

Progress Notes July 2011

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.

Hospital Advocates Press Lawmakers

Long Island hospital leaders travel to the Capitol to meet with legislators . . . emphasize the devastation further cuts to Medicare/Medicaid programs would have on region's hospitals and patients

The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council led a group of Long Island hospital CEOs to Washington, DC on July 13, 2011, where they were joined by other hospital CEOs from throughout New York State and the nation. The advocacy event was sponsored by the Healthcare Association of New York State and the American Hospital Association and was organized in response to the threat of Medicare/Medicaid cuts that have been prompted by the continuing debt ceiling and deficit reduction debate.



“Our message was clear,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Hospital Council. “Long Island hospitals simply cannot endure any further payment reductions, especially in light of the fact that our hospitals will contribute \$1.8 billion over the next 10 years of the \$155 billion voluntarily pledged by the nation’s hospitals a year ago to help finance the Affordable Care Act.”

Members also met with Elizabeth Fowler, special assistant to the president for health and economic policy. Members expressed concern that the significant work New York’s hospitals and health systems are doing to innovate and implement delivery system reform would be undermined by a new round of Medicare/Medicaid cuts.

Debt Ceiling, Deficit Reduction Debate Consumes Washington

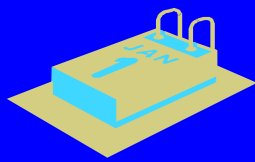
With August 2nd less than a week away – the date the country would default on its existing financial obligations in absence of a debt ceiling increase – congressional leaders and the White House continue to float new and revised proposals, but no deal has been reached on any of the packages. The United States has never defaulted, but economists agree that should it happen, all Americans will feel the effects through higher interest rates and greater difficulty borrowing. The country’s fragile recovering economy would suffer a tremendous setback and economists say that would be most damaging, as everyone’s pocketbook would feel the pain. Negative financial repercussions would reverberate throughout the world.

New State Laws Benefit Hospitals, Patients

Governor Cuomo recently signed several pieces of key legislation that were supported by the hospital industry. A health insurance exchange bill never made its way out of the legislature before the session's close and therefore no bill could be presented to the governor. However, the legislature may return before the year is out to consider this issue and other unfinished business.

New laws include:

- **Certificate of Need (CON) reform.** The new law, which was crafted by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYYS), takes effect in six months. The new law will streamline and hasten the CON process and reduce unnecessary paperwork and associated costs for both New York State and health care facilities. Routine repairs and maintenance, non-clinical infrastructure projects, and one-for-one equipment replacement will no longer require CON review.
- **Amendments to the Family Health Care Decisions Act.** Extends provisions of this act to hospice care.
- **Nurse Practitioners Sign Death Certificates.** Authorizes nurse practitioners to sign death certificates.
- **Pending . . .** 150 more bills were delivered to governor on July 22, 2011, including the **Certified Public Expenditures bill**, which authorizes public hospitals to finance the non-federal share of certain Medicaid payments through certified public expenditures, instead of through inter-governmental transfers.



Mark Your Calendar for NSHC Events in August

- Aug. 12 Revenue Cycle committee, 12:30 p.m.
- Aug. 19 Human Resources committee, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 23 Corporate Compliance committee, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 24 NYPORTS committee, 10 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.

News Briefs . . .

Patient-Friendly Website . . . launched by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's most comprehensive online directory for patients to find reliable information on the quality of health care provided by physicians and hospitals in their communities.

Comparing Health Care Quality: A National Directory is a map-based listing of health care "performance measurement" resources available across the country. The directory links to 197 free and publicly available reports in 46 states, as well as 27 reports with information on the performance of physicians and hospitals nationwide.

Auxiliary Donation . . . of \$250,000 was made by the Stony Brook University Hospital Auxiliary to the Stony Brook Long Island Children's Hospital. The gift will be matched by an anonymous donor and therefore total \$500,000.

Top Ranking . . . goes to the Nassau University Medical Center Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department's inpatient rehabilitation unit. For the third year in a row, the unit has been included in the top 148 prestigious listing of the 2011 *US News and World Report Best Hospitals* for top inpatient rehabilitation hospitals.

Most Beautiful and Most Wired distinction . . . goes to Stony Brook University Hospital. Soliant Health ranked it third in a list of 50 health care facilities from around the country for best in architectural

style, photogenic properties, landscaping, and distinctiveness. Visitors to the Soliant website cast votes for the winners. And for the third consecutive year, Stony Brook University Hospital was recognized as one of the nation's "Most Wired" hospitals, according to the results of the 2011 Most Wired Survey released in the July issue of *Hospitals and Health Networks* magazine.

Community Service Plans (CSP) . . . are due to the Department of Health by September 15, 2011. The DOH is asking hospitals to provide an update of activities, improvements, and any changes regarding the collaborative efforts with local health departments in working to achieve the state's *Prevention Agenda* goals for each community. The Hospital Council, on behalf of all member hospitals, worked with the tobacco cessation task forces of both Nassau and Suffolk counties last year. The culmination of the work of these task forces and the Council was a press briefing/educational forum held at Hofstra University in November 2010 that promoted county and hospital-based tobacco cessation efforts and programs. It was announced at that briefing that Long Island is a tobacco-free hospital region. Hospitals are required to develop and distribute a summary of their CSP to the public; however, the summary does not need to be submitted with the 2011 update. The DOH is strongly encouraging hospitals to post this information on

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

their websites. The CSP update can be submitted electronically. Go to


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011csp>.

Tackling Sepsis . . . is the focus of a new partnership between the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the North Shore-LIJ Health System. The collaborative will demonstrate key improvements in hospital quality and enable the two organizations to test new ways to prevent sepsis and manage its most harmful effects through earlier recognition.

Regional Economic Development Councils . . . were recently launched by Governor Cuomo, including one for the Long Island region. These Regional Councils will draw upon the distinct economic strengths found in each region. The Regional Councils will vie for \$1 billion in state agency grant monies. *Joseph Cabral, senior vice president and chief human resources officer, North Shore-LIJ Health System* was appointed to the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council. The hospital industry continues to be an economic engine for the Long Island region, providing jobs in direct patient care, as well as in ancillary and support industries and services. Hospitals on Long Island provided \$19.6 billion in economic activity

Committee News . . .

Nurse Executives Committee: At its July 20 meeting, the group received a summary of legislation impacting the nursing workforce that was considered during the final weeks of the legislative session, including a new palliative care requirement and a bill to mandate staffing ratios in hospitals and nursing homes. The group was also updated on new regulations for hospitals to develop observation units and on the Gold Stamp Pressure Ulcer Conference sponsored by the Council on June 28. Mary Ellen Lindros, director of nursing professional development at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center, gave an educational presentation on the impact of clinical informatics on nursing.



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