

TRUSTEES

CHALLENGING BUDGET BATTLE— NEW ADVOCACY PHASE NEEDED

April 20, 2009

The final 2009-2010 state budget contains significant cuts to health care providers. While we fought very hard to advocate that the federal stimulus funding be used to offset health care cuts and taxes, the State Legislature did not use the money to make such restorations. In addition to eliminating the hospital trend factor for 2008 and 2009, the budget imposes a 0.35% gross receipts tax on hospitals. The budget includes inpatient reimbursement system reform, including funding pools that will have substantial redistributive impacts on hospitals. Nursing homes and home health agencies also suffered significant cuts.

To view your hospital or health system's specific impacts, visit www.htnys.org and click on "Advocacy."

Because of the complex reform provisions it contains, implementation of the budget will require a significant amount of regulatory action. This means trustees must continue to be engaged to ensure that the regulatory plan is implemented in the best possible manner.

Trustee advocacy was strong over the past few months. I want to thank so many of you who wrote letters and made multiple telephone calls to your local legislators, key Senate Democrats, and legislative leaders to convey our opposition to the proposed health care cuts and taxes.

As we look ahead, please know that we could see further state revenue declines. This could result in the possibility of legislators needing to enact another deficit reduction plan later this year, which could include additional health care cuts and taxes.

It is critical that lawmakers be held accountable for any service reductions and/or job losses caused by the state budget cuts and that the public understands the impact these budget actions have in every community across the state. If you do not "speak out" about the job losses or service reductions that result from the budget cuts, our state leaders will likely assume that we can withstand more cuts.

HTNYS will continue to keep trustees informed as we move into the regulatory process for the budget reform provisions. We will use a variety of educational venues, such as AudioConnect programs, regional briefings, and customized board presentations to ensure that trustees are kept abreast of new developments.



Sue Ellen Wagner
Executive Director



TRUSTEE ADVOCACY

On March 4, HTNYS' Chairman Richard H. Hawks, Jr., of Thompson Health, presented lawmakers in Albany with a package of more than 100 resolutions that hospital and health care system boards across the state approved in support of using federal Medicaid stimulus funding to eliminate health care cuts and taxes.



Healthcare Trustees
of New York State

OUR MISSION:

To assist voluntary health care trustees through education, communication, and advocacy to promote the delivery of quality health care to all communities in a cost-effective manner.

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UPCOMING HTNYS AUDIOCONNECT PROGRAMS

*How the State Budget
Significantly Impacts
Health Care*

April 22, Noon-1 p.m.

*Partnership of Equals—
Strategies for Board
and CEO Relations*

May 20, Noon-1 p.m.

Board Diversity

June 18, Noon-1 p.m.

Strategic Planning for Boards

November 17, Noon-1 p.m.

AudioConnect programs are offered free of charge to HTNYS' members. To register for a program or view past programs relevant to governance issues, visit HTNYS' Web site

(www.htnys.org). These programs cover issues including the updated Internal Revenue Service Form 990, hospital governance roles and responsibilities, and hospital finance.

HTNYS' MAY 21 WESTERN NEW YORK TRUSTEE BRIEFING

HTNYS is collaborating with Western New York Healthcare Association (WNYHA) to provide trustees and chief executive officers with an informational program, *State and Federal Policy Briefing: What Trustees Need to Know*. The May 21 briefing will be held at the Orchard Park Country Club, 4777 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, from 4 to 7 p.m. To register or for information, contact Elizabeth Urbanski-Farrell, Executive Assistant, WNYHA, at (716) 512-7107.

SAVE THE DATE

This year, HTNYS' Annual Conference will be held September 11-13 at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing and will feature leadership expert Linda Galindo, health futurist Ian Morrison, and Jack Uldrich, who will address various governance and health care trends and challenges confronting trustees. HTNYS' Annual Conference will provide trustees with practical and proactive solutions and tools for addressing these challenges. Registration will begin in July.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.HTNYS.ORG.



Looking for a comprehensive resource that contains all the information you need about the core elements of governance?

BOARDROOM BASICS:

WHAT EVERY HEALTH CARE TRUSTEE NEEDS TO KNOW
is now available.

It's a simple, easy-to-read guide on health care governance issues from Healthcare Trustees of New York State.

There's also a companion Web site (www.htnys.org/boardroom_basics) with further details, resources, and best practices.

For more information about BOARDROOM BASICS, contact Healthcare Trustees of New York State at (800) 360-7211.

To order copies, go to www.htnys.org, click on the Boardroom Basics icon on the left, and then click on "Get the Book."



HANYS SOLUTIONS' NEW PARTNER IMPROVES GERIATRIC SERVICES THROUGH INNOVATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES

HANYS Solutions has partnered with ElderCare Companies, Inc., to improve existing programs and establish new initiatives that focus on the under-served senior population in New York. ElderCare has successfully partnered with hospitals and major health systems throughout New York, New Jersey, Kentucky, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

ElderCare works with health care providers to implement, on-site or within the community, a comprehensive network of preventive, primary, home health, mobile diagnostic and acute care services. ElderCare actively and appropriately encourages seniors to participate in informational, preventive, diagnostic, and treatment programs offered in partnership with their community hospital. These programs include health promotion, screening/preventive care, primary geriatric health care, specialty care, case management, and patient transportation.

To learn more about ElderCare, contact Terry August, Director of Marketing, HANYS Solutions, at taugust@hanys.org or at (518) 431-7652.