


HTNYS


Trustee Leader

Information, policy developments, and educational opportunities for health care trustees

The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century—An Update for Health Care Leaders

About the Commission

On April 13, 2005, Governor Pataki signed into law legislation creating the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century. This legislation created a new statewide commission and associated regional committees and empowered them to make recommendations by December 2006 on closing and restructuring hospitals and nursing homes in New York State. The Commission is comprised of 18 statewide members and 36 regional members (six from each of six regions). In addition, the Commission works with six Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). Each RAC is charged with issuing its own non-binding recommendations for “rightsizing” the hospital and nursing home systems in its respective region.

Sandman Speaks with HTNYS

Recently, the Board of Governors of Healthcare Trustees of New York State (HTNYS) met with David Sandman, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Commission, to discuss the Commission’s activities. Dr. Sandman summarized the Commission’s work, emphasizing that he was pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with trustees, including two members of the HTNYS Board who serve as Commission members: Howard Howlett, Trustee at WCA Hospital, and Stephen Albertalli, Trustee at Corning Hospital.

Dr. Sandman and Board members discussed Commission Chairman Stephen Berger’s decision to not release ratings or rankings of hospitals, even in draft form, to Commission members in January. Chairman Berger made this decision after Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) President Daniel Sisto successfully made the case that the premature disclosure of hospital rankings or ratings could cause serious, unintended consequences for hospitals that received poor rankings.

Dr. Sandman reiterated that the ranking criteria are meant to be a sorting exercise and that the Commission is very concerned about the premature release of hospital rankings. He also stated that the Commission staff are thinking carefully about how to move forward their analysis, while doing no harm to hospitals in the process.

*Look inside for
registration
information
and details
on the latest
HTNYS
AudioConnect
program
on this topic.*

For more information,
please contact:

Joanne Cunningham
Executive Director

(518) 431-7726 / jcunning@hanys.org

Jennifer Carter
Director

(518) 431-7713 / jcarter@hanys.org

www.htnys.org

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Long-Term Care, Future Trends Most Recent Focus

At its January meeting, the Commission discussed the state's plan to develop a single point-of-entry system and other long-term care reform proposals. Dr. Sandman gave a presentation on long-term care restructuring and an analysis of long-term care needs and nursing home utilization in counties. The analysis included county mapping profiles based on the state's nursing home bed need methodology, bed utilization, and availability of home- and community-based services. The analysis, *Identifying Opportunities to Shift Long Term Care Resources*, is available online at <http://www.nyhealthcarecommission.org/materials>.

He said numbers do not tell the whole story and cannot be used in isolation to target areas for restructuring institutions. He noted that many complex factors must be considered in restructuring long-term care including the availability of local home- and community-based alternatives to nursing home care; accessible, affordable housing and transportation; and informal as well as professional caregivers. These were the same factors HANYS has cited in formal comments about nursing home need.

Future demographic and health care trends were the primary focus of February's Commission meeting. At the meeting, the Commission detailed a soon-to-be released draft report, *Planning for the Future: Capacity Needs in a Changing Health Care System*. The report is an analysis of "megatrends" the Commission staff view as factors critical to assessing the future needs of the state's health care system. The report also includes long-term care factors; however, discussion concerning long-term care issues was deferred until the Commission meeting in March. HANYS continues to raise questions about how this information, and all the data the Commission has assembled, will be used.

What's Next

The Commission is expected to meet monthly in 2006, with the next meeting scheduled for March 9. The Commission meetings are open to the public, but attendees must register in advance by calling Denise Trudeau of DOH at (518) 474-7354, extension 1. Full transcripts of the meetings are available on the Commission's Web site at www.nyhealthcarecommission.org. In addition, RAC public hearings are being held and additional hearings are being scheduled. The complete listing of RAC public hearings is available on the Commission Web site.

AUDIO CONNECT

HTNYS is pleased to announce an AudioConnect session where trustees and other health care leaders can learn more about the issues described in this *Trustee Leader*. Please join us for *The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century—An Update for Health Care Leaders*. This program will be held in two parts: On **March 14 from 10 to 11 a.m.**, the program will feature information on the Commission's activities presented by HANYS President Daniel Sisto and on **March 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** will include a presentation by Commission Executive Director David Sandman, Ph.D.

AudioConnect conference calls enable members to participate in educational programs without having to travel. To register, please use the registration form in this newsletter, or go to www.htnys.org.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS TOPIC, CONTACT

Joanne Cunningham, Executive Director, Healthcare Trustees of New York State, at jcunning@hanys.org or (800) 360-7211.

REGISTRATION FORM

AUDIOCONNECT SERIES PRESENTATION



*The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century—
An Update for Health Care Leaders*

PART I: March 14, 10 to 11 a.m.,
featuring HANYS President Daniel Sisto

PART II: March 22, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., *featuring*
Commission Executive Director David Sandman, Ph.D.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

FACILITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

There is no fee for this program.

Please return this form:

BY FAX: Attention: Jennifer Kerbein, fax: (518) 431-7812

BY MAIL: Attention: Jennifer Kerbein, Healthcare Trustees of New York State
One Empire Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144

BY E-MAIL: Send an e-mail to jkerbein@hanys.org with your name, facility, telephone number, and e-mail address. Please include the name of the program you wish to participate in: *The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century—An Update for Health Care Leaders*

After you register,
HTNYS will send you an e-mail confirmation with the conference call details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Jennifer Carter, Director of Education, at (518) 431-7713 or at jcarter@hanys.org.