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HTNYS' *From the Executive Director* is now available exclusively online. This enables the information we share in this publication to be up-to-the-minute and available to you immediately at the touch of a button.

For this publication and a myriad of other advocacy and educational materials, go to HTNYS' Web site, [www.htnys.org](http://www.htnys.org).

## HTNYS STAFF AVAILABLE FOR BOARD CONSULTATION

HTNYS staff are available upon request to make presentations to hospital and continuing care governing boards on a variety of policy, health reform, and governance issues. Presentations can be conducted in person or via telephone or Webconference.



Healthcare Trustees  
of New York State

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## STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

# TRUSTEE ADVOCACY WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPORTANT IN 2012

January 2012

*Happy New Year!*

As the New Year begins, we enter a phase of intense state advocacy. Governor Cuomo unveiled his \$132.5 billion Executive Budget for state fiscal year 2012-2013, which continues the two-year Medicaid provider spending cuts enacted last year. It is important for trustees to understand that the 4% growth in the Medicaid spending cap does not mean an increase in reimbursement to providers. That 4% growth in state spending is used to make up for continued Medicaid enrollment increases.



The budget contains a variety of health policy initiatives, including:

- expanding the Commissioner of Health's powers over health facility operators, including authority to replace board members who are not fulfilling their duties, appointment of a temporary operator, and addressing the extent and nature of a provider's administrative costs and executive compensation; and
- a cost-neutral package of new health care delivery initiatives, including funding for increased payments to essential community providers, tobacco cessation efforts, and maternal/child health initiatives, health homes, investments in primary care and affordable housing, and the establishment of a Health Benefit Exchange.

HTNYS and HANYS plan to hold their Advocacy Day in Albany on March 7 for hospital and health system executives and trustee leaders.

On the federal front, Congress is beginning to return to Washington, D.C., from its holiday break. Both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives approved a two-month reprieve from the 27% Medicare physician fee schedule cut, and extended unemployment insurance benefits and the Social Security payroll tax holiday without cuts to hospitals. As a year-long package is developed, HTNYS will join HANYS in advocating to ensure that the physician reimbursement "fix" is not funded by cuts to other providers.

### Trustee advocacy will continue to be very important.

There will be times in the coming months when we will request your advocacy assistance. As volunteer trustee leaders within your communities, lawmakers listen to what you have to say.

### Education will continue to be a priority.

Throughout 2012, HTNYS and our Center of Excellence for Trustee Training will continue to expand our array of trustee educational offerings, including regional trustee programs.

I encourage you to visit our Web site store to review the DVD audio programs, which run about 20 to 25 minutes and are great for use during board meetings.

Sue Ellen Wagner  
Executive Director

MORE >

CONTINUE TO EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT TRUSTEE  
FIDUCIARY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

[www.htnys.org/training/boardroom\\_basics/structure.cfm](http://www.htnys.org/training/boardroom_basics/structure.cfm)



## UPCOMING TRUSTEE PROGRAMS

### Save the Dates in 2012:

- February 21  
HTNYS and Rochester Regional Healthcare  
Association Trustee Regional Program  
Belhurst Castle, Geneva
- February 28  
HTNYS and Iroquois Healthcare Alliance Trustee  
Regional Program  
The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany
- February 29  
HTNYS and Iroquois Healthcare Alliance Trustee  
Regional Program  
Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse
- May 23  
HTNYS and the Western New York Healthcare  
Association Trustee Regional Program  
Salvatore's Restaurant, Buffalo
- September 14-16  
HTNYS Annual Conference  
The Sagamore, Bolton Landing

Additional regional programs will be posted at [www.htnys.org](http://www.htnys.org)

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Health Reform Resources



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### Federal Health Care Reform Resources for Trustees

#### General Health Reform Resources

- [The Bundled Payment Battle](#) - October 2011
- [Race to Value—Health Care Reform Payments Simplified](#) – October 2011
- [A New Quality Compass: Hospital Boards' Increased Role Under The Affordable Care Act](#) - July 2011
- [Where Will They Go: Post-acute Care Must be a Priority if Hospitals Want to Cut Readmissions](#) - May 2011
- [HANY'S 2011 Federal Advocacy Priorities](#) - April 2011
- [Health Care Reform and the Trustee's Role](#) - April 2011
- [Health Reform: Small and Rural Hospitals](#) – March 2011
- [Health Care Governance in the Reform Era -- HANY's Federal Issue paper](#) - February 2011
- [Health Care Reform and the Trustee's Role](#) - source: AHA Center for Healthcare Governance



Healthcare Trustees  
of New York State

**HTNYS' 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.*