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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **INTRODUCING ADVOCATE PPS**

### ***New York Community Preferred Providers Joins Forces with North Shore-LIJ to Create New Alliance Within State's DSRIP Program***

#### ***Serving Medicaid Patients in Lower-Income, Multi-Cultural Communities***

(New York, NY) – New York Community Preferred Providers (NYCPP) announced today it has established a new alliance called **Advocate Performing Provider System** in partnership with the **North Shore-LIJ Health System**. **Advocate PPS** is a physician-led, first-of-its-kind alliance of a major health system and more than 3,000 physicians and other community-based partners serving over 500,000 Medicaid recipients in Latino-, Asian- and African-American communities in New York City and Long Island.

**Advocate PPS** will apply for some of the \$6 billion in funding allocated to New York State by the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and made available to improve quality and lower the cost of care provided to the Medicaid population under New York State's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.

“As of today, with the strong backing of North Shore-LIJ, **Advocate** is prepared to enhance integration of specialty care with primary care physicians using information technology and improved care coordination. Our goal is to enable physicians to more efficiently and effectively communicate with one another and coordinate access to appropriate care so as to avoid unnecessary emergency room use and hospital admissions,” said **Dr. Ramon Tallaj**, CEO and Medical Director of **Advocate** Community Providers, the founding chief executive of New York Community Preferred Providers and founder of AW Medical, a consortium of about 2,000 physicians with deep roots in the Latino community throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn. “Our new partnership with North Shore-LIJ under DSRIP will allow us to take our existing mission – to serve the underserved – to the next level.”

“This preferred partnership with Advocate PPS will bring together North Shore-LIJ hospitals with high-quality physicians working in multi-cultural neighborhoods throughout New York City and Long Island to better serve patients and the communities in which they live,” said **Michael Dowling**, President and CEO of North Shore-LIJ, which currently includes 16 hospitals, more than 400 outpatient programs, and 2,600 employed physicians throughout the region.

Thanks to the efforts of Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Health Commissioner Howard

Zucker, MD, and State Medicaid Director Jason Helgerson, CMS provided New York State with more than \$6 billion earlier this year to restructure healthcare delivery models in lower-income communities, with a mandate to increase quality of care and lower the overall cost to the Medicaid system over the next five years through this innovative program.

With the formation of **Advocate PPS**, the possibility of better and more appropriate access is further advanced. “This represents one giant step closer to our goal of higher quality, more accessible and affordable health services,” said Dr. Tallaj, who worked very closely with North Shore-LIJ’s executive leadership, to structure the new arrangement.

“In order to better serve high-need, low income communities, physicians need partners with institutional knowledge and solid infrastructure – and that’s where we’ve landed today,” said **Peggy Sheng**, Chief Operating Officer of CAIPA, the Chinese American Independent Practice Association, a founding member of NYCPP and a consortium of networks that serve the Chinese-American community concentrated in portions of Lower Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn. “Our physicians are in tune with the healthcare needs and day-to-day lives of the communities they serve; now we can assure better access and healthier lives to the individuals in many of our underserved communities.”

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