatham County is ranked 2nd in the State for a shortage of primary care providers according to the Rankings of the 1997 Shortage Counties by the Office of Rural Health and Health Access (June 1997). Cheatham County is included in the Rational Service Area with Sumner, Williamson, Davidson, and Wilson (partial) for Obstetrics. When the female population (15-44 years) is compared with the OB/GYN providers in this area, no shortage for obstetrical care exists for this population (February 1997). Therefore, no State or Federal incentives are available to attract Obstetric providers. The county hospital does not provide obstetrical care at this time and no OB/GYN providers are practicing in the county.
- Peggy Miller, Administrator at Columbia Cheatham Medical Center, gave the council a "Time Line For Expanded Services" at the Medical Center as follows:
 - ⇒ July 1997---In-house Mammography Unit accredited and ready for use, and also, in-house C.T. Unit accredited and ready for use
 - ⇒ August 1997---Two mobile medical office units to provide space for Medical Records and Physical Therapy. This move will free up space for additional physicians.
 - ⇒ Dr. Gordon Kelly to provide full time and on-call General Surgery
 - ⇒ American Cancer Society support groups to be hospital-based
 - ⇒ Feb. 1998---Additional Family Practitioner
 - ⇒ 1999---A New Facility (Likelihood of this development has diminished)