



Representing the shared advocacy interests of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)



Contact: Janine Logan, Director of Communications, 631-334-8321 (Cell)

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Advocacy Logo Signifies Strength in Numbers

(August 9, 2011. . .) Given the delivery and payment reforms underway in Albany and Washington, DC, hospitals in the suburban regions immediately east and north of New York City are strengthening their advocacy efforts to ensure their regions' specific concerns are heard by lawmakers. The group, known as the Suburban Hospital Alliance (SHA), ***unveiled a logo*** this week geared toward solidifying its presence and heightening its identification among lawmakers, the business community, the media, and the public.

Hospitals in nine suburban counties are represented by the Suburban Hospital Alliance, stretching from the eastern counties of Nassau and Suffolk on Long Island to the seven counties north and westward that comprise the lower and mid-Hudson Valley. The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) on Long Island and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet) in the Hudson Valley are the primary advocacy organizations for hospitals in the respective regions.

“As health insurers gain more market dominance and issues such as malpractice reform, the MTA payroll tax, and formation of a state health insurance exchange intensify, these hospitals realize a strong voice that can articulate their unique needs is needed,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of both NSHC and NorMet. “In 2006, the Alliance published a ground breaking white paper that highlighted the startling disparity in commercial reimbursements between these regions and hospitals located in states in the immediate tri-state area. This was the beginning of the Suburban Hospital Alliance.”

In just five years, the Alliance has achieved numerous legislative milestones on the state level, including prior authorization guarantees, reduced timeframe for payment of electronic claims, and enhanced appeals mechanisms for denials, to name a few.

“We are a potent force affecting change for patients, payers, and employers,” said Dahill. “the hospitals we represent are an economic powerhouse, providing 143,000 local jobs, \$22.9 billion in payroll and purchases to local communities, and \$927 million in state and local income and sales tax to New York’s economic infrastructure.”

A total of 5.1 million New Yorkers reside in the nine counties and these residents are represented by 18 state senators, and 40 assembly members.

Long Island Office: 631-435-3000

Hudson Valley Office: 845-562-7520

The Suburban Hospital Alliance was formed in 2006 to ensure that the specific concerns of hospitals in the nine suburban counties immediately north and east of New York City were heard by lawmakers in Albany and Washington. It continues that mission today.

