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*The collective voice of Long Island's  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Individuals/Small Businesses among First to Navigate New Insurance Marketplace**

(Hauppauge, NY . . . October 1, 2013) Individuals and small business owners crowded the **Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) Navigator Agency Office** in Hauppauge today and were among the first on Long Island to meet with a state-trained navigator and discover the health plans, premiums, subsidies, and tax credits available to them, depending upon their income and household information. Kenneth Adams, commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development, was on hand to officially open the NSHC Navigator office and welcome the first applicants to the new insurance marketplace.

NSHC is one of three lead Navigator Agencies appointed by the New York State Department of Health to provide individuals and businesses on Long Island with enrollment assistance in the new marketplace. Using an online portal, navigators assist individuals, businesses, and families in understanding insurance options offered on the marketplace and in purchasing insurance. Navigators, some of whom are bi-lingual, assist individuals in completing the application for coverage, and use an online tax credit and premium rate estimator to determine whether individuals' income levels and family size qualify them for subsidized insurance premiums, Medicaid coverage, or Child Health Plus enrollment. Using this tool, the navigators also help small business owners determine if they are eligible for any tax credits.

**Kenneth Adams, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development** - *"This is a great day for New York. Today we open the health insurance marketplace and give the one million New Yorkers who do not have health insurance the ability to shop for a health plan that meets their needs and budget."*

**Kevin Dahill, President/CEO, the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council** - *"We're pleased to be able to offer this program to Long Islanders and help them access affordable health care coverage. Our enrollers are well-trained and bring 13 years of enrollment experience to the new insurance marketplace."*

Individuals and business owners also can shop the exchange online at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.us](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.us) or call the state's customer service line at 1-855-355-5777.

(MORE - SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2)



**Kevin Dahill (left) President and CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), one of the lead Navigator Agencies serving Long Island, and Kenneth Adams, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development, welcome applicants to the FIRST ENROLLMENT session on Long Island for the state's new health insurance marketplace.**



**Navigator Luz Ayala (left) discusses health plan coverage options with Rhonda Seider during the NSHC Open Enrollment Session, October 1, 2013. This open enrollment session was the first one held on Long Island for New York's State's new health insurance marketplace. The marketplace officially opened at 8 a.m.**



**Navigator Michelle Satriano discusses insurance options with Mr. and Mrs. Nasso. The couple was among the first to arrive at the NSHC Navigator Office at the first Long Island enrollment session marking the opening of New York State's new health insurance marketplace.**