



Healthcare Association
of New York State

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HANYS Presents 2010 Distinguished Service Award to Raymond D. Sweeney

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) presented its 2010 Distinguished Service Award to Raymond D. Sweeney, HANYS' Executive Vice President.

Mr. Sweeney has been a driving force behind the development of health policy in New York State for four decades. Due to his sterling reputation as a leading health policy expert, stakeholders of every type seek him out to provide analysis, information, and insight into major regulatory and financial policies.

“An unwavering commitment to ensuring the provision of quality care to all New Yorkers through advocacy for rational health care policies has been the hallmark of Ray Sweeney’s career,” commented HANYS’ President Daniel Sisto. “HANYS, its member facilities, and the people of New York have benefitted greatly from Ray’s unparalleled understanding of health care policy. But just as important as his legacy of informed, balanced health care policy is his personal impact on all of us who have worked with him. Ray’s tenacity and skill in finding solutions to difficult problems earn him respect in his professional life, but his real gifts are his calm demeanor and sense of humor that win him friends everywhere.”

Mr. Sweeney served as HANYS’ Executive Vice President for 15 years. Before joining HANYS, he served in state government for 25 years, most recently as Director of the Office of Health Systems Management (OHSM) at the Department of Health.

During his tenure at OHSM, Mr. Sweeney was instrumental in implementing expansive health reform initiatives, including:

- Child Health Plus, the state's insurance program for uninsured children, which has grown to serve more than 400,000 children across New York State;
- Graduate Medical Education system reform, including grant programs to medical schools, scholarships, and loan forgiveness programs for primary care providers; and
- primary care development, including administering \$70 million in development grants.

Working directly with the Executive Branch and state agencies, Mr. Sweeney was influential in formulating New York State's health care policy and promoting the expansion of managed care programs for Medicaid beneficiaries through regulatory incentives.

Before his tenure at OHSM, Mr. Sweeney held positions at the Division of the Budget and the State Department of Labor.

Mr. Sweeney has taught as a clinical professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany's School of Public Health since 1990. He has served on boards of directors including IPRO, Health Research, Inc., and Medical Care Facilities Finance Agency. He has served on numerous committees and task forces, including Adirondack Medical Center's Uninsured Task Force, Joint Association Nursing Home Task Force, SUNY Buffalo's School of Public Health Dean's Advisory Council, and DOH's Nursing Home Task Force, and Emergency Department Overcrowding Task Force.

Mr. Sweeney is retiring from HANYS at the end of June 2010 after more than 40 years of outstanding contributions to health care in New York State. The award was presented Wednesday, June 23, at HANYS' 42nd Annual Membership Conference.

Photos of the award presentation are available at http://www.hanys.org/annual_meeting/2010

HANYS, the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, represents more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.

