



NEWS RELEASE
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Leaders of 28 Hospitals in 7 Counties Name Kevin Dahill as President/CEO of NorMet Hospital Association

Dahill Also Remains CEO of Nassau Suffolk Hospital Council as Two Organizations Deepen Partnerships That Support Hospitals

(Newburgh, NY . . . July 20, 2010) This Monday, July 19, Kevin Dahill became the President/CEO of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet), headquartered in Newburgh, New York. Dahill succeeds Neil Abitabilo, who retired on Friday after 27 years with NorMet. In a bold move to expand advocacy strength of hospitals outside of New York City, the CEOs from 54 hospitals across the Hudson Valley and Long Island have asked Dahill to lead a stronger collaboration of NorMet and the Nassau Suffolk Hospital Council, which Dahill has led for the past 8 years, and will continue to lead in addition to NorMet.

In this dual appointment, Dahill will spearhead exploration of the 54 hospitals' common policy concerns related to hospital services in suburban areas. Five years ago, the two hospital associations initiated an advocacy collaboration known as the Suburban Healthcare Alliance, which –to date- has focused largely on health insurance reform.

Both the NSHC and NorMet are part of the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYs) through a management agreement, although all three organizations maintain their own Boards of Directors. Daniel Sisto, President of HANYs said, "We thank Neil Abitabilo for his effective service on behalf of health care providers and patients in the Hudson Valley region and beyond, and wish him well in his retirement. A hallmark of Mr. Abitabilo's work was bringing together businesses and providers in the Hudson Valley, as well as seeking common positions with hospitals on Long Island to promote suburban interests in Albany and Washington D.C. That bond will continue and strengthen as NSHC's president/CEO Kevin Dahill assumes leadership of NorMet. Mr. Dahill is the ideal person for this job because of his work with NorMet and its members, his prior experience as President of New York United Hospital in Port Chester before joining NSHC), and most importantly, because he is a focused, proven leader who has revitalized and transformed NSHC into a powerful, respected regional advocacy organization."

"Neil Abitabilo brought new energy and focus to the advocacy activities of NorMet. He did a terrific job of making NorMet a meaningful voice for hospitals throughout the Hudson Valley," said Bob Savage, President of St. Francis Hospital and Chairman of the Board of Directors of NorMet. "His retirement offered us an opportunity to explore ways to make that voice even stronger. This alliance with Nassau Suffolk and HANYs, through the shared leadership that will be provided by Kevin Dahill, takes strengths of multiple organizations to exponentially enhance our voice to protect hospitals' ability to serve their communities."

The Suburban Healthcare Alliance is credited with forwarding several of the managed care reforms that are now law in New York State. Most notably, the Alliance produced a landmark report *The Need to Rebalance Market Forces for New York Suburban Hospitals and Physicians* that revealed the disparity – 18 to 25 percent – in commercial reimbursements between New York hospitals and those found in the surrounding suburban communities of Connecticut and New Jersey. This document helped spur a movement among law makers, hospital administrators, and business leaders to make insurers more accountable, while enhancing consumer and provider protections.

“Hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island face different challenges than our urban and rural counterparts, not only in terms of reimbursement structures, but because of disproportionately higher labor, energy, and supply costs,” said Dahill. “I am honored to now also represent the needs of hospitals in the northern suburbs of New York City and into the Hudson Valley. Conjoining the two associations will strengthen the presence of hospitals in Albany and Washington DC to even better help patients.”

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For an interview or additional information about Mr. Dahill or NorMet, contact Melinda Ottavan, at 845-562-7520.