

## Health Plan Of Nevada Introduces New Health Care Options For Seniors

LAS VEGAS — Recent Medicare legislation has provided the foundation for Senior Dimensions, a comprehensive health care plan to be offered to Medicare recipients by Health Plan of Nevada (HPN). HPN, the state's only licensed and federally-qualified health maintenance organization (HMO), began enrollment for this new plan on June 4th.

"Medicare currently covers less than two-thirds of its recipients' health care costs, imposing an intolerable financial burden on many seniors," said David B. Willis, Senior Vice President of Sierra Health Services, Inc., the parent company of HPN. "The new legislation, which went into effect on February 1, provides the opportunity for HPN to offer Senior Dimensions which will provide comprehensive, quality, prepaid health care at almost no cost to members. In addition, we can eliminate the complex paperwork of claim forms, a big plus for most seniors," he added.

Willis stressed that Senior Dimensions will be aided in its push to cut health care costs by the proven ability of HPN, in cooperation with Southwest Medical Associates and other participating physicians, to keep its members healthy through programs which stress early disease detection and preventive medicine. "Our bottom line is providing quality health care that's affordable to every senior," he said.

HPN will offer two Senior Dimensions options. One provides comprehensive medical care, both in the hospital and out, for a \$5.00 monthly premium. The other option will add vision care and prescription drug coverage, for a \$20.00 monthly premium. Neither plan will have a deductible and both will cover 100% of the bill. Currently, Medicare covers an average of only 55% of a medical bill and does not cover routine physical exams.

To be able to enroll in Senior Dimensions, participants must be Medicare-eligible, and they must agree to be treated only by HPN approved doctors and hospitals, except in an emergency.

Under the new regulations, Medicare will pay

the HMO in advance at a rate of 95% of Medicare's current average cost of providing medical services to its recipients. Thereafter, the HMO assumes total risk for a patient's care -- receiving no additional money from Medicare if costs are higher than expected. This arrangement helps the Medicare member by significantly reducing out-of-pocket costs and paperwork and by increasing their benefits. It also helps the Medicare system save money and stem the impact of rising health care costs. It benefits the HMO by providing a large patient base.

Beginning in 1980, 26 HMO demonstration projects were instituted in 21 cities throughout the U.S. There were 275,000 Medicare patients enrolled in these projects and, according to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, Margaret M. Heckler, the experience was extremely positive.

"The demonstration project was very successful and proved that HMOs can provide excellent health care for senior citizens at a lower cost," she has been quoted as saying.

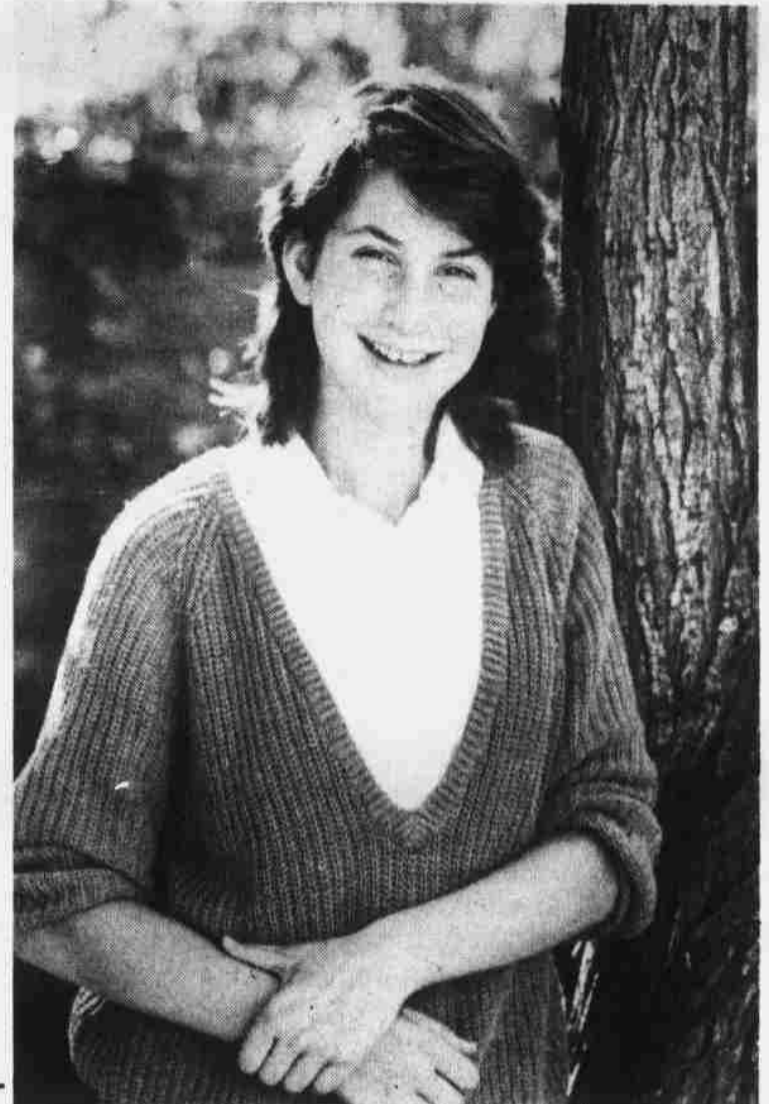
Heckler is also extremely optimistic about the savings the new program will offer the Medicare system. "I think the potential for long-term cost savings is very, very substantial," Heckler has been quoted as saying. Estimates place these cost savings to Medicare at about \$34 million for 1985.

For more information on Senior Dimensions, interested Medicare recipients should call 877-5140 and ask for Karen Ernst, who is the Medicare Manager for HPN.

ST. LOUIS (WNS) — A program for the treatment of alcohol and drug dependency and related illnesses has been opened by the Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center here. The program, according to officials, offers a highly structured setting for individual and group therapy, utilizing the methods of Alcoholics Anonymous and stressing the use of family involvement.

BONN (WNS) — The Haifa Theater, the first Israeli theater to be invited to take part in the Berlin Theater Festival, is a smashing success. All tickets to its four performances at the festival have been sold out. In coming weeks, the Haifa Theater will also perform in Bonn, Cologne, Hamburg and other major West German cities.

## Bat Mitzvah At Temple Beth Shalom



Photograph By Marvin

Tracey Herst, daughter of Jack and Charlene Herst, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Friday evening, June 14, 1985. Dr. Louis M. Lederman, Rabbi, will officiate. Hazzan Simon Bergman, Cantor, will chant the liturgy.

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