

## 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

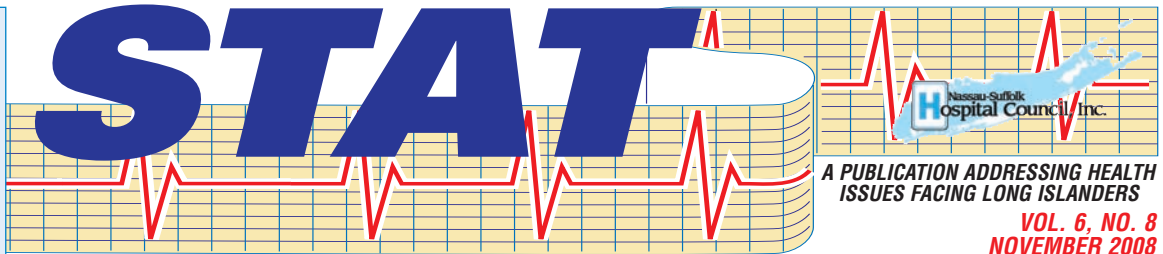
Southampton Hospital  
Southampton

Stony Brook University Hospital  
Stony Brook

Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Northport

Winthrop South Nassau University Health System

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



A PUBLICATION ADDRESSING HEALTH ISSUES FACING LONG ISLANDERS

VOL. 6, NO. 8  
NOVEMBER 2008

## Region Braces for State Budget Proposal

Although legislators earlier this month did not produce a fix for the \$2 billion gap in the state's current budget, this hole and a much larger one - about \$12 billion for state fiscal year 2009 - 2010 - will be addressed in the budget Governor Paterson unveils on December 16. This is a full month earlier than is customary.

With all areas and sectors vulnerable, hospital administrators are very concerned about the Medicaid program. In recent years, this state program has provided insurance and health care to increasing numbers of middle-income individuals and families. This is even more significant now that the entire country is in the midst of an economic meltdown.

New York State Department of Health staffers reported a 30 percent surge in Medicaid applications from January to April of this year. Given the recent events on Wall Street and with major U.S. companies, staffers expect Medicaid applications to soar.

"As more people lose their jobs and their health insurance with those jobs, the Medicaid program becomes a larger safety net. Ironically though, our elected representatives are looking to cut funding to this program just at a time when the citizens of this state need it the most," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). The NSHC represents the 24 not-for-profit

and public hospitals on Long Island.

The state spends a significantly smaller percentage of Medicaid funds on hospital care as opposed to long-term nursing home care. However, the hospital emergency department is the very place that those without insurance turn to for care - routine and emergency, explained Dahill.

"You could end up with a situation where there is less money going to hospitals in Medicaid reimbursements, while at the same time thousands of more Long Islanders are knocking on our doors," said Dahill.

### On the Federal Front

No progress on an economic stimulus package was made during Congress' recent lame duck session. As a result, there was no Congressional action on initiatives to assist New York's hospitals. These include an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and other measures aimed at reversing and/or blocking harmful reimbursement mechanisms. Plans for an economic stimulus package were put on hold until the new administration in Washington steps in. Hospitals are hopeful that the next Congress will move quickly to pass a stimulus package.

## Hospitals Help Promote Workforce Diversity

The Urban League of Long Island, the organization that works for economic empowerment and parity among the region's disenfranchised minorities, youth, and seniors, was joined by leaders from Long Island's hospitals, businesses, and other service agencies at the Urban League's Equal Opportunity Day Luncheon held Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the Crest Hollow in Woodbury. The Urban League works closely with these partners throughout the year on a shared vision of empowerment and employment for all.

This year's luncheon recognized Long Island's emerging leaders and markets that will influence our region's economy and its working citizens for years to come. The League notes opportunities with green energy efficient companies, as well as with hospitals and other health care providers. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts an 18% growth rate in health care jobs by the year 2012.



From left: Celebrating workforce diversity and economic self-reliance are Tom Cullen, President/CEO of King Kullen Groceries and immediate past Chair of the Board for Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center; Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and a member of the Urban League's board; Theresa Sanders, President/CEO of the Urban League; Spencer Ross, who leads the Long Island Association's World Trade Council; and Howard Weitzman, Nassau County Comptroller.