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Dr. Neil Calman, Pioneer in Bringing High Quality Health Care to Underserved Communities, Elected Chair of CHCANYS Board of Directors

ALBANY, NY – Dr. Neil Calman, MD, a pioneer in the creation and growth of community-based health centers in New York, has been elected Board Chair for the statewide association representing the Empire State’s nearly 70 federally qualified health centers.

Dr. Calman has served as president and CEO of the Institute for Family Health, one of the largest networks of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in New York State, since he co-founded the organization in 1983. During his tenure, Dr. Calman has grown the Institute from a small nonprofit organization with four staff members to a robust primary care network serving over 117,000 patients annually in the Mid-Hudson Valley, the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn.



“Dr. Calman’s deep commitment to the community health center mission and his efforts to eliminate health disparities are truly inspiring,” said Rose Duhan, President and CEO of the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS). “I am thrilled to welcome him into his new role as CHCANYS’ Board Chair, and I look forward to working more closely with him to ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of income level or insurance status, have access to high-quality, affordable health care services.”

FQHCs are more commonly known as community health centers. Required by federal law to locate in medically underserved communities, they provide patient-centered primary and preventive health services to anyone seeking care, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

New York’s FQHCs serve 2.2 million New Yorkers at 750 sites statewide and constitute an extensive primary care network that is central to the health care safety net.

Dr. Calman said: “I am deeply honored to serve as board chair of CHCANYS. This is a time of incredible change in the health care system, which demands that health centers work together more than ever before. We are here to support each other, learn from each other and continue to strengthen our role in the health care system – so that all people can get all of the care they need, irrespective of who they are.”

Mary Zelazny, immediate past Chair of the CHCANYS Board of Directors and CEO of Finger Lakes Community Health, said: "I have had the pleasure of serving on CHCANYS' board together with Neil Calman for many years, and I am very confident in his ability to navigate the organization and the health centers it represents through the challenges that lie ahead."

Dr. Calman has served as a member CHCANYS' board since 1998, serving as vice-chair for the past two years. He also previously served as chair of the CHCANYS clinical (2002-2008), conference (2000-2002) and health policy (1998-2000) board committees.

His achievements include efforts to improve access to health care for medically underserved communities, address racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes, and utilize innovative workforce development and information technology strategies to assure high-quality care for those most at risk.

Most recently, he has played a key role in advocating for ongoing federal funding and support for health centers that provide graduate medical education for primary care providers, known as Teaching Health Centers.

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About Federally Qualified Health Centers:

Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) are not-for-profit, community-based providers that provide high quality, cost-effective, patient-centered primary and preventive health services to anyone seeking care, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. FQHCs are medical homes, offering a comprehensive model of care that is associated with demonstrated improved outcomes and reduced costs. Serving 2.2 million New Yorkers at 750 sites statewide, New York State's 68 FQHCs form an extensive primary care network that is central to the health care safety net.

About the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS):

CHCANYS' mission is to ensure that all New Yorkers, including those who live in medically underserved communities, have continuous access to high quality community-based health care services, including a primary care home. CHCANYS serves as the voice of community health centers as leading providers of primary health care in New York State. For more information, visit www.chcanys.org.