

eProgress Notes . . . January 2011

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 Hospital Leaders Testify on the Future of Medicaid

Long Island hospitals were well represented at the third meeting of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) hearing at Hofstra University held Friday, January 28, 2011. CEOs presented a number of constructive solutions that respond to the MRT's mission to curb the growth of Medicaid spending while improving the quality of and access to care.

Hospital leaders presented a united front against the unilateral cuts enacted against hospitals in the past three years. "Across the board cuts weaken essential providers of care and undermine hospitals' efforts to improve quality," said Arthur Gianelli, CEO of Nassau University Medical Center and NuHealth. Winthrop-University Hospital CEO John Collins provided evidence of this, discussing how the closure of several New York City hospitals has driven up his institution's number of uninsured and Medicaid visits, while Winthrop itself was facing more than \$10 million budget cuts.

Douglas Melzer, CEO of Long Beach Medical Center and chairman of the board of the Hospital Council, called for better coordination of care across the provider spectrum. He highlighted his facility's efforts to evolve into an integrated health delivery system that can meet the needs of an aging and geographically isolated community. *continued on page 2*

Local Media Hear Hospitals' Messages

Interactive meeting between hospital public affairs directors and media reps underscores importance of an informed public during era of health care reform

Senior public affairs leaders from each of Long Island's 24 hospitals joined their media colleagues from across the aisle and engaged in an afternoon of discussion at a Meet the Media luncheon held



From left: David Hale, Patch.com; Andrea Jones, Long Island Business News; Alvin Bessent, Newsday; Peter Kohler, Cablevision; Richard Rose, WLNY-TV.

Friday, January 21, 2011 at the Melville Marriott and sponsored by the Communications Committee of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council.

Cutting through the clutter and complexity of health care budgeting, reform, and policy is no easy task for anyone and it is especially difficult for the public to grasp the nuances of legislation and regulation that affects them and their families. Hospital Council president/CEO Kevin Dahill urged the media to partner in the effort of communicating, in a fair and accurate manner, facts and information about our changing health care delivery and reimbursement system.

"We share the same goal," he said. "We

want Long Island's patients to understand how state and national reforms will affect them – plain and simple. We especially want them to realize that unilateral budget cutting is no way to achieve sustainable

and meaningful reform. There are viable alternatives that will save money, while improving care.” – Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.

Future of Medicaid ... continued from page 1

Eastern Long Island Hospital CEO Paul Connor also emphasized the savings that could be achieved through care management, particularly for the behavioral health population, which tends to have high rates of emergency department utilization, high rates of readmissions, and very little access to primary care and outpatient services. “There has really never been a better case for Medicaid redesign than the lack of case management of patients with behavioral health needs,” he said.

Hospital Council CEO Kevin Dahill echoed the call for care coordination in mental health and addiction services, and urged the team to address the dearth of community-based treatment programs, which results in patients being treated more expensively in an inpatient acute care setting. He also urged action on medical malpractice reform. He noted, “If we could make New York a more physician-friendly state, we could improve access to care significantly.”

The MRT was tasked by Governor Cuomo with soliciting input from the provider community and the public in a series of hearings around the state, and reporting back to the Executive Branch by March 1. The recommendations may be incorporated into the 2011-2012 state budget. – Wendy Darwell, wdarwell@nshc.org.

State Budget Advocacy Begins Now...Executive Branch Could Propose as much as \$3 Billion in Medicaid Cuts

With a state budget deficit in excess of \$10 billion, all expenditure areas are targets. Plan now to attend HANYS Budget Briefing, Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the Hospital Council Offices. Contact Lillian Curry: lcurry@nshc.org to register.

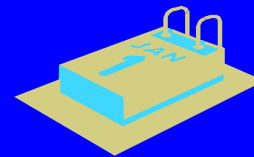
News Briefs . . .

Community Health Improvement Award Nominations ... are now being accepted by the Healthcare Association of New York State. The award recognizes outstanding initiatives by members to improve the health and well-being of their communities. All HANYS members are eligible to apply. Go to www.hanys.org/awards/chia.cfm to apply. Questions: call Sue Ellen Wagner 518-431-7837. Deadline: March 14, 2011.

Healthcare Trustee of New York State (HTNYS) ... named **John T. Lane**, trustee at Winthrop-South Nassau University Health System as vice chair and **Sharon Norton Remmer**, a trustee at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center, to a three-year term as a member of the HTNYS board. **John T. Lane** was also elected a member of HANYS board.

The National Patient Safety Foundation ... has established a new organization designed to provide a home for all those committed to safer patient care, offering membership and a shared community that will help move forward the patient safety mission. Known as the **American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety**, it will offer certification for patient safety professionals, setting key standards of knowledge and performance for those involved in patient safety work.

Professional recognition ... goes to **Denise Avolese**, office manager/executive assistant at the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council,



Mark Your Calendar for NSHC Events in February

- Feb. 3 NSHC Executive Committee, 8 a.m.
- Feb. 8 Nurse Managers Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 Finance Committee, 8 a.m.
- Feb. 10 HANYS State Budget Briefing, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 11 Revenue Cycle Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16 NYPORTS Committee, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 18 Human Resources Committee, 9 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.

who was recently named president of the board of the Association for Healthcare Administrative Professionals (AHCAP). Her 3-year term runs until 2013. AHCAP is the premier national organization for administrative professionals who support our nation's health care leaders. Denise has served in her current position at the Hospital Council since 2003.

Pictured at right is Denise Avolese.



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.

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

NSHC Committee News ...

Corporate Compliance Committee: At its January 25 meeting, the committee was briefed on the OMIG's compliance program requirements, self disclosure policy, and its 2011 workplan by NSHC general counsel Mark Thomas. Ms. Darwell provided updates on RAC audits, privacy breach notification requirements, and a new exemption for some health providers from a federal requirement to implement an identity theft deterrence and notification policy.

Finance Committee: The committee convened on January 18 to discuss several changes to the Medicare and Medicaid rate structures, as well as issues surrounding Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments. HANYS staff and Ms. Darwell also addressed concerns about the forthcoming state and federal budget proposals.


Nurse Executives Committee: On January 21, the committee appointed members of the subcommittee tasked with selecting this year's Nurse of Excellence Award winner, and discussed changes to the Joint Commission accreditation standards for 2011. Ms. Darwell also briefed the group on the Medicare value-based purchasing proposal, an element of health care reform, which utilizes quality and patient satisfaction data to determine a portion of reimbursements.

Nurse Managers Committee: The Nurse Managers Committee gathered on January 11. The meeting featured a presentation by Ms. Darwell on the issues relevant to nursing that will be considered in the New York State Legislature and Congress.

ICD-10 Education Session Rescheduled: A special educational presentation on the transition to ICD-10 billing codes, which was cancelled due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 15 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Hospital Council. The program is designed to

provide a high-level overview of ICD-10's challenges and benefits, impacts on providers, and the work steps necessary to prepare for implementation. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lillian Curry at 631-963-4153 or lcurry@nshc.org.

Check Our Website for Update Scheduling Information: The freshly redesigned Hospital Council website now offers an updated calendar of committee meetings and other events. www.nshc.org.



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*The collective voice of Long Island's
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