



CHCANYS DEFINING NEW DIRECTIONS
Community Health Care Association of New York State



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www.chcanys.org

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Federally Qualified Health Center Reps in Albany for Community Health Center Grassroots Advocacy Day

*Health Center staff, Board Members, and Patients Urge Legislators to Invest in Vital
Primary Care Safety Net Providers.*

(ALBANY – March 3, 2014) Nearly 400 advocates convened in Albany today to meet with elected officials and discuss issues that are critical to community, homeless and migrant health center providers across the Empire State. The annual Community Health Center Grassroots Advocacy Day is organized by the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) and draws patients, health care providers and leaders from Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in every corner of the state.

FQHCs effectively utilize their comprehensive model to achieve the *Triple Aim* of providing *better care* to achieve *better health* at *lower costs*. The State has looked to FQHCs as a model of quality primary care in planning the State's 1115 Waiver initiatives, like the DSRIP Program, which aim to transform health care from inpatient settings to primary care delivery systems. Likewise, with the implementation of the New York State of Health—the State Health Plan Marketplace—FQHCs will continue to play a significant role in caring for newly insured patients while serving as the primary care safety net for the uninsured.

“New York State’s network of FQHCs ranks second in the number of patients served nationwide. Today, FQHCs serve 1.6 million New Yorkers annually and are central to both federal and state health care reform strategies,” said **Elizabeth H. Swain, President and CEO of CHCANYS**. “FQHCs can serve as a foundation for sustainable primary care expansion and function as key collaborators in DSRIP projects, which aim to reduce preventable hospitalizations. Now more than ever, investing in FQHC expansion aligns with the State’s health care delivery goals, as FQHCs continue to set the standard for increasing access to high performing quality care.”

Advocacy Day activities will begin with a morning program that will include remarks by:

- **Senator Kemp Hannon** (R-6th District), Chairman of the Senate Health Committee;
- **Assemblyman Richard Gottfried** (D-75th District), Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee; and
- **Lisa Ullman**, Director of the Center for Health Care Policy and Standards Development, Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management, New York State DOH.

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Afternoon meetings will be held with individual members of the New York State Legislature. This year, New York's FQHCs and CHCANYS are championing the following policy proposals to ensure access to high-performing primary care for all New Yorkers:

- **Protect the Diagnostic and Treatment Center (D&TC) Uncompensated Care Pool:** The Legislature is urged to maintain the Executive Budget's proposed \$54.4 million for the D&TC Uncompensated Care Pool, which provides funding to health centers for services provided to uninsured patients.
- **Adopting The Basic Health Plan:** The Legislature is urged to authorize and fund a Basic Health Plan in New York State to increase access to coverage for low-income New Yorkers and lawfully present immigrants.
- **Expanding Sustainable Federally Qualified Health Centers in New York State:** The Legislature is urged to support the expansion and sustainability of FQHCs across New York State to meet the growing demand for primary care services.

“Never before has there been a more critical time for the expansion of FQHCs in communities throughout New York State,” said **Larry McReynolds, President of Lutheran Family Health Centers in Brooklyn, NY, and the incoming Chair of CHCANYS’ Board of Directors.** “A central strategy of health care delivery transformation in New York is to promote integrated systems of care that lead to better outcomes for patients and improve population health. FQHCs are well-positioned to be key players in these transformations because they already employ a patient-centered model of care through which they deliver comprehensive, coordinated services that are responsive to patients’ individual needs as well as the social determinants of health.”

For more information on the CHCANYS health care agenda, please visit:

http://asoft8150.accrisoft.com/chcanys/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=AdvocacyDay_2014_Materials#ADVDAYINFOTOP

*The purpose of the **Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)** is to ensure all New Yorkers, including those who are medically underserved, have continuous access to high quality, community-based health care services including a primary care home. To do this, CHCANYS serves as the voice of community health centers by leading providers of primary health care in New York State. CHCANYS works closely with more than 60 federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that operate approximately 600 sites across the state. Serving 1.6 million New Yorkers, these FQHCs are central to New York’s health care safety net.*

For more information visit www.chcanys.org.