



**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **ONE YEAR OF HEALTH TRANSFORMATION**

### **Physicians, Hospitals, Health Care Providers Banded Together to Transform Medicaid Health Care for Six Million New Yorkers via the DSRIP Program**

*Update from Advocate Community Providers, New York's Only Physician-led PPS*

**New York, NY (April 27, 2016)** – One year ago, the state and federal government came together to transform the New York Medicaid health care system and provide better care to over six million (1 in 3) New Yorkers.

Under the multibillion-dollar Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPS) were created and funded to lead this ambitious initiative to improve health care outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries, while reducing avoidable hospitalizations by 25 percent in the short span of five years. DSRIP is a central component of the state's Medicaid Redesign "Triple Aim" goal of improved care, better health and reduced costs.

[Advocate Community Providers](#) (ACP), the only PPS led by independent physicians, received the second-highest funding allocation for its unique approach to health care delivery. Unlike hospital-led PPPs, ACP leverages the long-standing, personal relationships and cultural awareness of its 2,000 neighborhood physicians and 950 providers. ACP physicians live and work in the same areas as their patients, which breaks down the linguistic, cultural and other socioeconomic barriers that have impeded access to care for poorer residents for decades, particularly Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and African Americans.

"As a native of the Dominican Republic, I understand firsthand the cultural barriers that exist to quality care for low-income and minority populations. ACP network physicians and specialists reflect the diverse backgrounds of their patients and bring on-the-ground knowledge of their community," **said Dr. Ramon Tallaj, Chairman of the Board, ACP.** "We are a 'cultural bridge' between our larger health care system and these often hard-to-reach and high-risk populations. I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments thus far and I look forward to the exciting work ahead."

One year after DSRIP's launch, this ambitious goal is becoming a reality. New York's health care system has joined a growing, national shift from traditional fee-for-service payment models to value-based care, which is a sustainable, patient-centric model focused on the quality of patient outcomes –



not volume. To-date, ACP has disbursed more than \$8 million in incentive payments to physicians and providers during DSRIP's implementation phase.

Community engagement and health literacy programs targeting "hot spot" neighborhoods identified in ACP's community assessment analysis are underway, and the first cohort of Community Health Workers has been trained and deployed to work directly with the local physicians, community organizations and patients. In partnership with Centene, care coordination has begun and physicians are already referring Medicaid patients to specially trained, multi-lingual representatives working with patients to close care gaps, coordinate tests and appointments and assist with transportation.

"Coordinated care, cultural competency and improved health literacy are all critical to decreasing health care costs, and improving quality and outcomes," said **Dr. Henry Chen, President, ACP**. "ACP staff members are out in these communities meeting with the neighborhood physicians to personally deliver the training, support, resources, infrastructure and protocols needed to better engage Medicaid beneficiaries and improve care for thousands of New Yorkers."

"After decades of lower-income communities, especially immigrant communities, experiencing low-quality care and high-cost health care due to emergency room overuse, DSRIP provides a scalable solution to help ensure these communities are better served by changing how health care is delivered and by whom. ACP is proud to help lead a much-needed transformation that will serve as a model for systems of value-based preventive care nationwide," said **Mario Paredes, Chief Executive Officer, ACP**.

Through ACP, the DSRIP program can be seen operating as it should. By leveraging the deep roots and long-standing relationships of local physicians, ACP is expanding DSRIP's collective impact and transforming health care delivery for millions of Medicaid members.

For more information on ACP or DSRIP, visit <http://www.acppps.org/>.

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### **About Advocate Community Providers**

Advocate Community Providers (ACP) unites 2,000 individual, independent physicians with 950 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 650,000 patients across four boroughs of New York City, ACP was created in partnership with Northwell Health (formerly North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System). 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 program (DSRIP) to transform the State's Medicaid system. DSRIP's goals include reducing avoidable hospitalizations and ensuring that patients and their families with Medicaid switch to a community-based care system that emphasizes preventive care over reliance on the emergency room.