Elderly's medical services are adequate

By JAN MASCIOLI
Collegian Staff Writer

There are adequate medical services available for the elderly who need them, according to a 1975 senior citizens study by the Centre Regional Planning Commission.

The study also concluded most of the region's elderly are relatively free of medical problems that constrain activity.

More than 71 per cent of 104 senior citizens questioned used the region's medical services in 1975, according to the study. All of those questioned said they were "very satisfied" with the service received.

According to the study, 52 per cent of those surveyed had continuing health problems. This is below the state average according to Eloise Melson, welfare policy specialist in Harrisburg. Melson said most of the state's elderly suffer from chronic health conditions.

She said that 18 per cent are limited in mobility, 5 per cent confined to the house and 7 per cent need another person's help or the aid of special equipment to get around.

Among the medical and health services available for Centre County's elderly are the Health C.A.R.E. Clinic and Home Health Service.

The clinic, located in the Benedict House at the University, offers free health counseling, assessment, restoration, and education, or health teaching and health promotion to facilitate self-care skills. It is open Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and also by appointment.

The Home Health Service provides nursing service and therapeutic services, along with chore service, and homemaker-home health aid service on a visiting basis. Fees are adjusted according to income.

The service is located at 315 West High St. in Bellefonte.

Mental health services are provided by the Mental Health-Mental Retardation unit in the Temple Court Building, 116 S. Alleghency St. in Bellefonte. It is basically a referral service, consultation and educational service and fees are adjusted to income.

It is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The University offers a psychological clinic in 314 Moore Building, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fees are adjusted to income for services, including psychological assessment, individual therapy, group therapy, behavior modification and community mental health consultation.

Therapeutic dietary management of medical problems are among the services offered by the nutrition clinic and consultation center at the Beecher-Dock House, Elm Road, at the University.

There is no charge for services, but any therapeutic diet consultation requires a physician's approval.

5 new botulism cases appear in worst outbreak

PONTIAC, Mich. (UPI) — Five new botulism cases were reported yesterday in the worst such outbreak in U.S. history. In all, 44 persons have been stricken.

"It should pretty much start tapering off now," said Hank Costantino, Oakland County health administrator. "We sure hope, anyway, that this is the last big group that we get."

Costantino said his office was still expecting the final toll to approach 50.

Of the new cases reported at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, two were sent home under the care of private physicians. None of the 44 confirmed victims has died. Three were in critical but stable condition at St. Joseph.

The poisoning has been traced to green peppers in hot sauce served last week at Trini and Carmen's Mexican Restaurant. Invetigators have determined a former employee improperly canned the peppers at home.

Those still in the St. Joseph intensive care unit included Diane Sprengler, 30, of Union Lake. She is a nurse at the hospital next door to the restaurant and was the first confirmed case last Thursday. She ate the tainted hot sauce two nights in a row.

Etta Mosele, 31, and Jennie Coe, 23, both of Pontiac, were the others in critical condition.

House coalition advocates tough human rights stand

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A coalition of Democrats and Republicans rebuffed President Carter yesterday and voted to toughen human rights language in an international lending bill.

The House approved an amendment by Rep. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, requiring U.S. representatives in any international lending institution to oppose financial aid to any country which violates "internationally recognized human needs."

The measure would authorize $5.2 billion over four years for groups such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Fund.

The measure was passed on a 194-156 vote and sent to the Senate.

The House also removed a $150 million authorization for the African fund and replaced it with an open end authorization, meaning no specific amount was approved. It agreed that no U.S. funds could go to nations to help them cultivate palm oil, citrus or sugar in competition with American producers.

Speaker Thomas O'Neill and other House Democratic leaders backed Carter in his opposition to the Harkin amendment. The bill as it came from the House Banking Committee had administration-backed language that only urged U.S. representatives to oppose such aid.

"We want to implement this country's commitment to promoting human rights without adopting an overly rigid approach which would subvert the integrity and effectiveness of the institutions," Carter wrote Rep. Henry Reuss, D-Wis., chairman of the banking panel.

"The problem with the Harkin-Badillo amendment is that it permits loans to be made to torturing dictators and others of that stripe if they show the aid is going to needy citizens of the country," said Reuss in opening debate.

"All the torturers of Chile have to do is dress up their application with promises the money will go to their needy and tortured citizens."

Rep. John Rousselot, R-Calif., said Carter's opposition to the amendment means "the administration is backing away from its position on human rights."

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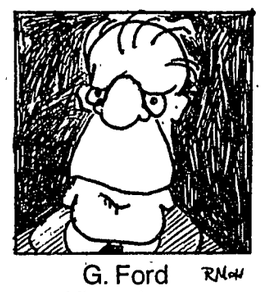
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