

# eProgress Notes . . . June 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.*

## Long Beach Medical Center CEO Named New Chair of NSHC



Douglas Melzer, CEO of Long Beach Medical Center, was named chairman of the board of directors of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). He was appointed to this position at the association's annual meeting held June 14, 2010 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. Melzer's two-year term expires June 2012. The CEOs from each of the 24 member hospitals comprise the board of directors.

Melzer has an extensive background in health care operations and management. Prior to being named CEO of Long Beach Medical Center in 2000, he served as the hospital's chief operating officer for 20 years. He previously worked at the Department of Health for New York City.

He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has served as chairman of the Continuing Health Services Committee of the Healthcare Association of New York State.

Melzer holds an MBA from Wagner College and has served as a clinical instructor in the Graduate School of Public Administration at New York University and a Preceptor in the School of Healthcare Policy at Pennsylvania State University.

"I am honored to assume the chairmanship of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council," said Melzer. "I look forward to working closely with my colleagues, representing all of the hospitals on Long Island, to advance the mission of the Council and in so doing the missions of its member hospitals." – *Janine Logan*, [jlogan@nsch.org](mailto:jlogan@nsch.org).

*Read more about NSHC Annual Meeting on page 2 . . .*

## Region's Hospital Auxilian Group Appoints New President, Executive Board Members

Eleanor Watson, a St. Charles Hospital volunteer, was elected to a one-year term as president of the Nassau-Suffolk Council of Hospital Auxiliaries at the group's luncheon held June 7, 2010 at the Watermill Inn in Nesconset. Her term expires June 2011.

In her role as Nassau-Suffolk Council of Hospital Auxiliaries president, Watson will lead this organization of hospital volunteers, which is aligned with the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council.

Hospital auxiliaries play a vital role in the delivery of compassionate care at each of their facilities and are major fund raisers for their respective institutions. Collectively, Long Island's volunteer auxiliaries raise millions through gift shop sales, fashion shows, boutiques, and other events.



2010 – 2011 Nassau-Suffolk Council of Hospital Auxiliaries executive board. From left: Eleanor Watson, President (St. Charles Hospital); Terese Weber, Treasurer (Good Samaritan Hospital); Sheila Norris, Recording Secretary (Mercy Medical Center); Virginia Bolla, Corresponding Secretary (St. Francis Hospital). Missing from photo: Vickie DeFriest, First Vice President (Eastern Long Island Hospital); Uta Dee, Second Vice President (Stony Brook University Hospital)

In addition, they are actively involved in advocating on federal, state, and local levels on behalf of their hospitals and the thousands of patients that these institutions serve each day. – *Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org*

## Clinical Integration Headlines NSHC Annual Meeting



From left: Dr. Chuck Peck, FTI Healthcare Consulting and Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of the Hospital Council.

The highlight of the NSHC annual meeting was a presentation on the future of clinical integration and its concept that physicians and hospitals are partners working together to bring patients value and quality throughout the care continuum. Physician Chuck Peck, chief medical officer and managing director of FTI Healthcare Consulting, offered hospital CEOs, CFOs and other senior leaders in the audience a realistic view of the patient-centered care model that will dominate health care delivery in the years to come.

“Emerging payment models are all value driven and predicated on physician integration. Doctors and hospitals will be held jointly responsible for quality and outcomes,” said Dr. Peck.

### *Annual Meeting Memories . . .*



Left, Outgoing NSHC chair Kevin Lawlor (CEO of Huntington Hospital) congratulates incoming chair Douglas Melzer (CEO of Long Beach Medical Center)



Left, Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of NSHC congratulates Ray Sweeney Executive VP of HANYS, who is retiring after a long and commendable career in hospital/health policy planning and operations.

### 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

# Legislative Measures Remain on the Table

## *State budget and fate of FMAP still unknown*

**State budget:** Despite much legislative maneuvering this week, New York is not any closer to a budget resolution. In fact, the Governor and legislature are now caught in a battle over principles, priorities, and politics. At this point, neither the Governor's emergency spending bills nor the joint proposal offered by the legislature included an increase in the gross receipts tax or any additional cuts to Medicaid reimbursement. A contingency plan for FMAP revenue is a sticking point between the legislature and Governor. Governor Paterson has already begun vetoing portions of the legislature's spending plan, including the restoration of \$419 million in education aid. With the July 4th recess just a day away, it is doubtful that any decisive action will take place until lawmakers return after this recess.

**FMAP status:** Congress has not been able to advance legislation that would extend the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) money to states through June 2011. Most states, including New York, have factored this money into their 2010 - 2011 budgets. In the absence of this assistance heading into 2011, states' budget holes will widen.

## Catholic Health Services of LI Recognized for Quality Care

### *System receives prestigious Pinnacle Award from HANYS*

Catholic Health Services of Long Island was presented with the Healthcare Association of New York State's 2010 Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety in the multi-entity category. The award was presented June 23, 2010 during HANYS' 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Conference in Saratoga.

The system was recognized for its "Improving Patient Safety in Obstetrics Using Crew Resources Management" initiative. After researching various approaches to reduce obstetrical adverse events, a special task force selected the Crew Resource Management model used in the aviation industry. Clinicians were trained, and principles around communication, team structure, situation monitoring, mutual support, and team behavior were adopted. Emergency drills were also conducted to sharpen critical incident awareness and response. After 18 months, Catholic Health Services of Long Island saw significant improvements in reducing obstetrical adverse events.



*Joseph Conte (left) Executive Vice President of Corporate Services of Catholic Health Services of Long Island accepts the Pinnacle Award from Joseph Quagliata, Chair of the Healthcare Association of New York State and CEO of South Nassau Communities Hospital*

### Recent Activities . . .

**Family Health Care Decisions Briefing . . .** took place at the Council offices on June 14 and was led by NSHC general counsel Mark Thomas. Nearly 30 compliance officers, nurse leaders and other staff attended an educational program to explain the recently-enacted Family Health Care Decisions Act, which provides a framework for end of life decisions by family members or close friends in the absence of a health care proxy.

**Dartmouth Atlas Briefing . . .** was hosted by the Council on June 29. The educational session for CEOs, CFOs and CMOs examined New York's ratings on utilization levels by the Dartmouth Atlas project, as well as the topic of geographic variation more broadly.

**Updated Health Care Career Guide . . .** is now available from NSHC for a nominal fee of \$4 per book to cover production costs. Supplies are limited. To order contact Janine Logan at [jlogan@nshc.org](mailto:jlogan@nshc.org).

**HANYS Excellence in Public Relations award . . .** related to a communications/advocacy plan pertaining to the state budget process is now seeking nominations from member hospitals. Submissions must be received by July 30, 2010. For more information contact: Melanie Dobiell, Manager, Corporate Communications at HANYS, (518) 431-7742 or [mdobiell@hanys.org](mailto:mdobiell@hanys.org). Two Long Island hospitals have won in the past – St. Charles Hospital and Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center.



*St. Joseph Hospital (formerly New Island Hospital)* . . . joined the Catholic Health Services of Long Island network officially in June. Access more information at [www.stjosephhospital.com](http://www.stjosephhospital.com).

## NSHC Committee News ...



**Communications Committee** . . . held its Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship Luncheon on June 11 at the Melville Marriott and presented this year's \$2,000 scholarship to Gregory Colosso, a Manhasset resident and health administration graduate student at Cornell University. Members of the

Communications Committee also enjoyed a presentation on how to integrate social media into the hospital marketing mix. Brian Mulligan, assistant vice president of public relations for the North Shore/LIJ Health System and Denise Civiletti, web site and digital media consultant for Peconic Bay Medical Center led the workshop. *Pictured above: Scholarship winner Gregory Calosso with Terry Lynam, (right) chair of the NSHC Communications Committee and VP, Public Relations for the North Shore/LIJ Health System.*

**Finance Committee** . . . at its June 9 meeting, the committee discussed the state budget extender package that resulted in cuts to the hospitals' inflationary adjustments to Medicaid rates, cuts to the indigent care pool and Doctors Across New York physician recruiting program. Following, the group considered proposals from vendors to perform the annual wage index audit work for member hospitals.

**Revenue Cycle Committee** . . . met on June 11 and received a guest presentation from Danielle Drayer and Cara Zucker of HANYS's managed care department on the implications of health care reform on private payers. They also updated the group on implementation of the state managed care reform laws enacted in 2009.

**NYPORTS Committee** . . . met on June 16 and hosted a discussion with Dr. John Morley, medical director for the Department of Health's Office of Health Systems Management, via video conference. Dr. Morley discussed the department's interest in utilizing NYPORTS adverse event data for more educational and analytical purposes. The committee discussed its concerns about the legislation to reform the NYPORTS system that is under consideration by the legislature.



### Mark Your Calendar for NSHC Events in July

- July 16 Nurse Executives committee meeting, 2 p.m.
- July 27 Corporate Compliance committee meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- July 29 NSHC Board Meeting, 8 a.m.

*\*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.*



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