

NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL, INC.

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MEMBER HOSPITALS

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
East Patchogue

Catholic Health Services of Long Island

- **Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center**
West Islip
- **Mercy Medical Center**
Rockville Centre
- **St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center**
Smithtown
- **St. Charles Hospital**
Port Jefferson
- **St. Francis Hospital**
Roslyn

Eastern Long Island Hospital
Greenport

Long Beach Medical Center
Long Beach

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
Port Jefferson

Nassau University Medical Center
East Meadow

New Island Hospital
Bethpage

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

- **Glen Cove Hospital**
- **North Shore University Hospital**
- **Plainview Hospital**
- **Syosset Hospital**
- **Franklin Hospital**
- **Huntington Hospital**
- **Southside Hospital**

Peconic Bay Medical Center
Riverhead

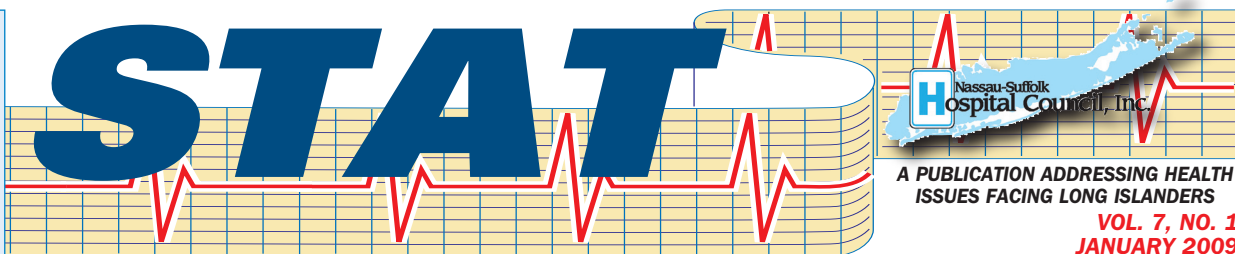
Southampton Hospital
Southampton

Stony Brook University Hospital
Stony Brook

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Northport

Winthrop South Nassau University Health System

- **South Nassau Communities Hospital**
Oceanside
- **Winthrop-University Hospital**
Mineola



Long Islanders Lose with Paterson Budget

Health services, jobs, local economies all are threatened

Long Island hospitals and the residents they serve in surrounding communities have a lot to lose if Governor Paterson's proposed budget for state fiscal year 2009 – 2010 is adopted by the legislature. Cuts in Medicaid reimbursement to Long Island's hospitals would exceed \$64 million. That figure doubles when federal matching dollars are added to the equation.

"We have never been in a budget crisis this dire," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), the association that represents Long Island's hospitals. "Our faltering economy is touching the lives of all Americans. Many have already lost their jobs and their health insurance with those jobs. That alone is making this budget crisis one of the worst."

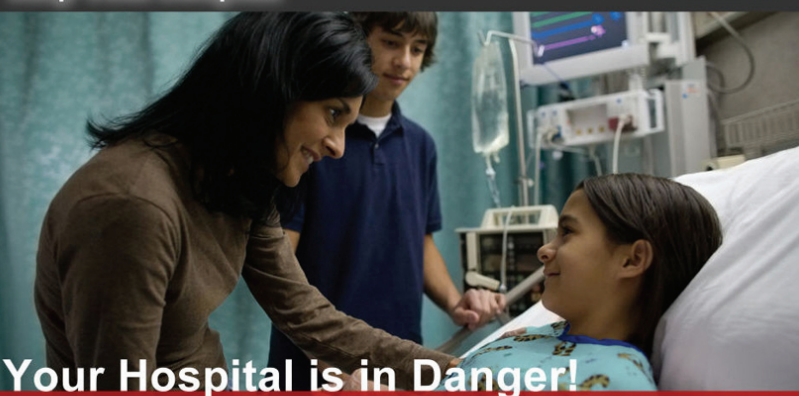
Without health insurance, and with most laid-off workers on Long Island unable to afford COBRA insurance, individuals and families are turning in greater numbers to hospital emergency rooms for care or simply foregoing necessary care. Many are also seeking coverage through one of the state subsidized insurance plans – Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus, Medicaid, but income limits and eligibility requirements mean not everyone who applies will receive coverage.

Hospital administrators are now grappling with ways they can trim their budgets, in anticipation of reimbursement cuts, while ensuring that quality care and access to vital services remain. The first to go will be such services as cancer-screenings, well-child clinics, flu shot clinics and the like.

"Eventually, you will see full unit and program closures and finally outright closure of hospitals," said Dahill.

With elimination of services and programs, comes

Help Your Hospital



Your Hospital is in Danger!

Governor Paterson has proposed massive health care cuts that will imperil critical health care services in every community in the state, including yours. Services ranging from cancer screenings to well-child clinics to emergency room care will be at risk. Thousands of health care jobs will face elimination if the Legislature passes these cuts. Your voice is essential if we are to restore this vital funding.

Enter your ZIP code to find out how much:

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 Healthcare Association of New York State
Health Care Data & Advocacy
One Empire Drive • Renaissance, NY 12144

elimination of staff. This is a double hit to communities, says Dahill.

According to the Hospital Council, Long Island's hospitals employ 82,000 people and contribute \$13 million to the region's local economy. Dahill notes that hospitals are a source of economic stimulus, providing good paying, local jobs. All that will be undermined by the Medicaid cuts proposed by the Governor.

"Every Long Islander, every patient and potential patient, needs to communicate the pain they and their communities will endure, if such drastic cuts to hospitals are allowed to happen," said Dahill.

A new, zip-code driven, user-friendly website – www.helpyourhospital.org – helps Long Islanders easily send such messages to their state representatives.

State Hopes for Federal Aid

A federal economic stimulus package that would include aid to states in the form of a Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase is help that New York State hopes for and needs. Congress is debating the measure now.

More importantly, hospital administrators say any FMAP relief that comes to New York must be dedicated to relieving the state's Medicaid budget con-

cerns. The availability of this federal money could allow the state to reverse proposed Medicaid cuts and to address Medicaid enrollment expansions from the recession, as well as fund its policy expansions. The website, www.helpyourhospital.org, allows users to send a letter to their state representative urging that federal Medicaid dollars be used specifically for Medicaid relief.