

**Medical Director's Report
Tompkins County Board of Health
March 2011**

Sugar Sweetened Beverages

The FDA had received a petition from the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) in the year 2005 regarding the placement of health messages on Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs). The FDA had not taken action on this petition and numerous public health officials and scientists in the field of public health had provided already testimony to the FDA with regard to the health implications of SSBs. I was asked to draft a letter on behalf of the Department supporting the placement of warning labels on SSBs, much as they are placed on tobacco products with regard to the health implications of the product. The letter urged the FDA to implement the proposals outlined in the CSPI July 2005 petition.

Comment: By placement of these messages on these beverages, the public would be made more aware of the number of calories they are consuming in using these beverages, as well as the implications in regard to weight gain and, thus, risk of diabetes and cholesterol problems, hypertension, etc.

General Activities:

- Meeting with Beverly Chin of the Health Care Planning Coalition, Rebecca Elgie of the League of Women Voters, and Martha Robertson, Chairman of the Tompkins County Legislature – we met to plan and coordinate a presentation on February 16th with regard to health care reform and its impact on public health and private practice.