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Skyline news

Reporting on New York's Health Care News

GNYHA Salutes Physician Training at Annual Reception

On Wednesday, June 4, Jim Foy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Riverside Health Care System, Inc., was installed as the 2008–09 Chairman of the GNYHA Board of Governors at the 2008 GNYHA Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony.

Inspired by the theme of this year's event, A Salute to the Physician Training Capital of the World, GNYHA chose to honor three alumni of the region's graduate medical education programs for exemplifying the contributions of all phy-

sicians who have trained in New York. The honorees were also given the opportunity to thank and recognize the physicians who mentored and inspired them throughout their education and careers.

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Riverside Health Care System President and CEO Jim Foy makes his first remarks as GNYHA Board Chairman as Outgoing Chairman Gary Horan, Trinitas Hospital President and CEO, and GNYHA President Kenneth Raske look on.

Congress Passes Budget Resolution; Medicaid Moratoria in Jeopardy

On June 4, the U.S. Senate voted 48–45 to approve a \$3.1 trillion fiscal year 2009 budget resolution (S Con Res 70), which includes substantial increases in funds for domestic programs and excludes President Bush's proposed funding cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. One day later, on June 5, the House passed the measure, marking the first time since 2000 that both chambers approved a budget resolution during an election year. The non-binding resolution lays out a spend-

ing blueprint that would increase funds for domestic Federal agencies by almost 5%, or \$24 billion, and includes about \$21 billion more than the President requested in discretionary spending—or about \$1.013 trillion. With the budget framework resolution passed, Congress' attention will now turn to the appropriations bills to determine how to spend the \$3.1 trillion. House Appropriations subcommittees likely will begin to mark up the 12 appropriations bills next week, while the Senate will begin

its mark up as early as June 16.

Of particular interest to the health care community is the \$250 billion supplemental Iraq War appropriations bill (HR 2642) that includes one-year moratoria on new Medicaid regulations proposed by the Bush Administration. Last week, House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI) indicated his intention to eliminate moratoria on three important Medicaid regulations from the bill. The Senate and the House had previously passed versions of this bill with critical moratoria

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GNYHA GAP Program Graduates Second Class of Nurses

On May 27, GNYHA graduated the 20 nurses who participated in the second round of Bridging the Gap: Linking Clinical Practice to Academia (the Gap Program.) The Gap nurses represent six GNYHA member hospitals: Beth Israel Medical Center, Jacobi Medical Center, Long Beach Medical Center, Lenox Hill Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and Long Island Jewish Medical Center. For the commencement, each hospital team presented their collaborative capstone project, an ambitious initiative to implement an expanded and improved clinical rotation for nursing students at their respective hospitals. Alicia Georges, Ed.D., R.N., who is Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Nursing at Lehman College, delivered the commencement address, speaking about the importance of the GAP Program partnership between clinical service and academia and how this type of partnership is the only

way to truly address the nursing crisis in New York State. Dr. Georges and Lehman College have supported the Gap Program since its inception as a pilot project nearly four years ago.

The Gap Program is designed to improve the quality and delivery of nursing care by creating a model that modernizes nursing education practices while increasing the number of qualified clinical faculty and developing better long-term retention of nurses at GNYHA member

hospitals. Over the next year, GNYHA and the nurse graduates of the program will focus their efforts to strengthen academic partnerships, more appropriately matching students to institutions where they may want to practice after graduation, thereby reducing their orientation time post graduation. A total of 53 nurses have graduated from the program to date, with a third class of 15 nurses already underway. For more information, contact Terri Straub or Zeynep Sumer at GNYHA.



Second Graduating Class of the GNYHA Gap Program

NYS OASAS Adopts New Regulations

The New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) recently announced the adoption of regulations requiring provider policies and procedures in the areas of patient rights and tobacco-free services. Part 815 of Title 14 of New York State's Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) has been amended to require chemical dependency programs certified or funded by OASAS to establish policies and procedures to protect patient rights, delineate specific patient rights and responsibilities, and establish certain additional new requirements for providers. Separately, 14 NYCRR Part 856 has been amended to require providers to establish tobacco-free services and imple-

ment services for nicotine dependence.

In addition to enumerating a comprehensive list of patient rights, Part 815 requires providers to post patient rights prominently and conspicuously throughout the facility in addition to giving each patient a copy of the rights and responsibilities. Further, Part 815 establishes requirements calling for the patient to act responsibly and cooperatively with provider staff and the development of a process to address patient non-compliance. Finally, Part 815 establishes new requirements regarding discharge procedures, patient searches, drug testing, and the use of prescription medications by patients. The complete regulation can be viewed

on the OASAS Web site at <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/regs/815.cfm>.

Part 856 requires providers to establish policies and procedures prohibiting the use of tobacco products in facilities, on the grounds of a facility, and in vehicles owned and operated by an OASAS-certified or -funded provider. This regulation applies to patients, families, visitors, staff, and volunteers. In addition, providers are required to develop tobacco and nicotine education programs, staff training, and treatment modalities for patients who use tobacco. The complete regulation can be viewed on the OASAS Web site at <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/regs/856.cfm>.

GNYHA Submits Comment Letter on HPSA Proposed Rule

GNYHA recently submitted a comment letter to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regarding a recently issued proposed rule that seeks to revise and consolidate the criteria used to designate Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas/Medically Underserved Populations. In its comment letter, GNYHA urged HRSA to withdraw or, at the very least, delay finalization of, the rule. According to a notice published in the *Federal Register* on June 2, HRSA has extend-

ed the comment period an additional 30 days, to June 30, specifically so that state departments of health and other organizations can have additional time to better assess the impact of the new methodology using state and local data.

In the comment letter, GNYHA expressed concern regarding the lack of clarity about the effect of the change in the methodology on the variety of Federal programs that utilize the current designation system, including the J-1 visa waiver program for physicians and the Medicare bonus pay-

ment program for physicians who deliver services in underserved areas. GNYHA also expressed concerns regarding the lack of accurate data that would be needed to ensure that designations are made appropriately. In support of its comments, GNYHA cited results from two studies that identified greater impact and more possible losses of designations than the proposed rule's impact analysis suggested. GNYHA will continue to evaluate the proposed designation methodology and work to protect members from unforeseen negative impacts.

New York Legislature Nears End of Session

The New York State Legislature is working on a variety of health-related proposals in an effort to pass legislation before the regular session ends on June 23. These proposals include managed care legislation, such as a proposal to allow providers more access to the external review process; nurse staffing legislation, including funding for faculty at nursing schools and restrictions on nurse overtime hours; medical malpractice legislation, namely relief for physicians and hospitals from the high cost of medical malpractice insurance; and HIV-related legislation, including streamlining testing consent requirements. All of these issues are currently the subject of varying levels of negotiation and activity, and, as such, are quickly changing. GNYHA will keep members apprised through the end of the session on all of these late-breaking issues. For more details, please see GNYHA's *Capitol Watch*, which can be found in the Advocacy section of GNYHA's Web site, www.gnyha.org.

Medicaid Moratoria

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on all seven of the Administration's damaging Medicaid regulations, a number of which significantly impact public and teaching hospitals. The three regulations in jeopardy are the hospital outpatient rule that heavily affects the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation; the provider tax rule; and a

targeted case management rule. Apparently, Chairman Obey views these regulations as contentious provisions and has dropped them from the package to avoid drawing a veto from the White House. GNYHA has been aggressively working with its partners to ensure that the Iraq War Supplemental includes moratoria on all seven rules. The measure is expected to move to the House floor for a vote later this week.

SHRPC UPDATE

AT ITS JUNE 5, 2008, MEETING, the State Hospital Review and Planning Council (SHRPC) approved (in some cases with conditions or contingencies) the following GNYHA member projects: **Blythedale Children's Hospital**, conversion of 46 physical medicine and rehabilitation beds to 46 medical/surgical beds and decertification of a six-bed intensive care service, while undertaking a modernization project; **NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia**, amendment to a prior-approved certificate of need to purchase and installation of two additional linear accelerators; **The Brooklyn Hospital Center-Downtown Campus**, conversion of six medical/surgical beds to a six-bed pediatric intensive care unit; **Gouverneur Diagnostic and Treatment Center**, construction of a five-story addition and renovation of an existing space; **St. Elizabeth Ann's Health Care & Rehabilitation Center**, construction of a 72-bed addition at the facility's main site; **Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center**, construction of a new 138-bed replacement pediatric residential health care facility; and **Putnam Hospital Center**, conversion of six pediatric beds and four obstetrical beds to 10 psychiatric beds. ● **REGIONAL PLANNING**: At the SHRPC Planning Committee meeting, New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff reviewed the issue of possibly implementing a process of "regional planning" to replace the current system of reviewing CON applications on a "first in/first out" basis. DOH, SHRPC, and the New York State Public Health Council will solicit stakeholder input at two meetings—one in July and one in September—and will send a list of questions for participants prior to the July meeting. GNYHA plans to comment at the July meeting.

Upcoming GNYHA Member Briefings

Ambulatory Patient Groups Implementation Training

Dates & Times:

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Location: GNYHA Conference Center
555 West 57th Street, 15 Floor

GNYHA, in conjunction with the Healthcare Association of New York State, will host training sessions on the implementation of Ambulatory Patient Groups (APGs) as the new payment methodology for Medicaid outpatient services. The New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH), 3M (the developer of APGs), and Computer Sciences Corporation (the claims processor for the NYS Medicaid program) will provide the training. The State budget agreement for fiscal year 2008–09 requires the implementation of APGs beginning with hospital outpatient clinic services on December 1, 2008, with a four year phase-in. All three training sessions will cover the same material and individuals may attend only once. The training sessions are targeted at hospital staff from the following departments: Finance/Reimbursement, Patient Accounts, Emergency Department Administrators, Ambulatory Care Administrators, and Compliance Officers. You may register to attend either in person or via the Webcast online at <http://www.gnyha.org/apgtraining>.

World Energy Solutions, Inc. Online Energy Auction Demonstration

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Location: Web Demonstration

GNYHA Services, Inc. will hold an online demonstration for World Energy Solutions, Inc., a provider of online auction services for electricity, natural gas, and green credits. During the demonstration, World Energy will show how its “reverse auction” process, in which the winning supplier is the lowest bidder, typically saves its clients between five and 30 percent on their energy costs. This process, which is fully managed by World Energy, is no-cost and risk-free for clients because the winning supplier pays World Energy’s fees and there is no obligation to accept the bid if the price is not satisfactory. For more information, or to register for the demonstration, contact Barbara Green (212-259-0720; green@gnyha.org) or Justin Muschong (212-258-5304; jmuschong@gnyha.org).

CCLN Hosts Briefings on Burn Management and Surgical Critical Care

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Location: GNYHA Conference Center,
555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor

As part of the Critical Care Leadership Network, GNYHA and partner United Hospital Fund will host two half-day programs on June 17. The first half-day session, *Burn Management: The First Three Days*, is designed to review the fundamentals of the comprehensive management of major burn victims up to 72 hours after the burn incident. Topics covered will include burn resuscitation; inhalation injury; early wound evaluation, treatment, and risk assessment; early supportive physiologic support; and special topics such as chemical and electrical injuries, abuse, preservation of function, environmental and pain control.

The second half-day session, *Fundamentals of Surgical Critical Care*, will examine the issues specific to caring for post-surgical patients that surgeons and non surgeons alike find most challenging. The topics covered will include hemorrhagic shock, pancreatitis, thoracic and pelvic trauma, as well as ischemic bowel and colonic ischemia. The issues will be examined from multiple vantage points, including resuscitation versus diuresis, surgical versus non-operative management, and when to call for surgical support.

While each session is a half-day program, participants must attend both sessions in order to receive continuing education credits. For more information and for registration, visit: www.gnyha.org/specialtycc.

Sentry Data Systems Pharmacy Management Demonstration

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Location: Web Demonstration

Sentry Data Systems, a provider of turnkey solutions for hospital pharmacy and drug pricing programs with which GNYHA Services, Inc. has a group purchasing agreement, will conduct an online demonstration of new and updated solutions. Sentry’s past offerings have focused on the 340B Drug Pricing Program, but the new solutions have expanded to include non-340B hospitals. Among the new solutions is a tool that helps hospitals comply with certain reporting requirements in the 2005 Federal Deficit Reduction Act; a business intelligence tool that identifies, analyzes, and alerts hospitals to pharmaceutical savings opportunities; and a solution that enables a retail pharmacy to process employee “own use” prescriptions. For more information, or to register for the demonstration, contact Barbara Green (212-259-0720; green@gnyha.org)

or Justin Muschong (212-258-5304; jmuschong@gnyha.org).

Enhancing Compliance Programs: Fostering Organizational Excellence

Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Location: GNYHA Conference Center,
555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor

On Tuesday, June 24, GNYHA will host an all-day conference on Enhancing Compliance Programs: Fostering Organizational Excellence. The program, which was developed in response to GNYHA member requests, will examine a range of critical topics as we move toward a new model and scope of organizational compliance programs. The day-long session will also be a kick-off event for our upcoming collaborative effort to implement the concepts of the forthcoming New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (NYS OMIG) Compliance Guidance, recently discussed by Medicaid Inspector General James C. Sheehan at the May 8, 2008, GNYHA Board of Governors meeting. Though Mr. Sheehan’s jurisdiction is limited to New York State, his ideas are in many ways in concert with national trends, and thus relevant to GNYHA members regardless of location.

If you have questions about the briefing, please contact Deborah Brown (brown@gnyha.org) at GNYHA. To register for the event, please email Laurie Sangirardi (sangirardi@gnyha.org) at GNYHA.

Linkage, Inc. Leadership Development Demonstration

Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Location: Web Demonstration

GNYHA Services, Inc. recently announced that it has signed a new group purchasing agreement with Linkage, Inc., an organizational and leadership development company with more than 20 years experience working with public and private health care clients to enhance the effectiveness of senior staff, improve internal communication, and develop talent for succession purposes, among other services. At the demonstration, Linkage will discuss its consulting and educational services, which include executive coaching, 360-degree assessments, customized programs, on-site and public workshops, and yearly conferences. For more information, or to register for the demonstration, contact Barbara Green (212-259-0720; green@gnyha.org) or Justin Muschong (212-258-5304; jmuschong@gnyha.org).

Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, New York University School of Medicine, is the longest-serving residency director in New York. Dr. Posner named **Steve Lee, M.D.**, as his mentee. Dr. Lee is the Assistant Professor and Associate Chief of the Division of Hand Surgery at the Hospital for Joint Diseases and Co-Chief of the Hand Surgery Service at Bellevue Hospital Center. Both Dr. Posner and Dr. Lee performed their residencies at the Hospital for Joint Diseases.

GNYHA also presented the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award to **Richard Knapp, Ph.D.**, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), for his lifelong commitment to the physician and teaching hospital community. Dr. Knapp will retire this year after four decades of service to the AAMC.



GNYHA Senior Vice President Tim Johnson presents awards to Dr. Posner and Dr. Lee.



GNYHA Executive Vice President Karen Heller presents awards to Dr. Bruce Charash and Dr. Leon Charash.

Below: GNYHA Executive Vice President Susan Waltman looks on as Dr. Malachi Sheahan accepts his award.



GNYHA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Officers 2008–09: Chair, **Jim Foy**, Riverside Health Care System, Inc; Chair-Elect, **Linda Brady, M.D.**, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center; Vice Chair, **Alan Aviles**, New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation; Vice Chair, **Pamela S. Brier**, Maimonides Medical Center; Vice Chair, Long Term Care, **Audrey Weiner, D.S.W.**, The Jewish Home and Hospital Lifecare System; Secretary, **James Harden**, Catholic Health Services of Long Island; Treasurer, **Robert Grossman, M.D.**, NYU Langone Medical Center; Assistant Secretary, **Steven Safyer, M.D.**, Montefiore Medical Center; Assistant Treasurer, **James Kaskie**, Kaleida Health; Immediate Past Chair, **Gary S. Horan, F.A.C.H.E.**, Trinitas Hospital; Past Chair, **Kenneth L. Davis, M.D.**, The Mount Sinai Medical Center; Past Chair, **Michael Dowling**, North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System; Past Chair, **Herbert Pardes, M.D.**, NewYork–Presbyterian Healthcare System, Inc.; Past Chair, **Stanley Brezenoff**, Continuum Health Partners, Inc.; Past Chair, **Gladys George**, Lenox Hill Hospital; Past Chair, **Mark J. Mundy**, New York Methodist Hospital; Past Chair, **John R. Gunn**, Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases; Past Chair, **David P. Rosen**, MediSys Health Network, Inc.; and Chair, GNYHA Audit, Finance, and Budget Committee, **Robert S. Shapiro**, North Shore–Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

New Board Members: **Class of 2009:** **Frank A. Calamari**, Calvary Hospital; **Class of 2008,** **Scott Batulis**, Orange Regional Medical Center; **Class of 2011,** **Henry Amoroso**, Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers; **Scott Cooper, M.D.**, St. Barnabas Hospital; **Lynda D. Curtis**, Bellevue Hospital Center; **Gail Donovan**, Continuum Health Partners, Inc.; **Louis A. Shapiro**, Hospital for Special Surgery; and **Steven Strongwater, M.D.**, Stony Brook University Medical Center.

2008–09