



**Community Health Care Association  
of New York State**

*Defining New Directions*

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## **Innovative Health Center Leader Elected CHCANYS Board President**

Paloma Izquierdo-Hernandez, President and CEO of Urban Health Plan, Inc. a network of community health centers located in the South Bronx and Queens has been elected President of the Board of Directors of the Community Health Care Association of New York State.

CHCANYS represents more than 70 community, migrant and homeless health centers that provide primary, preventive and dental care, as well as mental health, substance abuse and other community-based services to anyone in need regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. In New York State, community health centers provide high quality health care to more than 1.3 million residents at 445 sites across the state.

“As the voice of New York State’s federally qualified community health centers, CHCANYS is well poised to advocate for primary care for New York’s neediest communities,” said Hernandez. “I want to assure that the services our health centers provide reach every underserved community. With health care reform a reality, we are well positioned to continue to expand and to deliver cost effective, affordable and high quality health care services to all New Yorkers.”

Under her leadership, Urban Health Plan has grown from a one site facility to a network of federally qualified community health centers that includes four sites, five school health programs, four part-time sites at facilities for at-risk populations a growing WIC program and multiple other grant-funded programs. Urban Health Plan is fully accredited by the Joint Commission.

“Paloma’s leadership and vision will enable CHCANYS to continue to define new direction in community health care,” said Elizabeth Swain, CHCANYS’ CEO. “Her profile within the community health sector and her ability to get things done will be a key asset as we move forward and celebrate 40 years as New York’s primary care association in 2011.”

Hernandez received her undergraduate degree from Boston College and holds masters degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University and the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. In addition to becoming CHCANYS’ new board president, she also serves on the boards of the Primary Care Development Corporation and Affinity Health Plan. She served as a member to the NYC Commission for Economic Opportunity, an appointed task force led by the Bloomberg administration that developed innovative anti-poverty approaches in New York City and was recently selected to serve as a member of the New York City Age Friendly Commission.

Joining Hernandez in CHCANYS’ leadership are:

- Ruben Cowart, President/CEO of Syracuse Community Health Center as First Vice President
- Barbra Minch, President/CEO of William F. Ryan Community Health Center (Manhattan) as Second Vice President

- Harvey Lawrence, President/CEO of Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center (Brooklyn) as Secretary, and
- Dave Fisher, President/CEO of Oak Orchard Community Health Center (Brockport) as Treasurer.

The board also elected three new members:

- Elizabeth Cole, COO, Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Services in Albany
- Reinaldo Gonzalez, CEO, Settlement Health and Medical Services in Manhattan, and
- Mary Ann Zelazny, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Migrant Community Health Care Project in Penn Yan.

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