



Nassau – Suffolk Hospital Council

Representing the not-for-profit and public hospitals serving the residents of Long Island

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Law Enhances Patient and Provider Rights

Business community helps drive legislation through, seeks to preserve integrity of health care employee benefits

(Hauppauge, New York . . . August 3, 2007) Long Island patients and their health care providers were afforded further rights when Governor Spitzer signed the Health Summit bill into law on August 1, 2007. The bill, which mandates enhanced consumer and provider protections in relation to limitations on denial of claims for pre-authorized health care services and external appeals procedures, is the product of lobbying efforts of the Suburban Healthcare Alliance. The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), which represents Long Island's 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals, is a founding member of this group.

This is the fourth managed care reform the Alliance has advanced. Reforms passed last year included standardized CPT coding, 90 day maximum for physician credentialing, and limits on insurers' look back period.

The Alliance is a unique health care lobbying group, because an equal number of its members are businesses from throughout New York State. These business leaders have decided to take action and demand accountability from the health insurers into which they pump millions in premium dollars, on behalf of their employees, year after year.

"Payment for services authorized and rendered is a fundamental concept in business. The new legislation helps insure that health care providers in New York will now be treated equitably," said Alliance member John Lane, who is the retired managing director for J.P.Morgan and a trustee for Winthrop-University Hospital.

Alliance member Lowell Frey, president of Champion Cutting Tool and a trustee at South Nassau Communities Hospital, expressed a similar view when he learned that the bill was signed. "This bill is great news not only for hospitals, but for the business community as well. It's reassuring to know that the money we spend on health insurance benefits for our employees will truly provide those employees with the coverage and care they need and deserve."

"It's really all about value," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council. "Value for your premium dollar matching the value of the health care

(MORE)

Health Summit bill 2-2-2-2

service delivered.”

The Suburban Healthcare Alliance says it will continue to educate business leaders and lawmakers about these unfair practices. A Healthcare Re-investment Fund is the centerpiece of the reforms the group seeks. It would require insurers to contribute to a fund that hospitals throughout the state could draw upon for such needs as information technology and physician recruitment.

“Health insurers have enjoyed profits in excess of \$3.7 billion in the past nine years,” said Dahill. “During this same period, hospitals lost \$2.4 billion, as revenue from Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial health plans failed to cover the cost of providing care. We think there is some excess in the system.”

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