

Progress Notes December 2012

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

Progress 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.

Fiscal Cliff, Now a Slippery Slope

The White House and GOP leaders are moving closer to an agreement, as House speaker John Boehner and President Obama both gave up some ground on their demands. At recent meetings between the two, Boehner is now willing to allow tax rates to rise at incomes higher than one million and President Obama is open to curtailing future cost-of-living increases for recipients of Social Security. However, these two offers represent only a small portion of the fiscal cliff negotiations and a final agreement must ultimately include broader concessions from both sides on tax rates and hikes and spending cuts to domestic programs.

Hospitals on Long Island region fear that agreement could include massive new cuts to Medicare providers. In addition, hospitals could be on the hook for even more cuts, as Congress and the president look for a funding stream to avert a scheduled 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to the nation's physicians. **The cuts could amount to \$1.6 billion to the region's hospitals.**

Meanwhile, hospitals do know that automatic two-percent across-the-board cuts to Medicare – sequestration – will occur come January 1, 2013, unless Congress finds funding to plug this hole before that date. Sequestration is the result of the bi-partisan super committee's inability to reach a deficit reduction agreement in November 2011. The idea a year ago was that sequestration cuts would be so massive and

burdensome that Congress would never let such cuts happen. **Hospitals in the region are looking at \$378 million in cuts (2013 – 2021) as a result of sequestration.**

“When you consider these new Medicare cuts, the already adopted Affordable Care Act cuts and other Medicare and federal Medicaid cuts worth \$2.3 billion that have been put in place the last two years, **the total hit to hospitals in this region is a staggering \$4.9 billion,**” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Hospital Council.

Dahill and other hospital CEOs traveled to Washington, DC on December 11, 2012 to personally protest these cuts. They joined their peers from other areas of the country for this American Hospital Association-sponsored Advocacy Day.

Other components of the fiscal cliff include the expiration on January 1, 2013 of the Bush-era tax cuts for all income earners, as well as an end to the Social Security payroll tax holiday that has benefited all Americans. Also due to expire are unemployment benefits for the long term unemployed. Economists agree that the fiscal cliff would short-circuit the nation's fragile economic recovery. The hospital industry, long touted as one of the sectors that saw job growth throughout the recession, may have to turn to staff reductions in the wake of such unprecedented cuts. – Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.

Superstorm Sandy Recovery Update . . .

Hospitals have until December 31, 2012 to complete the New York State Department of Health survey regarding costs related to the storm. These costs include damage to the physical plant, as well as staff costs and other operational expenses related to evacuation and/or surge capacity care management needs. Long Beach Medical Center remains closed, while repair work continues. Surge capacity issues are beginning to ease at other facilities that took on evacuated hospital and nursing home patients. Thousands of hospital workers, mostly in the hardest hit areas, lost homes and other property due to the storm. The **Hurricane Sandy Health Care Employee Relief Fund** was established by regional and state hospital associations, including the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, as well as the American Hospital Association, to provide assistance to these impacted employees. To donate: http://www.uhfnyc.org/hurricane_sandy_relief_fund. The United Hospital Fund is receiving the charitable donations. Hospital CEOs should submit names of impacted employees to UHF and grants will be disbursed to facilities for distribution to employees.

State GOP Race Favors Republicans; Appeal Likely

The outcome of the 46th State Senatorial District race is in favor of Republican George Amedore, according to a State Supreme Court judge in Montgomery County who reviewed the much contested race. However, Democrats said they will appeal the decision in court.

The decision gives the Republicans a working majority of 32 votes in the chamber, when Democrat Simcha Felder is counted. The Brooklyn Democrat said many weeks ago that he would vote with the GOP.

Regardless of the decision, the bi-partisan governing coalition announced by Senator Dean Skelos, a Republican, and Senator Jeffrey Klein, a Democrat and leader of the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), will move forward with its power-sharing arrangement. The IDC is a group of five breakaway Democrats. Under the bi-partisan agreement, the IDC will formally be recognized as a third, permanent Senate conference. Senators Skelos and Klein will alternate the Senate leadership post every two weeks, starting January 1, 2013. The arrangement is unprecedented in state history. - Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.

Hospital Governing Boards Face Multiple Challenges

Trustees from Long Island hospitals gather to learn more about pending regulations, fiscal threats, and new governance rules

Event also pays tribute to HANYS' retiring president Dan Sisto

Hospital trustees and executive level hospital administrative staff gathered on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at the Wind Watch Golf and Country Club in Hauppauge, New York to learn more about the governing challenges inherent in emerging care delivery models. Mark Thomas, special counsel to the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) and NSHC, cautioned trustees and hospital CEOs to expect more regulation of boards and more scrutiny of fiduciary responsibilities. Board members and executive staff should also prepare for the advent of for-profit hospitals and investment by publicly-traded entities making their way into New York in the not-to-distant future, he added.

The fiscal cliff is the immediate threat to hospitals, said HANYS president Dan Sisto, in his remarks to the group. "Providers are vulnerable to Medicare and Medicaid reductions used as "pay-fors" to offset the cost of addressing components of the fiscal cliff," said Sisto. Washington legislators will continue to chase a deficit reduction deal, he added, and the limit on the nation's debt ceiling will once again become a bargaining issue.

The December 4th event also marked the final time that HANYS president Dan Sisto will have spoken on Long Island to this group of board leaders. On behalf of the NSHC board, the region's hospital trustees, and hospital CEOs, Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Hospital Council, presented Dan Sisto with NSHC's signature Teddy Roosevelt Award.

Customarily, this award is given to hospital trustees and/or volunteers who have shown exemplary leadership to hospitals in their communities. The bronze bust of the nation's 26th president, a renowned Long Island resident whose lifelong devotion to public causes is well respected, is a fitting tribute to all those who have advanced health care and health policy for the good of Long Islanders. "As a former CEO of the Hospital Council, Dan Sisto certainly embodies what the TR Award represents," said Dahill. "We thank him for his extraordinary leadership at the helm of HANYS these past 26 years and for the attention and concern he has always shown the Hospital Council."

Dan Sisto officially retires from HANYS in June 2013. - Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.



Peconic Bay Medical Center CEO Andrew Mitchell (center) with trustee Marc Alessi and board chair Sherry Patterson.



At right: Dan Sisto, President of HANYS holding the TR Award, with Hospital Council leadership Kevin Dahill, President/CEO and Wendy Darwell, COO.

State's Prevention Agenda Promotes Healthy Communities and Local Collaboration

At its December 6, 2012 meeting, the Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) approved the state's 2013 – 2017 Prevention Agenda with a goal to move New York State toward being the healthiest state in the nation. The work of this new Prevention Agenda builds on the public health advances made in the 2008 – 2012 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), also known as the Prevention Agenda.

The 2013 – 2017 Prevention Agenda or SHIP focuses on five areas:

- Chronic disease
- Healthy environment
- Healthy mothers, babies, and children
- Substance abuse and mental illness
- Sexually-transmitted infections, HIV, and vaccine-preventable diseases

The state's new Prevention Agenda will be linked to hospital Community Service Plan (CSP) requirements, which are similar to the new Internal Revenue Service Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) requirement. That requirement is borne out of regulation contained in the Affordable Care Act. Refer to the August and October 2012 issues of NorMet News for more information on deadlines related to state CSP and federal CHNA. The issues are available on NSHC's website: www.nshc.org/publications.

Through the Prevention Agenda, the state is encouraging whole "communities" – entities such as hospitals, local county health departments, community-based service organizations, and even businesses – to work together to identify community needs and to develop a plan to collaboratively address those needs. The state's goal is to improve the overall health of local communities, and it is consistent with the federal government's and health care reform's move toward population health management.

Each of the state's five new priority areas has goals and interventions for hospitals and county health departments to achieve as part of their planning processes. The state has indicated that hospitals will be required to choose two of the five priorities on which to focus. The state encourages hospitals and county health departments to work together to choose the same priorities, as this will no doubt result in more intense and focused community health programming.

The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYs) plans education webinars in early 2013. The state Department of Health will also offer regional programming for hospitals and counties. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters and communications from NSHC. – Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.



Mark Your Calendar for NSHC January Events

- Jan. 8 Nurse Managers Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15 Finance Committee, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 16 Nurse Executives Committee, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 25 Communications Committee, Noon
- Jan. 28 Community Benefit Workshop
Feinstein Institute, Manhasset
www.northshorelij.com/community.

For more information please call:: 631-963-4153.

Workshop Exploring Community Benefit Issues

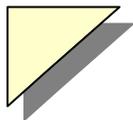
"Tax Form to Health Care Reform: Building Healthier Communities"

Program will examine the new IRS (Schedule H) and NYSDOH requirements for not-for-profit hospitals, community benefit, community health needs assessment (CHNA) and community service plans (CSP)

Monday, January 28, 2013 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Feinstein Institute in Manhasset

This workshop is sponsored by the North Shore/LIJ Health System. For fee and registration info go to: www.northshorelij.com/community (click on events calendar, select January 28, 2013 and search.)



The Quality Corner

An update on quality improvement issues

Mary Jane Milano, Director

New Inpatient Quality Measures: January 1, 2013 will see the start of the collection of some new inpatient quality reporting measures and measure sets. Hospitals must start collecting data on stroke and venous thromboembolism, (VTE), as well as an additional perinatal care measure. The stroke measures focus on drug regimens (antithrombotic therapy, anticoagulation therapy), patient and family education, and assessment for rehabilitation of stroke patients. The VTE measures are directed at three separate subpopulations – patients with no VTE, those with a principal VTE diagnosis, and those with a secondary diagnosis of VTE. The measures look at VTE prophylaxis, specific drug regimens (anticoagulation, warfarin and IV unfractionated heparin therapies) for patients who fall into certain categories, discharge instructions for VTE patients and incidence of preventable VTE. The perinatal care measure focuses on elective deliveries occurring between 37 and 38 weeks gestation.

NYSDOH Requirement for Sepsis Care: New York State Department of Health has asked for stakeholder input into its process of developing a new hospital requirement to improve sepsis care. The state expects to issue a requirement in 2013 mandating that hospitals put in place a protocol to address the early recognition, treatment, and care of both children and adults for sepsis. There are 23 hospitals in New York State currently participating in a Medicaid Medical Home project that requires a focus on sepsis care. At a recent Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) meeting, hospital executives stressed to the state the importance of there being consistency in requirements of both sepsis programs.

Team STEPPS Tools for Enhancing Safety for Patients with Limited

English Proficiency: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) offers educational and training materials to boost safety for patients with limited English proficiency at hospitals. Team STEPPS, developed by the AHRQ, offers a guide for hospitals covering three chapters: background on patient safety and limited English proficiency patients; five key recommendations to improve safety for this population; and steps to improve team communication. Interested health care organizations may also access the Team STEPPS evaluation tools to measure improvement and outcomes after implementing safety measures for patients with limited English proficiency.

News Briefs . . .

Health Care Heroes Recognized . . . at the Long Island Business News Health Care Heroes Awards Breakfast held November 27, 2012 at the Crest Hollow Country Club were: Achievements in Health Care – ***David Fiorella, Stony Brook Medicine and William Moore MD, John T. Mather Memorial Hospital;*** Community Outreach - ***Concussion Management Program, St. Charles Hospital;*** Health Care Professional – ***Josephine Connolly-Schoonen, Stony Brook University Medical Center and Bruce Litwak, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center;*** Hospital Award – ***Huntington Hospital and Southside Hospital;*** Nurse Educator – ***Catalina Baldia, St. Joseph Hospital and Judy O’Connell, Southampton Hospital;*** Nurse Hero – ***Lynn Bert, South Nassau Communities Hospital, Lori Brush, St. Francis Hospital, Eileen Magri, Winthrop-University Hospital, Susan Morin, John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, Marifel Paqueo, Long Beach Medical Center, Sarah Seimers, North Shore University Hospital, Linda Sisco, Syosset Hospital, Stacy Vitterti, St. Charles Hospital;*** Physician Hero – ***Joseph Carrucci and Michelle Price both from John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, Christine Hodyl, South Nassau Communities Hospital, Philip Schrank, St. Charles Hospital, Dmitriy Vaysman, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center;*** Volunteer Hero – ***Judith Fortunato, John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, Billie Schretzman, St. Charles Hospital and Gail Sullivan, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center.***

Medicaid Global Spending Cap . . . remains within limits. The Department of Health’s most recent report shows that expenditures are \$35 million (0.4 percent) under projections for the first seven months of the state fiscal year. The report

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

indicates that the state submitted a request to relax administrative and oversight requirements for providers impacted by superstorm Sandy. It also mentions the steps the state is taking to secure federal relief funds. The report does not address whether or how storm-related costs will impact the global cap. State share of Medicaid spending is capped at \$15.9 billion for fiscal year 2012 – 2013.

Excellence in Marketing Communications . . . was bestowed upon the NSHC Communications Committee when it received a 2012 Gold MarCom Award for its web-based public information campaign – the ABCs of Health Care Reform and You. The international awards competition recognizes outstanding creative achievement by marketing communications professionals. There were over 6,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries. The awards program is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals. The ABCs campaign was launched in January 2012. It offers easy-to-understand information about Access, Benefits, and Cost of the Affordable Care Act – all with one click. Updated regularly, the resource is used by elected leaders for constituent education, as well as by the media and the public. Access it via www.nshc.org and click on the ABCs logo on the home page.

Historic National Cancer Prevention Study . . . involves eleven hospitals on Long Island. The American Cancer Society's Epidemiology Research Program will be enrolling participants for its newest research study, the Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3). The study will follow participants for 20 years in an effort to figure out who gets cancer and why. Weight and physical activity will be a major focus of the study, but other behaviors, including the use of medications, will be examined as well. Long Island hospitals participating in the study are **Glen Cove Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital, Huntington Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, Southside Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center, Southampton Hospital, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center, and Stony Brook Medicine**. For more information go to: <http://www.cancer.org/Research/ResearchProgramsFunding/Epidemiology-CancerPreventionStudies/CancerPreventionStudy-3/cps3-locations#ny>.

Social Media Initiative . . . seeks to keep patients well. "Talking Well" is a new social media campaign launched by the Nassau University Medical Center. It launched last month on Facebook and Twitter. Tapping into the national and international health and wellness conversations taking place on Facebook and Twitter, NUMC department heads and staff can share first-hand accounts of state-of-the-art surgeries and provide valuable community resources in the promotion of wellness and healthy choices in lifestyle, fitness, and nutrition. In addition, four new user-friendly features on NUMC's website now allow patients to make appointments, access medical records, refill prescriptions via partnerships with Walgreens Pharmacy, and find a doctor with a click of a button.

Sepsis Education Webconference . . . are being offered by HANYS on January 29, 2013 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The session will feature Mitchell Levy MD, Brown University and Laura Evans, MD, of New York University Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center. Both are national experts on the *Surviving Sepsis Campaign*.

Committee and Meeting News ...

Communications Committee: Members gathered on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at Frederick's Restaurant in Melville to talk about challenges they faced before, during, and after superstorm Sandy. Representatives from Eastern Long Island Hospital shared their story about evacuating their facility. ELIH and Long Beach Medical Center were the two hospitals on Long Island that evacuated every patient. ELIH patients returned the next day; Long Beach patients remain in other facilities, while restoration work continues at Long Beach. Those at the December event all agreed that the gasoline shortage became problematic for hospital employees.

ABC's of Health Care Reform and You

For news and updates about the

Affordable Care Act go to www.nshc.org

Find out about **Access, Benefits, Costs** as

they apply to you and your hospital now and in the future. . .

Brought to you by the hospitals on Long Island

A public information campaign sponsored by the NSHC Communications Committee

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All Our Members !!!

The NSHC Staff

