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Wendy Darwell Named New CEO of Regional Hospital Associations

For Immediate Release

Hauppauge, NY (October 7, 2020) Wendy Darwell, currently the vice president/COO of the [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) (NSHC) and the [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) (NorMet), both divisions of the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) (SHANYS), will assume the role of president/CEO effective January 1, 2021. The appointment was announced today by the board chairs of the two regional hospital associations and the president/CEO of the [Healthcare Association of New York State](#) (HANYS), which manages the regional associations. Current president/CEO Kevin Dahill retires December 31, 2020.



Darwell became VP/COO of NSHC/NorMet in 2007, after serving seven years as chief of staff for the late Congressman Maurice Hinchey and prior to that six years in legislative and communications positions for the congressman. In her time at the hospital associations, she has consistently excelled at strategic planning and is credited with raising the profile of the associations among legislators, regulators, and the media. She is a well-respected health policy expert with extensive knowledge about the American healthcare system, reimbursement issues, workforce regulations, and compliance and legal issues, among other areas. She is adept at interpreting complex policies and translating them into practical applications for all levels of healthcare administrators.

“After a months’ long nationwide search, it became clear to the selection committee that Wendy Darwell was the best and only person for the job,” said Bea Grause, president/CEO of HANYS (Albany, NY). “Her knowledge about all aspects of health policy and regulations runs far and deep. She is an impeccable advocate for hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions and has helped these hospitals maneuver through some really tough financial and operational challenges in her 13 years as VP/COO.”

“Wendy Darwell’s grasp of healthcare legislation and policy, particularly as it affects hospitals in the Hudson Valley, is unmatched. Hospitals are in good hands under her leadership and advocacy skills,” said Joan Cusack-McGuirk, chair of NorMet and president/CEO of Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall (Newburgh, NY).

“These are difficult times for hospitals, healthcare, and all of us. Wendy Darwell is the right person for this job because she has and always will work tirelessly for our hospitals and the patients we serve,” said Robert Chaloner, chair of NSHC and executive director of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital (Southampton, NY).

“I am sincerely pleased at the outcome of this search. Wendy is most deserving of this appointment,” said Kevin Dahill, current president/CEO of NSHC and NorMet. “I know both organizations will thrive under her leadership.”

Darwell holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from American University and an MBA from Hofstra University. A member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Healthcare Financial Management Association, she has served on numerous regional and state task forces and work groups, including the Medicaid Redesign Team workgroup on Program Streamlining and State/Local Responsibilities.

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About the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State advocates on behalf of hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions. It engages key lawmakers and regulatory decision-makers in Albany and Washington to ensure reasonable and rational health care policy prevails.

About the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC)



The [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NSHC serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals on Long Island.

About the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)



The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NorMet serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals in the Hudson Valley.