

# eProgress Notes . . . May 2010

A Monthly Publication of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc.

*eProgress Notes publication is a summary of regulatory and legislative news, advocacy messages, and other relevant issues affecting the delivery of hospital and health care on Long Island.*

## LI Nurses Recognized for Excellence

*Stony Brook University Medical Center nurse takes top honor*



*From left: Lee Xippolitos RN, PhD, Chief Nursing Officer, Stony Brook University Medical Center and Dean, Stony Brook University School of Nursing; 2010 Nurse of Excellence Winner Debra Giugliano RN, MS, PNP from Stony Brook University Medical Center; and Dr. Steven Strongwater, CEO, Stony Brook University Medical Center.*

Nurse leaders from Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals gathered Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at the Woodbury Country Club to bestow recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council's member hospitals was nominated for this award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. Deans of area nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education.

Nesconset resident Debra Giugliano RN, MS, PNP, a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in caring for children with hematologic and oncologic illnesses at Stony Brook University Medical Center, took the top honor as Long Island's "Nurse of Excellence." She was selected from a field of more than 500 nurses at hospitals from across

Long Island.

"Deb has changed the world," said Dr. Steven Strongwater, president/CEO of Stony Brook University Medical Center. "She personally commits her own time to the many projects she has started. She is extraordinarily creative." One of these is the "Play It Forward" program. Realizing that athletes are role models for children, Giugliano approached Stony Brook University athletes and trained them in basic infection control practices, like hand washing, and capitalized on the athletes' influence to motivate even the most depressed children. She developed and now directs a school re-entry program to help children suffering from cancer return to school by addressing the student's psychosocial, medical, and educational needs. The school re-entry program has received national and international recognition.

"I am grateful to the patients, families, and children we care for," said Giugliano. "They inspire me and motivate me every day."

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to continue this program voluntarily. It is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year. The NSHC represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals.

For more information about this program and a full listing of nominees, visit [www.nshc.org](http://www.nshc.org). – Janine Logan, [jlogan@nshc.org](mailto:jlogan@nshc.org).

# No Action on State Budget

The state budget stalemate continued through May, with Governor Paterson and legislative leaders failing to engage in any meaningful negotiations this month. The state government continues to operate under a series of short-term budget extensions that, so far, have not included any Medicaid cuts. However, the state is reportedly withholding payment of HEAL grant funds due to some hospitals. Legislation to extend and expand authorization for Transitional Care Units has been held up along with the budget process, though the Council successfully worked for passage of legislation that allows the five TCU demonstration sites to continue operating until a final budget is enacted for the 2010-11 fiscal year. – *Wendy Darwell, wdarwell@nshc.org.*

## Federal Advocacy Agenda Remains Active

Several critical issues are the focus of current federal advocacy efforts. The Hospital Council continues to work closely with our congressional members regarding:

- Legislation to extend the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate to the states
- Establishment of a long-term fix for the physician reimbursement rate under Medicare.
- Defeat of CMS's proposed Medicare inpatient regulation that calls for a negative adjustment to Medicare rates in 2011. The Hospital Council and its member hospitals are strongly voicing their opposition to this proposed rule. – *Wendy Darwell, wdarwell@nshc.org.*

## Hospital Council Helps Long Islanders Understand Health Reform

Kevin Dahill's participation in the Hauppauge Industrial Association's (HIA) panel "Health Care Economics and Politics" on May 27<sup>th</sup> was just one of several educational forums at which Hospital Council staff have offered clarity to Long Islanders about the new health care reform legislation. The panel was featured during the HIA's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Trade Show and Conference at Suffolk County Community College Sports and Exhibition Complex in Brentwood..

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its modifying legislation, the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act, call for sweeping changes throughout the health care system that will affect every American. Implementation of these changes is taking place now and will continue throughout the next several years. More than 40 provisions of the new law require or permit agencies to issue rules.

"The law legislates how we will finance health care," said Dahill. "But we still must look at such issues as comparative effectiveness and incentive alignment between physicians and hospitals."

Three reforms kicking in this year are: the creation of a high risk pool for people with pre-existing conditions, dependent coverage for young adults up to age 26, and coverage for children with pre-existing conditions. New York opted to establish a high risk pool, drawing down \$297 million in federal funds over the next 42 months.

A Health Care Reform Cabinet assembled by Governor Paterson will help the state interpret and implement the new health reform legislation. Chaired by the director of state operations, the cabinet will assess compliance, deadlines, and changes needed for implementation. An external advisory group will also be named and will include members from business, labor, government, and health policy experts.

# Health Reform Not Without Pain to Region

Long Island's hospitals will absorb \$1.8 billion in Medicare cuts over the next 10 years, as part of their sacrifice to help fund the new legislation. While scheduled cuts begin now, coverage expansion and a reduction in the uninsured does not begin until 2014.

Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) just issued a proposed rule pertaining to the reform legislation that would further erode fiscal year 2011 Medicare payments.

## News Briefs . . .

### Patient Advocates and Providers Talk Patient Safety

Patient safety advocates joined forces with nurses, quality managers, and administrators from Long Island's hospitals on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 and re-committed themselves to work collaboratively on a variety of patient safety initiatives. The group gathered at the Hospital Council offices for the final meeting of the Long Island Patient Safety Advisory Council, which was created and facilitated by nationally-recognized patient safety advocate Ilene Corina through her grassroots organization PULSE.

Corina was awarded a patient safety fellowship by the American Hospital Association last year, which enabled her to assemble this advisory council comprised of individuals representing a broad spectrum of patient populations and their unique safety concerns. The fellowship was supported by the member hospitals of NSHC and by a separate grant from the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, also a Hospital Council member. Corina was the first Long Islander selected for this prestigious year-long program designed to promote breakthroughs in safety practices.



*From left sitting: Grena Porto, RN, Principal, Quality, Risk and Safety Healthcare Consultants (Hockessin, DE); Anna Gaeta, RN, Patient Safety Manager, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Northport, NY); Danielle Ezzo, Pharm D, Clinical Coordinator of Ambulatory Care, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Assistant Clinical Professor, St. John's University; and Leslie Farrington MD, private practice (Lake Success, NY). Standing: Kevin Dahill, President and/CEO of Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and Ilene Corina, Founder of PULSE of NY and AHA Patient Safety Fellow.*

“My goal is and always has been to engage patient and provider in working together to ensure safe care,” said Corina.

The highlight of the meeting was the panel of experts who spoke freely about their experiences with patient safety, both as providers and patients. Panelists included nurses, a physician, and a pharmacist.

“Every day hospitals are improving their standards of safe care in all clinical areas,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Hospital Council. “It was our honor to work with the Long Island Patient Safety Advisory Council and PULSE of New York, and we

#### Member Hospitals

- Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
- Catholic Health Services of Long Island
  - Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
  - Mercy Medical Center
  - St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
  - St. Charles Hospital
  - St. Francis Hospital
  - St. Joseph Hospital
- East End Health Alliance
  - Eastern Long Island Hospital
  - Peconic Bay Medical Center
  - Southampton Hospital
- Long Beach Medical Center
- John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
- Nassau University Medical Center
- North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System
  - Franklin Hospital
  - Glen Cove Hospital
  - Huntington Hospital
  - North Shore University Hospital
  - Plainview Hospital
  - Southside Hospital
  - Syosset Hospital
- Stony Brook University Hospital
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Northport
- Winthrop South Nassau University Health System
  - South Nassau Communities Hospital
  - Winthrop-University Hospital

look forward to working with PULSE on the safety challenges that lie ahead.” - *Janine Logan*, [jlogan@nshc.org](mailto:jlogan@nshc.org).

## Get Fit, Get Well

Action Long Island, a coalition of business, not-for-profit, education, and government members, is sponsoring the first Long Island Wellness Challenge in cooperation with the American Heart Association. The six-month event begins June 1 and employers can sign up their companies for free. Go to [www.actionlongisland.org](http://www.actionlongisland.org) to register. The NSHC staff will be participating in this “healthy” event.

### Recent Activities . . .

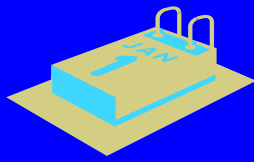
**Auxilians Honored . . .** by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) from the Long Island region include: Eastern Long Island Hospital Auxiliary; Guilds of Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center; Huntington Hospital Auxiliary; Mercy Medical Center Council of Leagues; North Shore University Hospital Auxiliary; Central Council of Auxiliaries – South Nassau Communities Hospital. These auxiliaries each received the 2009 Auxiliary Advocacy Recognition.

**Wage and Salary Surveys . . .** invitations to submit data to the 2010 wage and salary survey and the executive compensation survey conducted with the Association of Healthcare Human Resources Administration were sent to all human resource directors. The Hospital Council has arranged for the participation of its member hospitals in the surveys and provided input on the job titles to be included. Survey responses are due June 14; and members who did not receive the survey should contact Wendy Darwell at [wdarwell@nshc.org](mailto:wdarwell@nshc.org) for a copy.

**Discussing health care reform . . .** were Wendy Darwell at a May 10 meeting of the Long Island Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners and Kevin Dahill at a Hauppauge Industrial Association-sponsored panel on May 27<sup>th</sup>. See related article page 2.

**Managed Care Advisory Group . . .** is still open to members of the Hospital Council. This group engagement arranged by the Hospital Council will provide audit and recovery services pursuant to Ingenix “usual, customary and reasonable” charges settlements. The court has opened up the settlements to claims from physicians’ assistants, nurse practitioners and other allied health professionals. The deadline to file claims has been extended until October 3. Interested members should contact Wendy Darwell at [wdarwell@nshc.org](mailto:wdarwell@nshc.org) or 631-963-4152.

**Advocacy in Action . . .** is shown in the photo below that features the legislative aides for some of our state and congressional representatives. The event “Meet the Legislative Aide” was sponsored by the Hospital Council and its Communications Committee on May 14 at the Council offices. Its goal was to enhance the working relationships between these key aides and the senior public affairs directors at Long Island’s hospitals. *In photo from left: Toby Nussbaum, Congresswoman McCarthy’s office; Jim LaCarrubba, State Senator Foley’s office; Gerry Petrella, Senator Schumer’s office; Bilal Malik, Congressman Bishop’s office.*



### Mark Your Calendar for NSHC Events in June

- June 7 Auxilian Luncheon, Noon (Watermill Restaurant)
- June 8 Nurse Managers Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- June 8 Long Island Healthcare Life Safety Seminar, (Feinstein Institute for Medical Research)  
Contact: Mike Ingoglia [mingoglia@winthrop.org](mailto:mingoglia@winthrop.org)
- June 9 Finance Committee, 8 a.m.
- June 9 Wage Index Education, 2 p.m.
- June 11 Revenue Cycle Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- June 11 Ann Marie Brown Scholarship Luncheon and Communications Committee meeting, noon (Melville Marriott)
- June 14 Family Health Care Decisions Act Briefing, 10 a.m.
- June 14 NSHC Annual Meeting, 4 p.m., Crest Hollow Country Club
- June 16, NYPORTS Committee, 10 a.m.

HANYS Annual Meeting  
June 23 – 25, Sagamore Hotel and resort in Bolting Landing

\*Meetings for NSHC members only and are held at the Hospital Council office in Hauppauge unless otherwise noted. To register/info call: 631-963-4153.





## NSHC Committee News ...

**Communications Committee . . .** met informally May 14 in conjunction with the “Meet the Legislative Aide” event. Members discussed the upcoming Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship Luncheon and desire to hold an information meeting for public affairs directors about the new health care reform legislation.

**Finance Committee:** The committee was briefed by HANYS staff on the Medicare inpatient rule, forthcoming Medicare rate updates and estimated impacts of the governor’s readmissions penalty proposal. Ms. Darwell gave a report on the state budget, RAC activity in the region, and the status of the wage index review project. The committee received a presentation on the Council’s business partnership with MedSave USA, a Hauppauge-based firm that can provide record retrieval and scanning services to respond to RAC and other audits, in addition to working with hospitals to reduce their exposure on hospitals’ workers’ compensation claim adjudication and lower medical-malpractice legal expenses (for those who have a large self-insurance deductible).

**Human Resources Committee:** On May 21, the committee received a briefing from HANYS staff on implementation of the staffing disclosure law and the workforce development provisions of the health care reform bill. Ms. Darwell reported on a Fair Labor Standards Act class action lawsuit, health insurance coverage expansion for young adults, and changes in reporting from the National Practitioner Data Bank. Kristy D’Errico, director of human resources and volunteer programs for the American Red Cross in Nassau County, spoke to the committee about developing joint health career and volunteer programs for youth.

**Nurse Managers Committee:** At its May 11 meeting, the committee received a presentation on patient- and family-centered care from Sharon Kearney, PFCC Nurse Advocate at Stony Brook University Hospital.

### NSHC ANNUAL MEETING

**Monday, June 14, 2010 4 p.m.**

**Crest Hollow Country Club**

**Woodbury, NY**

**Keynoter: Dr. Charles Peck, Chief Medical Officer**

**FTI Consulting**

**“Future of Clinical Integration”**

*To register and for info contact: Denise Avolese, [davolese@nshc.org](mailto:davolese@nshc.org) 631-963-4151*



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*The collective voice of Long Island's  
not-for-profit and public hospitals.*