

BJCHS fund cuts a threat

More than 23,000 patients received health care from Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. in 1977, but funding cutbacks have threatened several of the agency's services, according to Thomas Barnwell, executive director.

Barnwell yesterday took representatives of local media throughout the agency's service area to show what services are provided and to appeal for aid in bringing attention to the agency's needs.

Most severe was the funding cutback last year of 26 family-health worker positions, Barnwell said.

According to the director, the field visits performed by
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Fund cuts crimping health care

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the workers had perhaps the agency's most significant impact in providing health service and health education to the area's rural poor. Many of those most in need of health care have no transportation and are cut off from contact with the agency.

Wallace Brown, director of the health and community service departments, said 100 per cent of Jasper County and 50 per cent of Beaufort County are rural.

Barnwell said rural health care in Beaufort County has improved much since 1972 when it received national attention with television newscasts of the campaign of Dr. Donald Gatch against area malnutrition. Government embarrassment over

the plight of area poor reportedly resulted in substantial increases in health-care funding to the area.

Most severe at that time was the condition of the area's water supply for many homes served by shallow wells. Worms and other infestation created a recycling disease problem that only the installation of a clean-water system could prevent, Barnwell said.

Today residents of any

Unemployment rises slightly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's unemployment rate edged slightly upward to 6.2 percent in March after

income are eligible for the agency's health care. But providing adequate service

to a 1,300-square-mile area with 62 islands demands increased funding, he said.

Island fire hydrants opened

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the call to confirm the fire.

The person who made the false alarm call used a "fictitious name—not in the phone book," Vicar said, and called from a pay phone in Frogmore. The person did answer the dispatcher's fire confirmation call, Vicar said.

The Lady's Island Fire Department receives approximately three or four false alarm calls every month, although tampering with hydrants is a "whole new problem," Vicar said.

"It was a very bad prank," according to Sheriff's Department Lt. John A. Kistler, who said that the incident is under investigation.

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