



Healthcare Association of New York State

*Proud to serve New York State's
Not-For-Profit Hospitals, Health Systems,
and Continuing Care Providers*

Daniel Sisto, President

2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Chairman

JOSEPH QUAGLIATA • Oceanside

Chairman-Elect

HERBERT PARDES, M.D. • New York

Secretary

JOSEPH MCDONALD • Buffalo

Treasurer

LINDA BRADY, M.D. • Buffalo

Immediate Past Chairman

DAVID KRUCZNICKI • Glens Falls

Past Chairmen

MICHAEL DOWLING • Great Neck

STEVEN GOLDSTEIN • Rochester

STANLEY BREZENOFF • New York

FORMER CHAIRS

GLADYS GEORGE, ESQ. • New York

JON SCHANDLER • White Plains

JOHN SPICER • New Rochelle

CLASS OF 2010

ALAN AVILES, J.D. • New York

C. WILLIAM BROWN • Rochester

THOMAS CARMAN • Watertown

JOAN CONBOY • Little Falls

SAMUEL DANIEL, M.D. • New York

JAMES DOOLEY • Geneva

WENDY GOLDSTEIN • Brooklyn

JAMES HARDEN • Rockville Centre

JOEL SELIGMAN • Mount Kisco

WILLIAM STRECK, M.D. • Cooperstown

BETSY WRIGHT • Jamestown

CLASS OF 2011

HENRY AMOROSO • New York

ALLAN ATZROTT • Newburgh

JAMES BARBA, J.D. • Albany

CHARLES FAHD II • Massena

ELI FELDMAN • Brooklyn

DAVID FELTON • Hamilton

LINDA JANCZAK • Canandaigua

RONALD KRAWIEC • Warsaw

D. ROBERT MACKENZIE, M.D. • Ithaca

JEFFREY MENKES • New York

STEPHEN MILLS • Flushing

GINO PAZZAGLINI • Troy

JAMES REED, M.D. • Troy

CLASS OF 2012

PAMELA BRIER • Brooklyn

SCOTT COOPER, M.D. • Bronx

ANDREW LITT, M.D. • New York

ALLAN MORSE, J.D., M.D. • New York

STEPHENS MUNDY • New York

THOMAS OCKERS • Patchogue

THEODORE PASINSKI • Syracuse

DAVID ROSEN • Jamaica

SARAH SCHERMERHORN • Schenectady

August 24, 2010

James Figge, M.D.
Medical Director, Office of Health Insurance Programs
New York State Department of Health
99 Washington Avenue, Room 826
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Dr. Figge:

HANYS and New York's hospital and health care associations—Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), Iroquois Healthcare Alliance (IHA), Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet), Rochester Regional Healthcare Association (RRHA), and Western New York Healthcare Association (WNYHA)—have joined in sending the enclosed letter to David Whitlinger, Executive Director of the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC), which we are forwarding to you for your consideration. In the letter, we encourage NYeC in its deliberations on the direction of the development of the state's overall Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) strategy to ensure that regional exchanges that best suit their communities, be they regional health information organizations or more market-based solutions like health care information organizations, are permitted to flourish and improve the delivery of patient care. It is our perspective that flexibility in the design of regional exchanges is crucial to the long-term success and sustainability of New York's HIT and HIE strategy and the goal we share with NYeC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) of improved patient care and public health.

A copy of this letter was sent to all members of the NYeC Board as well as to Rachel Block, Deputy Commissioner of Health, New York State Department of Health, Office of Health Information Technology Transformation.

We look forward to continuing to work together on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sisto
President

DS:svm
Enc.



August 16, 2010

David Whitlinger
Executive Director
New York eHealth Collaborative
220 Church Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10013-2988

Dear Mr. Whitlinger:

We commend the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) for its leadership in working toward a goal hospitals and health systems throughout New York State share: ensuring the widespread adoption of health information technology (HIT) and the electronic exchange of patient health information to increase care coordination. This will improve the quality of individual patient and public health.

We write to request that your ongoing work on the state's overall HIT strategic plan allow for flexibility in the design of regional health information exchanges (HIEs).

Since its inception, NYeC, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health Office of Health Information Technology Transformation (OHITT) and with the support and investment of the Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY), has led the development of numerous regional HIEs and governance bodies throughout New York State.

These Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) and Community Health Information Technology Adoption collaboratives (CHITAs) are thus far considered the technological underpinnings of the developing Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY). Many hospitals and health systems in New York are participants in their community RHIOs and CHITAs, enabling improvements in the delivery of patient care.

As the NYeC Board of Trustees continues its deliberations over the direction of the development of the state's overall HIT and HIE strategy, we strongly encourage NYeC to adopt a position of flexibility in the design of the regional HIE infrastructure that facilitates connectivity to SHIN-NY.

RHIOs and CHITAs have suited many communities in New York well. In other communities, HIT stakeholders are looking to newer models of regional HIE infrastructure to enable the exchange of electronic health data and connectivity to SHIN-NY. These models include Health Information Organizations, which may be built by hospitals to support the coordination of patient care among community providers.

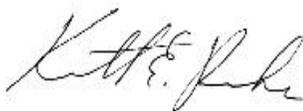
We believe that ensuring flexibility in the way in which a community builds its HIE infrastructure so that it is sustainable and intuitive to the community's providers, patients, and other stakeholders will, in the long run, build the strongest foundation for SHIN-NY.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to engaging with NYeC on this important topic.

Sincerely,



Daniel Sisto
President
HANYS



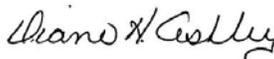
Kenneth Raske
President
GNYHA



Gary Fitzgerald
President
Iroquois Healthcare Alliance



Kevin Dahill
President and CEO
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council
NorMet



Diane Ashley
President and CEO
RHHA



John Bartimole
President
WNYHA

cc: NYeC Board Members
Rachel Block
James Figge, M.D.