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BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR. CONVENES

LOCAL LEADERS FOR ACP BRIEFING

New York, NY – November 24, 2015 – On Wednesday, November 18, **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** convened an informational meeting for borough officials including elected and appointed officials as well as representatives of various community boards. Leaders of Advocate Community Providers (ACP), including **Chairman Dr. Ramon Tallaj**, **CEO Mario Paredes** and **Chief of Staff Alexandro Damiron**, described ACP's mission and plan of action to improve health care in underserved communities in the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

New York State Senator Adriano Espaillat, whose district stretches from Manhattan's Upper West Side through Washington Heights and includes Riverdale, Marble Hill and Hamilton Heights, also attended. **New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera** and **Assembly Members Marcos Crespo, Michael Blake, Mark Gjonaj** and **Jose Rivera** also were represented in the meeting.

Dr. Tallaj, a native of the Dominican Republic whose medical practice is in Washington Heights and the Bronx spoke passionately about the importance of the personal, one-to-one relationship between physician and patient. His conviction that independent community-based physicians who speak the language and understand the culture of their patients was the driving force behind founding the only physician-led network in New York State's Delivery Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.

Moises Perez, ACP's **Director of Workforce, Community and Government Relations**, reviewed gaps identified by a borough-specific community needs assessment. Analysis showed that 15 of the 29 communities in New York City (excluding Staten Island) with the greatest concentration of needs and disparities were in Bronx neighborhoods.



Asthma represents the greatest disparity in the Bronx, with 62.8 asthma-related hospitalizations per 10,000 residents versus 19.3 for New York State. Other health priorities identified by the community needs assessment include drug-related hospitalizations, early childhood and adult obesity, diabetes, coronary heart disease and congestive heart failure hospitalizations and breast cancer mortality.

Physicians in the ACP network are responsible for the care of more than 100,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in the Bronx.

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About Advocate Community Providers

Advocate Community Providers (ACP) unites 1,700 individual, independent physicians with 400 hospital partners and community-based organizations dedicated to health, wellness and social services in lower-income, underserved Hispanic, Asian and African-American communities throughout New York City. Representing 644,000 patients across four boroughs of New York City, ACP was created in partnership with North Shore-LIJ. ACP's mission is to convene safety-net providers, partners and other stakeholders to create a culturally competent, patient-centered, comprehensive and coordinated service care model to meet the needs of individuals and families participating in Medicaid.

ACP is one of 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPS) in New York's Delivery Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program to transform the State's Medicaid system. DSRIP's goals include reducing avoidable hospitalizations and ensuring those patients and their families with Medicaid switch to a community-based care system that emphasizes preventative care over reliance on the emergency room.