



A consortium of 51 not-for-profit and public hospitals advocating for better health care policy for all those living and working in the nine counties north and east of New York City

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suburban Hospitals Join Advocacy Forces

(January 7, 2013) . . . Leadership of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet) today announced the re-packaging of the associations' joint advocacy initiatives under the umbrella of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC. The decision follows two years of joint advocacy activities in which the two hospital associations concurrently advocated for their members as the NSHC, NorMet, and the Suburban Hospital Alliance. Moving forward all advocacy activities for the 51 hospitals represented by the NSHC and NorMet will be directed by the Suburban Hospital Alliance. The NSHC and NorMet retain their respective boards and remain two distinct associations representing hospitals in their respective regions.

"The Suburban Hospital Alliance presents a strong voice in Albany and in Washington, DC," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the two hospital associations and principal of the Suburban Hospital Alliance. "Elected leaders from the two regions represented by the Suburban Hospital Alliance present a formidable and powerful voting bloc, as they speak on behalf of 5.1 million New Yorkers – a quarter of the state's total population."

The environment in Albany and Washington is very much focused on debt and deficit reduction and health care remains a vulnerable target for Medicare/Medicaid cuts to providers. New York is in the midst of historic Medicaid reform and payment transformation, as is the nation's Medicare program under provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA is also ushering in a bevy of insurance reforms, most notably state insurance exchanges, and other coverage mandates and consumer protections that will forever change the way care is delivered and paid for in this country, says Dahill. "While the Suburban Hospital Alliance exists to protect the interests of hospitals and the patients they treat, we also want to help lawmakers and regulators develop sound and reasonable health care policy that meets the needs of all interests involved," said Dahill.

In the Hudson Valley, the Suburban Hospital Alliance includes 27 hospitals located in seven counties – Westchester, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Ulster, and Sullivan. This is the region serviced locally by the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet). On Long Island, it includes 24 hospitals in two counties – Nassau and Suffolk. This is the region serviced locally by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC).

NorMet and the NSHC worked informally since 2006 on joint advocacy activities and formally organized these advocacy activities in 2011 under the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC. Hospitals in these two suburban regions share common interests that are distinct from issues that affect hospitals in urban and rural areas. Some of these defining issues include wage and workforce differences, excessive malpractice costs, and prohibitive Certificate of Need provisions.

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Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC

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