

Health care futurist sees radical changes

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Leland Kaiser gave medical practitioners in Farmington Hills quite a challenge.

"If I'm sick, I think my physician should be billed," he said. "There should be a performance review."

The proposal might have seemed radical, even in a profession that is emphasizing more wellness plans as opposed to sickness plans. But as Kaiser, a health care futurist, told more than 100 people attending Botsford General Hospital's leadership focus luncheon Oct. 5, the next few years will see a revolution in health care.

Kaiser, who has a master's degree in clinical psychology, a master's in medical care administration and a doctorate in social psychology and higher education, teaches in the University of Colorado's graduate program of health administration in Denver. He visited Botsford and spoke of health care's future in this country.

"The next five years will be years of profound chaos (in health care)," he said. "But that can be liberating and lead to innovations."

Many of those innovations are already here or on the way, Kaiser said.

The idea of a healthy community where a hospital functions not in a single building complex, but in various capacities and entities throughout the area is the future in health care, he said.

"A hospital is an institution where acute care is only a small part of its operation," he said.

In addition, medical professionals are realizing that the best treatment can't survive a poor environment.

"You can't be healthy in an unhealthy environment," he said.

About half of health care problems in the United States are attributable to lifestyle choices, especially concerning smoking, drinking, diet and exercise, Kaiser said.

If we could save 50 percent of what we spend on health care, we really could pay for all of the programs we need easily," he said.

To change the environment, unhealthy lifestyles and problems have to be designed out of the system, he said.

Since medicine is related to all aspects of our lives, concerns about crime, youth involvement and other social maladies would be a primary concern that would directly affect the community's health, he said.

Another problem is this country's misuse or underuse of its best resource — older Americans.

There are experienced citizens from all walks of life who can contribute, but aren't asked, Kaiser said. He talked about a volunteer clinic in Hilton Head, S.C., where retired doctors, nurses and other health professionals volunteer and the patients are treated for free.

"There are more volunteers than they can use," he said.

Kathleen Nylin, 82, and a 17-year member of the Farmington Hills Commission Aging, said Kaiser's ideas are visionary, but also realistic given that Americans are living longer.



Leland Kaiser

"That is exactly the situation we are in," said Nylin. "My husband, 80, has been retired for 23 years. We have been very active in volunteer work."

With enough volunteers, every citizen could be interviewed about his or her particular health needs and status and an individualized health-care program could be devised, Kaiser said. That population-based health-care system would provide health care where the population is, rather than bringing patients to a hospital.

Kaiser commended Botsford General Hospital for its excellent facility and staff, adding that the job will now be to keep people from needing its services as much. He said research shows that high school seniors are more interested in community service than anything else.

"They should get a chance to be part of the solution," he said. "After all, they're going to inherit the place."

The next few years should be challenging to the medical profession, in every community, Kaiser said.

"This is a very good place to get sick in," he said. "And it's a wonderful place to stay well."

CAMPUS PIPELINE

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, 3341 I Grand River, Farmington 48335.

NEW GRADUATES

Michelle Yuskowicz of Farmington Hills graduated with a degree in social relations at James Madison College, Michigan State University. She is a 1991 graduate of

North Farmington High School.

Timothy Scott Dallavalle of Farmington graduated magna cum laude and Todd Michael McQuiston of Farmington Hills graduated cum laude from Michigan Technological University.

Jason Stoecker of Farmington Hills graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College.

Jennifer Christine Sowman and Michael David Ober of Farmington Hills graduated from Cornell University.

David Zuroff of Farmington Hills graduated from Boston University with a DMD in dentistry. John Patrick Wolford of Farmington Hills graduated from Western Michigan University.

ELECTED PRESIDENT

Lisa Lee, a Hope College senior from Farmington Hills, has been elected president of the Alpha Gamma Phi sorority, one of 12 local, social Greek organizations on Hope College's campus. She is a 1992 graduate of Detroit Country Day High School.

Come and Join Us for a Fall Open House

Saturday, October 21, 1995

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

at

Grand River Village

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ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
City Hall, 474-6500
8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16

Agenda items include:

- Consideration to introduce ordinance amendment requiring leash control of animals
- RRRASOC-MRP Project Award
- Consider repair of backhoe for Public Services Department
- Consider buying air cylinders

for firefighting breathing apparatus

- Consider upgrade to Ultralite Firefighting Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Public comment
- Appointment of representative to the Farmington Hills Community Foundation.

Farmington Hills City Council
City Hall, 474-6115
Regular meeting
Council chambers
7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16
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Agenda items include:

■ Public questions and comments

- Council members comments and announcements.
- Consideration of approval of teen skating promotional program.
- Consideration of establishing a study session to discuss trash bin screening.

Farmington Board of Education
Board/administration workshop
Farmington Training Center
8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17

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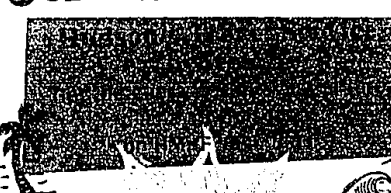
College Research Group Seminars Tuesday & Wednesday

College Research Group, Inc. prepares high school students and their parents for the college and financial aid application process.

Next seminar series in your area is **October 17 & 18**.
6:00 p.m. - "What Juniors Should Be Doing To Prepare for College"
7:15 p.m. - "Seniors: The Nuts & Bolts of Applying To Schools"
8:30 p.m. - "Financial Aid & Student Loans: Beyond the Basics"

At the **Granbrook Institute of Science**, 1221 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. The cost is \$25 per person, per seminar (\$20 for each additional family member). Registration is at the door. Both parents and students welcome at all seminars.

Jubilee Sale



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Las Vegas packages and specials not included.

Must book and make deposit by October 22. May not be combined with other discounts or promotions.

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