



Progress Notes

April 2018

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President Eyes Clawback of Some Omnibus Bill Dollars

The White House has signaled its interest in advancing legislation to rescind as much as \$25 billion from the massive spending bill (omnibus bill) that Congress approved in late March. The original consideration from the administration was \$60 billion. Targets could be discretionary programs, such as National Institutes of Health funding or money already appropriated to address the opioid crisis.

The White House is acting under a 1974 law that allows the president to propose to Congress rescinding certain budgetary authority (the Impoundment Control Act). Congress then has 45 days to pass the bill or the spending remains in effect. Rescissions are seen as a way to save taxpayer dollars. Under the Impoundment Control Act, recession proposals apply only to cuts in discretionary programs, not mandatory benefit programs.

There are no imminent threats to the Medicare or Medicaid programs, but such clawback action underscores the instability that pervades lawmaking and rule-making in Washington, DC. It is possible that rescission could pass in the House, but such a measure is unlikely to pass in the Senate.

With State Budget Done, Work Turns to Advocacy

With the 2018 – 2019 state budget approved March 31, 2018, legislators now debate such pressing issues as medical malpractice reform, nurse staffing ratio legislation, and the behavioral and substance abuse crisis. Hospital advocates will also work with the legislative and executive branches to ensure a continued and equitable commitment to healthcare transformation and insurance market stabilization.

Medical Malpractice – At least a half-dozen bills dealing with medical malpractice are circulating in the legislature. The Suburban Hospital Alliance is urging the state to enact meaningful and fair malpractice reform. Some approaches supported by the hospital industry include a cap on non-economic damages or support for alternatives to traditional litigation, such as special malpractice courts and "[Sorry Works](#)" programs, and legislation that would establish a certificate of merit from a recognized medical expert to reduce the number of frivolous cases brought before the courts.

Mandatory Nurse Staffing Ratios – Legislation (A.1532/S.3330) would impose arbitrary staffing ratios. Such ratios have been shown to not improve care in the only other state – California – that has such ratios in place. More importantly, such restrictive laws would prevent experienced local clinicians from making the appropriate staffing decisions to meet the needs of each and every patient, taking into account patient mix and acuity and surge capacity concerns. It is estimated that mandated staffing ratios would cost New York's hospitals and nursing homes close to \$3 billion annually.

Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse Crisis – Suburban counties in New York are experiencing some of the highest rates of opioid abuse and overdose deaths. The situation is placing stress on all treatment venues – inpatient and outpatient – and legislative and regulatory changes are needed now to alleviate this crisis. Hospital advocates are pressing for an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health services, improved coordination between state agencies overseeing residential populations, establishment of hospital-based psychiatric observation units, and changes to the scope of practice for psychiatric nurse practitioners, among other solutions.

Visit the Suburban Hospital Alliance's [website](#) for more in-depth detail about the alliance's advocacy agenda.

News Briefs

Celebrate – Governor Andrew Cuomo has proclaimed May 2, 2018, as **Health Care Auxilian Day** in New York State, an excellent occasion to celebrate and applaud the many accomplishments of hospitals' auxiliaries.

The Dahill Dose – Check out the latest posts at www.dahilldose.com. Authored by SHANYS President/CEO Kevin Dahill, the blog offers informed and insightful commentary on healthcare policy, legislation, and regulation.

Improvement in Sepsis Care – The New York State Department of Health's [Annual Sepsis Care Improvement Report](#) shows that New York has achieved a consistent reduction in sepsis adult mortality rates since [Rory's Regulations](#) have been in place. Overall adult mortality continued to decrease through 2016, from 30.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 26.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Awaiting the Next Prevention Agenda – New York State's Public Health and Health Planning Council will issue its updated 2019 – 2024 Prevention Agenda in December of this year. Planning for the new cycle has been underway for some time and included diverse stakeholder feedback. The five priority areas are very similar to current Prevention Agenda priorities, with some refinement and detail. In this round of the Prevention Agenda, the state is emphasizing healthy aging across the life cycle in each priority area and incorporating a health-across-all-policies approach including upstream, "non-health" interventions and strategies in each priority area. There is an emphasis, on the part of the state, to better understand the community benefit that is reported by hospitals on IRS schedule H. The state is seeking more detail about the dollar amount reported on the community health improvement line on the IRS document. However, categorizing activities to that level of detail will be rather difficult and cumbersome for most hospitals. The state hopes to more easily discern the spending that is

associated with Prevention Agenda priorities and is currently developing more guidance about this. The Healthcare Association of New York State has offered a few webinars on the topic. Stay tuned for more information/webinars offered by HANYS and assistance at the local level provided by SHANYS.

New Yorkers Relate Stories about Insurance Loss and Gain – Healthcare Voices is a campaign spearheaded by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council to highlight the stories about New Yorkers' experiences with the health insurance marketplace, coverage issues, and healthcare access. The Hospital Council is also a state-certified navigator agency and is in a unique position to interact with New Yorkers who are seeking health insurance coverage. The campaign is bringing attention to these otherwise unheard voices through social media, traditional media channels, and through conversations with legislators.

Bianca Fabian's employer does not offer insurance. However, she says she knows the importance of having coverage for both routine needs and when life throws you a curveball. That is why she did not hesitate to purchase insurance from the marketplace. Read more about Bianca's story and other stories at [Healthcare Voices](#), including that of [Ruth Zaporta](#) who was featured in the state's print and broadcast ads about enrolling in the marketplace. Click on these links to view the digital spot, featuring Ruth, in both English and Spanish:



<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/4millionreasonsgroup2>

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/4millionreasonsspanish1>

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/4millionreasonsspanish2>

Spotlight on Quality

Joint Commission Highlights Workplace Violence Trends in Health Care Settings

By Kate McCale, Director of Quality and Membership Services, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council

In an April 17 Sentinel Event Alert, The Joint Commission (TJC) addresses violence against health care workers and provides some staggering statistics on the prevalence of verbal and physical abuse in the health care setting. The organization uses Sentinel Event Alerts to identify trends in adverse events and make recommendations for reducing risk. This alert was one of three that address different types of behaviors that undermine a culture of safety.

The report provides some astonishing data from a series of peer-reviewed articles and worker safety organizations on the prevalence of workplace violence in health care. For example, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that nearly 75 percent of the 25,000 workplace assaults reported annually occur in health care and social service settings and that workers in these settings are four times more likely to be attacked. The National Crime Victimization Survey showed that health care workers have a 20 percent higher chance of being a victim of workplace violence. An American Nurses Association survey indicated that 25 percent of the nurses surveyed had been physically assaulted by a patient or patient's family member. Bureau of Labor statistics data indicates that violence-related injuries are four times more likely to result in missed work among healthcare workers.

However, verbal and physical violence is still underreported. One study estimated that the actual number of reportable injuries could be three times as high as the number reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Researchers attribute underreporting to the nature of the work. Many health care workers feel that verbal and physical violence is part and parcel to their jobs. A study published in the *Journal of Emergency Nursing* estimated that only 30 percent of nurses reported incidents of workplace violence. A similar study found that only 26 percent of physicians in the emergency department reported incidents.

While TJC policies identify rape, assault (leading to death, permanent harm, or severe temporary harm) and homicide as sentinel events that warrant comprehensive systematic analysis, hospitals are encouraged to define standards for acceptable and unacceptable behavior and triggers for investigation of violent events that may not rise to the sentinel event level. Hospitals should consider policies that clearly define workplace violence and reporting systems or tools that encourage reporting. TJC highlights the importance of appropriate follow-up with victims and assessments of contributing factors so that unit-specific interventions can be implemented. The Sentinel Event Alert can be found [here](#).



News from the
Hudson Valley

[Click here for Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association member listing](#)

Meeting the Triple Aim – Highlighted this month in the HANYS Innovation Spotlight for meeting the Triple Aim were,

- *St. Joseph's Medical Center* in Yonkers, for their program to meet the health needs of “super utilizers” in the ED,
- *White Plains Hospital*, the implementation of their Breastfeeding Support Group,
- and *Putnam Hospital Center* in Carmel, for their efforts to decrease sepsis mortalities through education, early recognition, and prompt intervention.
- Read more about this hospital's achievements and more at www.hanys.org/tripleaim.

Reverified – *Westchester Medical Center* received reverification of the hospital's Level I trauma status – the highest level awarded by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons – for both its adult and pediatric trauma centers.

Project Approval – HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, has received contingency approval from the New York State Department of Health for a transformative \$92 million expansion and enhancement of HealthAlliance Hospital: Mary's Avenue Campus, HealthAlliance, and WMCHHealth. These enhancements include a new, four-story tower and 437,000 square feet of space, with over 200 total beds, and a new state-of-the-art emergency department, intensive care unit and medical-surgical tower.

Healthcare Panel Features SHANYS President/CEO - The Westchester County Association's All Access Healthcare Panel was held April 11, 2018, at the Doubletree Hilton in Tarrytown, and featured SHANYS President/CEO Kevin Dahill along with several other key healthcare leaders. Dahill talked about cost drivers, social determinants of health, and consolidations/mergers and how each influence overall healthcare costs, access, and quality.

“Innovations and technology, insurance market swings and disruptions, reforms to Medicare and Medicaid, an aging baby boomer generation, and proliferation of chronic diseases all add to the burgeoning U.S. healthcare tab,” said Dahill. “National healthcare spending is expected to grow at an average rate of 5.6 percent per year through 2025, which is 1.2 percentage points faster than GDP. We’ll hit 20 percent GDP by 2025.”

Commissioner of Health Presents Commissioner’s Grand Rounds at Ellenville Regional Hospital – On April 3, 2018, New York State Commissioner of Health Howard A. Zucker, MD, hosted his Commissioner’s Grand Rounds title The Future of Primary Care at *Ellenville Regional Hospital*. Presenters included Neil S. Calman, MD, President & CEO, The Institute for Family Health; Steven L. Kelley, FACHE, President & CEO, Ellenville Regional Hospital; Michaela Frazier, LMSW, CCM, Vice President of Social Support Services, The Institute for Family Health; and Sirene Garcia, Director of Special Programs, Finger Lakes Community Health Center.

The presentations provided information on and examples of collaborations between community health centers and hospitals, integrating social diagnosis into the patient encounter, and the emerging role of telehealth in primary care. This Grand Rounds session was a part of the NYS Department of Health’s celebration of National Public Health Week 2018 and its theme, “Changing Our Future Together.” It was also broadcast via live webinar and a recording is available on the New York State Department of Health website.

Photo and story by Deborah A. Briggs, VP Human Resources, Marketing, Volunteers & Community Relations Executive Director, Ellenville Regional Hospital Foundation



Photo from left: Steve L. Kelley, President & CEO, Ellenville Regional Hospital; Neil S. Calman, MD, President & CEO, The Institute for Family Health; Michaela Frazier, LMSW, CCM, Vice President of Social Support Services, The Institute for Family Health; Sirene Garcia, Director of Special Programs, Finger Lakes Community Health Center; Howard A. Zucker, MD, New York State

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@normet.org.



News from
Long Island

[Click here for Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council member listing](#)

Meeting the Triple Aim – Highlighted this month in the HANYS Innovation Spotlight for meeting the Triple Aim was *St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center* in Smithtown, for their medication reconciliation pharmacist program, preventing and correcting thousands of errors for patients. Read more about these hospitals and more at www.hanys.org/tripleaim.

Record Awards – Northwell Health's *North Shore University Hospital* in Manhasset earned a Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a designation fewer than 500 hospitals worldwide have achieved.

Sixth Time – The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMS_N) and the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB) have given the K2 Nursing Unit at *St. Francis Hospital* in Roslyn the PRISM award for exemplary nursing practice, making it the sixth time a medical surgical unit at St. Francis has achieved this national nursing recognition.

Leapfrog – *Mather Hospital* in Port Jefferson earned an "A" rating from The Leapfrog Group for meeting the highest safety standards in the U.S., making it the hospital's 11th "A" grade for patient safety. Mather Hospital is the only hospital in Suffolk County and one of only eight hospitals in New York State to earn the top grade.

OMH Regional Field Director Provides Update – Martha Carlin, Psy.D, director of the Long Island Regional Field Office, State Office of Mental Health, led a highly-informative Briefing for Behavioral Health Leaders on April 19, 2018. The briefing was a byproduct of the work of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council's Behavioral Health Workgroup, led by Stacy Villagran, who oversees the Hospital Council's insurance enrollment programs.

Dr. Carlin provided an abundance of information about the variety of services offered by OMH on Long Island, including an expansive directory of key agency contacts. She clarified the admissions process for Pilgrim Psychiatric Center, emphasizing what constitutes an appropriate admission and why, and the importance of completed lab work and paperwork. "Every two weeks there is a call between the field office and Pilgrim Psychiatric Center to review admissions and the wait list," she said. "We will not review until all lab work is in."



For a copy of Dr. Carlin's slides and/or more information about the work of the Hospital Council's Behavioral Health Workgroup, contact Stacy Villagran at svillagr@nshc.org.

Photo: Martha Carlin, Psy.D., director of the Long Island Regional Field Office, State Office of Mental Health, leads a briefing for healthcare professionals.

Long Islanders More Active – That is the result of an analysis conducted by the Long Island Health Collaborative (LIHC), the population health improvement program (PHIP) grantee for the Long Island region. The LIHC is overseen by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council. The PHIP is a New York State of Health grant program designed to support collaboration among a diverse group of regional partners as they work together to advance population health activities in the region. The LIHC's report – [Physical Activity in Adults - A Look into the Long Island Region](#) – is the first in a series of quarterly data reports examining trends and patterns of selected health topics, with a focus on Long Island. The LIHC analyzed national and state data sets, as well as data it collects locally. Results showed that Long Islanders are a bit more

active than they were in 2013, but their activity levels are still below the national average. The finding was a bit of good news for health providers who have been collaborating with public health agencies and community-based organizations to get Long Islanders more active in an effort to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, especially those related to obesity.

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@nshc.org

Committee Updates

Long Island Sexual Violence Consortium: NSHC has agreed to represent hospitals and health systems on the newly-formed Long Island Sexual Violence Consortium, a partnership of businesses, educational institutions, community organizations, and municipalities to raise awareness about preventing and addressing sexual assault. The Council participated in a kick-off event in Hauppauge attended by local officials and Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul on April 20. (Newsday story here if you want more info: <https://www.newsday.com/business/businesses-sexual-assault-prevention-1.18182402>)

Nurse of Excellence Award: On May 16, the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council will recognize the region's most distinguished nurses and bestow the annual Nurse of Excellence award. Each member hospital and nursing school participating in the Council's Nurse Executives Committee is eligible to nominate one candidate for the award, which recognizes a distinguished bedside nurse or nurse faculty member for outstanding achievements in the profession. The recognition ceremony will be held at the Woodbury Country Club.

Fiscal Policy Committee: The April meeting covered the final federal budget for the remainder of the 2018 fiscal year and the final state budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year, as well as the legislative priorities for the remainder of the session. Members also received instructions on how to preserve their right to appeal a federal cut to the 340B drug discount program.

Nurse Executives: In addition to receiving updates on federal and state legislative and budget priorities at the April 18 meeting, the committee was briefed on the state's plan to roll out new stroke designation criteria, a new statutory requirement to identify human trafficking victims, and changes to the federal guidelines on conscience clause exemptions for individual providers.

Revenue Cycle: On April 27, the committee discussed managed care denials and received briefings on federal proposals to expand the availability of out-of-state insurance products, association health plans, and short-term health policies. The group also received updates on litigation over the backlog of Medicare RAC appeals and changes in documentation requirements.

Communications Committee: Renee Hastick-Motes, vice president of external affairs and public information officer for St. John's Episcopal Hospital, located on the Rockaway peninsula, led a webinar on April 24 about the importance of an internal communications strategy to create and control the hospital's message. "Employees are the most valuable brand champions," said Hastick-Motes. "Corporate journalism means the hospital creates the messaging utilizing employees at all levels who are the influencers." Webinar attendees included communications/marketing and public affairs staff from hospitals located in the Long Island and Hudson Valley regions.

Long Island Health Collaborative: The staff of the Long Island Population Health Improvement Program gave an update to members of the Long Island Health Collaborative on NYSDOH's new Bureau of Social Determinants of Health, and an overview of proposed changes to the state's Prevention Agenda. Asking members for feedback on these proposed changes, members were also invited to a legislative briefing with the LIPHIP staff to Senator Kemp Hannon and other state legislators.

Upcoming Events

May 8th HANYS' Events during AHA 2018 Annual Meeting

[Register today](#)

The American Hospital Association (AHA) will hold its Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 6 - 9. In conjunction with the AHA meeting, HANYS will host a federal briefing on Tuesday, May 8, followed by a reception on Capitol Hill.

After a bipartisan briefing discussing congressional healthcare priorities, you are invited to join hospital executives from New York, California, Illinois, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania for a reception. New York Delegation members and their staff have been invited to attend the reception. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

We encourage you to attend and take advantage of this unique opportunity to interact with your members of Congress, their staff, and state association colleagues with whom we regularly collaborate on key federal advocacy issues.

The schedule of HANYS events during the AHA Annual Meeting is below.

HANYS' Federal briefing

Date: Tuesday, May 8

Time: 4 - 5 p.m.

Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room North

Multi-State Reception

Date: Tuesday, May 8

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.

Location: U.S. Senate, SR-325

[Please register online](#) by May 1. If you have questions regarding registration or to cancel your registration, please email learning@hanys.org or call (518) 431-7867.

Please note that separate registration is required for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting.

June 27 – 29th HANYS' 50th Annual Membership Conference

Celebrating 50 Years Educating Healthcare Leaders

HANYS' 50th Annual Membership Conference will take place in a new location in 2018—the historic city of Saratoga Springs, New York. Celebrate a half-century of bringing our members together for education, networking, and celebration of member achievements.

The 2018 Annual Membership Conference will offer an enhanced agenda with breakout sessions covering leadership, quality improvement, operational efficiencies, policy, payment models, and more. Continuing education credits will be available to attendees. Members of all C-level roles are invited to join and reflect on recent events, delve into current healthcare issues and trends, and learn from state and national policy experts about what to expect in the months and years ahead.

Registration

Registration and hotel information will be available in March 2018. [Check here](#) periodically for updates and details as they become available. For more information, contact learning@hanys.org.