

Progress Notes

July 2016



Published monthly by the **Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State LLC**, a consortium of 52 not-for-profit and public hospitals advocating for better health care policy for all those living and working in the nine counties north and east of New York City.

CMS Star Ratings Debut

Transparency, methodology still in question

On July 27, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released data related to its Star Ratings system on the agency's Hospital Compare website. The agency originally planned to release the Star Ratings in April, but delayed the release due to concerns from national, state and regional hospital associations, including the Suburban Alliance of New York State, as well as concerns expressed by 285 members of Congress. The agency has about 100 measures that look at such indicators as the patient's care experience, surgical complications, infection rates and more.

CMS' attempt with the Star Ratings is to move to a single composite measure, or star rating, that would be easy for consumers to grasp and understand. However, the current CMS overall Hospital Star Ratings program oversimplifies the complexity of delivering high-quality care, uses flawed measures, fails to adjust for sociodemographic factors and uses a methodology that cannot be replicated by hospitals or outside organizations. The agency did not make suggested changes to methodology offered by the hospital field. More recently, the Hospital Quality Rating Transparency Act of 2016

was introduced in the House. It seeks to impose a one-year delay, require a 6-day public comment period and allow for the data methodology to be validated by a third party.

CMS published a [Data Brief](#) that provides some additional information. The report, *Measures that Matter*, published by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), is another resource that helps put the issue of quality ratings into perspective for providers and patients. It recommends a system that prioritizes measures based on standardized criteria that looks at the value, utility, frequency and scope of measure, while carefully considering the time and costs associated with collection and analysis. HANYS also has [talking points](#) on its website. The Suburban Hospital Alliance will be looking closely at the ratings issue as it unfolds.

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Organ Donation, Opioid Use Addressed

Opioid Epidemic

Like most other regions in the country, the Hudson Valley and Long Island are experiencing a worsening heroin and opioid epidemic. The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) recently announced a program that temporarily allows certified residential and inpatient providers to increase their current certified capacity by up to 10 percent for six months. Programs must meet certain criteria in order to expand capacity. The state also recently authorized \$10.5 million in funding over five years to support six new Recovery and Outreach Centers in communities across New York. The centers will provide health, wellness, and other critical support for individuals and families who are recovering from a substance use disorder or are

seeking recovery services. In the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions the centers are Independent Living Inc. and Family and Children's Association, respectively.

Organ Donation

Several bills passed in the recently concluded legislative session that encourage more opportunity for organ donation in New York State, which remains 49th in the nation in terms of organ donation registry success. These are intended to increase the number of individuals who participate in New York's Donate Life Registry by reducing the legal age from 18 to 16 years old, and by affirming organ donation participation upon application for a driver's license.

News Briefs

HAVE Nominations – The American Hospital Association is seeking nominations for its Hospital Awards for Volunteer Excellence program (HAVE) that showcases outstanding volunteer programs. Nominations are open to organizations that are institutional members of AHA. Contact Joan Ryzner, Director, Member Relations, AHA, at jryzner@aha.org for details.

News from the Long Island Region

A Report on Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council member hospital achievements and notable activities



New Residency – Two new four-year residency programs at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital have been added to the institution's Graduate Medical Education program: the Psychiatry program and Diagnostic Radiology program will be directed by Nam Fast, MD, and Jared Dunkin, MD, respectively.

Quality Improvements – *Nassau University Medical Center* is a recipient of the New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative Obstetrical Improvement Project’s 2015 Quality Improvement Award. The NYSPQC, an initiative of the New York State Department of Health, aims to provide the best and safest care for women and infants in New York State.

Disease Funding - A \$75,000 state grant will help *Southampton Hospital*’s Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center to fight Lyme and tick-borne diseases on the East End. This is the second year in a row that Southampton Hospital has secured a \$75,000 state grant - funding that is a portion of more than \$1.7 million that has been invested throughout the state over the last three years to address tick-borne disease

Trauma Certification – *South Nassau Communities Hospital* has been certified as a Level II trauma center, allowing the Oceanside medical facility to continue treating life-threatening and disabling injuries. It is the only medical facility on Nassau County’s South Shore that has received the approval of the American College of Surgeons.

Kenneth Roberts Named Chair of NSHC

Kenneth Roberts, president of John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson, was appointed to a two-year term as chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council at the Hospital Council’s annual meeting held July 13, 2016. This is his second time as president of the Hospital Council.

Roberts has served as president of John T. Mather Memorial Hospital since 1986. He previously served as Mather’s senior vice president and associate director. He holds an MBA from Hofstra University, a master of public administration in health policy, planning and administration from New York University, and a bachelor’s degree in economics from SUNY Oneonta.

Kenneth Roberts, President John T. Mather Memorial Hospital and newly-elected chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council.



NSHC Annual Meeting Highlights Diversity



From left: Carolyn Forcina, Regional Executive with the American Hospital Association; Kevin Dahill, President/CEO, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council; Kenneth Roberts, CEO/President John T. Mather Memorial Hospital and Chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council; Tomas Leon, President/CEO of AHA’s Institute for Diversity in Health Management.

Tomas Leon, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association’s (AHA) Institute for Diversity in Health Management, headlined the Hospital Council’s Annual Meeting held July 13, 2016.

Leon highlighted the progress made, both nationally and locally, in eliminating healthcare disparities and increasing diversity in healthcare leadership. While advances have been made, Leon emphasized that much more needs to be done. The AHA’s [equity pledge](#) is a national effort to engage hospitals and

regional hospital associations to commit to eliminating healthcare disparities and inequities by adhering to three national call-to-action goals.

News from the Hudson Valley Region

A Report on Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association member hospital achievements and notable activities



Auxiliary Delivers – *Putnam Hospital Center* Auxiliary Presidents Peg Lindblom and Rose McQuade delivered a \$20,000 check to Putnam Hospital Center Foundation Executive Director Priscilla Weaver on Wednesday, July 20. The contribution is the final installment of a \$125,000, one-year pledge the Auxiliary made to support the hospital's Emergency Department.

Champion of Justice – Timmian Massie, Senior Vice President for Marketing, Public Affairs and Government Relations at *Health Quest*, will be honored by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley as Champion of Justice at its 3rd Annual Dutchess Partners in Justice Reception, a fundraiser to support its programs in Dutchess County.

Most Wired – *Orange Regional Medical Center* has been awarded by the American Hospital Association's Health Forum and the College of Healthcare Information Management Executive's 17th annual HealthCare's Most Wired™ award. Orange Regional is one of only 22 hospitals in New York State to be recognized with the Most Wired award, which is given for utilizing IT protocols to achieve maximum healthcare performance.

Exceptional Awards – The Benedictine Health Foundation, Inc. will present the St. Benedict Award for Exceptional Healthcare Leadership to David Scarpino, president and chief executive officer of *HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley*, celebrating Scarpino and the foundation's \$2 million commitment to HealthAlliance to enhance technology and facilities at the hospital's planned new single-campus on Mary's Avenue in Kingston

National Accreditation – *Putnam Hospital Center* was recently granted a three-year full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The accreditation program is administered by the American College of Surgeons and is only given to centers committed to providing the highest level of quality breast care to their patients.

Professional Coders – The American Academy of Professional Coders and their training and credentialing opportunities are now being offered at Ellenville Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Gina Piccirilli, Manager of Medical Records at Ellenville Regional Hospital at gpiccirilli@ellenvilleregional.org.

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@normet.org.

NSHC Events & Meeting Reports

Nurse Executives – The July 27 meeting marked the first session chaired by Winthrop-University Hospital chief nursing officer Valerie Terzano. The group received presentations from the New York State Partnership for Patients regional managers and the Qualaris Audit team, which discussed the progress of the regional patient experience collaborative. Ms. Darwell provided updates on the state legislative session, establishment of a new Advanced Home Health Aide (AHHA) certification, and implementation of a new federal notification for Medicare patients in observation care.

LIPHIP Steering Committee – The PHIP’s Year 3 work plan was distributed and reports from the organization’s various workgroups were presented. A new workgroup that will focus on behavioral health is now in the works. Community-based organization events titled, “Building Bridges,” are planned for October – October 4 at Hofstra and October 20 at the Riverhead Fire Department. The events will focus on communications, data, and networking between community-based organizations that provide a multitude of health and social service programs. More details to follow.

Sunset Stroll – The Long Island Health Collaborative sponsored event took place Thursday, July 21, on the Jones Beach Boardwalk. In photo, Senator Kemp Hannon (center) leads the stroll. The walk was held to raise awareness about the importance of daily physical activity. Hannon is joined by Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (left) and Dr. James Tomarken, (right) Suffolk County Commissioner of Health. Walking at a faster pace and not in the photo is Dr. Tavora Buchman, Director of Quality,

Improvement, Epidemiology and Research and Director of Tuberculosis Control, Nassau County Department of Health.



LIHC promotes walking as an easily achievable exercise through its Are You Ready, Feet?™ walkability campaign. The interactive online portal, Are You Ready, Feet?™, can be used by people of all ages to track physical activity and progress. The Collaborative is focused on helping community members better manage and prevent chronic diseases, especially those related to obesity. State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker, who later joined the walk said, “Jones Beach is a beautiful place to walk and it’s important to get in some exercise every day.”

From left: State Senator Kemp Hannon; State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker; Dr. James Tomarken, Suffolk County Health Commissioner.



Business Leaders Learn about Population Health – The Long Island Association’s Health, Education and Not-for-Profit Subcommittee hosted a meeting on July 27 at its Melville headquarters for its members about the work of the Long Island Health Collaborative and population health activities taking place throughout Long Island.

James Tomarken, MD, MPH, Suffolk County Health Commissioner, discussed the state’s Prevention Agenda and its focus on five priorities designed to improve the health of New Yorkers. On Long Island, both counties have embraced the priority of reducing chronic diseases in partnership with the Long Island Health Collaborative and its vast array of health and social service community-based organizations. Dr. Tomarken emphasized the important role the LIHC has played, especially in the area of data collection and convening stakeholders.

Lawrence Eisenstein, MD, MPH, Nassau County Health Commissioner, also talked about how his county is embracing the state’s Prevention Agenda and the county’s goal to take public health efforts one step further by applying for national accreditation. The county is in year three of a five year application process. The application process requires applicants to meet 12 goals, with one goal centered on demonstrating collaborative efforts. Dr. Eisenstein said the county’s involvement with the Long Island Health Collaborative is vital to the county meeting this particular goal.

Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, talked about the changing paradigm of healthcare delivery and payment toward a patient-centered, value-based model. Federal and state reforms are looking to reduce inpatient hospitalization utilization. Hospitals now must work collaboratively with providers and organizations outside the immediate confines of the hospital in order to remain viable. They are embracing services and programs related to

wellness and prevention, which align perfectly with the population health management trend. Dahill said the Hospital Council, through its management of the Long Island Population Health Program grant and the Long Island Health Collaborative, has been able to assist hospitals and related partners in this transformative process and collaborative, population health-based approach to care.



From left: Dr. James Tomarken, Suffolk County Health Commissioner, Kevin Dahill, President/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Dr. Lawrence Eisenstein, Nassau County Health Commissioner

NSHC Member Hospitals

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
Catholic Health Services of Long Island

- Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
- Mercy Medical Center
- St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
- St. Charles Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital – The Heart Center
- St. Joseph Hospital

Eastern Long Island Hospital
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
Nassau University Medical Center
Northwell Health

- Franklin Hospital
- Glen Cove Hospital
- Huntington Hospital
- North Shore University Hospital
- Peconic Bay Medical Center
- Plainview Hospital
- Southside Hospital
- Syosset Hospital

Stony Brook University Hospital
Southampton Hospital
South Nassau Communities Hospital
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Winthrop-University Hospital

NorMet Member Hospitals

Blythedale Children's Hospital
Bon Secours Charity Health System

- Bon Secours Community Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- St. Anthony Community Hospital

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital
Catskill Regional Medical Center
Ellenville Regional Hospital
HealthAlliance Hospital

- Broadway Campus
- Mary's Avenue Campus

Helen Hayes Hospital
Keller Army Community Hospital
Montefiore Health System

- Mt. Vernon Hospital
- New Rochelle Hospital

The New York Presbyterian Hospitals

- Lawrence Hospital Center
- Hudson Valley Hospital
- Westchester Division

Northern Dutchess Hospital
Northern Westchester Hospital
Orange Regional Medical Center
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Putnam Hospital Center
St. Joseph's Medical Center/St. Vincent's Hospital
St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital
St. Vincent's Westchester (Division of St. Joseph's Medical Center)
Vassar Brothers Medical Center
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System
Westchester Medical Center Health Network

- Westchester Medical Center
- MidHudson Regional Hospital

White Plains Hospital