

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OFFICERS

Bruce Flanz • Queens
Chair

Michael Spicer • Yonkers
Chair-Elect

Jose Acevedo, MD • Geneva
Secretary

Thomas Carman • Watertown
Treasurer

Thomas Quatroche Jr., PhD • Buffalo
Immediate Past Chair

Richard Murphy • Oceanside
Past Chair

Steven Corwin, MD • New York
Past Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Former Chairs

Michael Dowling • New Hyde Park

Steven Goldstein • Rochester

Herbert Pardes, MD • New York

Class of 2021

Victor Ayala • Brooklyn

Scott Berlucchi • Auburn

John Carrigg • Binghamton

Robert Corona, DO • Syracuse

Michael Finegan • Albany

Evan Flatow, MD • New York

Laura Forese, MD • New York

Kenneth Gibbs • Brooklyn

Carol Gomes • Stony Brook

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, DO • Buffalo

Class of 2022

LaRay Brown • Brooklyn

Jeannie Cross • Saranac Lake

Joan Cusack-McGuirk • Newburgh

Eileen Egan • Sleepy Hollow

Steven Kelley • Ellenville

Mary LaRowe • Dunkirk

Daniel Messina, PhD • Staten Island

David Perlstein, MD • Bronx

Kenneth Roberts • Port Jefferson

Dierdra Sorrell • Star Lake

Robert Spolzino, JD • New Hyde Park

Hugh Thomas, Esq. • Rochester

Charles Urlaub • Lewiston

Class of 2023

Alexander Balko • Brooklyn

Kimberly Boynton • Syracuse

Susan Fox • White Plains

Sylvia Getman • Saranac Lake

Susan Holliday • Rochester

Allegra Jaros • Buffalo

Mary Leahy, MD • Suffern

Wayne Riley, MD • Brooklyn

Dianne Shugrue • Glens Falls

Mark Solazzo • New Hyde Park

Mike Stapleton • Canandaigua

Mark Sullivan • Buffalo

Vincent Verdile, MD • Albany

Allied Association Chairs

Robert Chaloner • Southampton

Michelle LeBeau • Plattsburgh

Dustin Riccio, MD • Newark

October 8, 2021

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD
Commissioner
New York State Office of Mental Health
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

On behalf of the Healthcare Association of New York State and our member hospitals, health systems and continuing care providers across the state, thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I write to you because of the extraordinary workforce challenges New York's hospitals and behavioral healthcare providers are currently facing. HANYYS requests your partnership and support as we pursue all opportunities to provide immediate workforce relief for our members and build longer-term strategies to increase the pipeline of critically needed healthcare professionals.

Specifically, I respectfully request that OMH delay the Patient Characteristic Survey by at least six months to help our members address their immediate workforce challenges and focus on direct patient care.

HANYYS' members are committed to providing quality care to all New Yorkers. Maintaining a robust and stable workforce is the cornerstone to providing this care. However, COVID-19 has had an undeniable and devastating impact on many healthcare personnel who provided care throughout this pandemic. New York's healthcare workforce shortages existed long before COVID-19, but the longer-term toll this pandemic is exacting has exacerbated and accelerated the issue.

We appreciate the efforts to date to assist with the temporary suspensions of statute and regulation to help address the worsening healthcare workforce crisis. However, we have heard from our members that although the OMH PCS is an important tool, even during ordinary circumstances it is a significant task and difficult administrative responsibility to execute. Collecting and entering these data is extremely labor intensive, as electronic medical records do not easily capture much of this information. The additional questions for this year's survey increase the operational challenges.

Because of workforce reductions, our members' number one priority is focused on maintaining patient care and safety first, above all else. Given the current extraordinary circumstances, I ask that you consider delaying the PCS due date by at least six months to help our members address their immediate workforce challenges and focus on direct patient care.

Thank you for considering this request and your ongoing partnership throughout this pandemic.

If you have questions, please contact me at (518) 431-7730 or jgold@hanys.org, or Victoria Aufiero, senior director, insurance, managed care and behavioral health at (518) 431-7889 or vaufiero@hanys.org.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gold, Esq.
Senior Vice President and Special Counsel, Managed Care and Insurance

cc: Moira Tashjian, MPA, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner
Robert Myers, PhD, Senior Deputy Commissioner
Thomas Smith, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Sally Dreslin, MS, RN, Director of Operations
Adrienne Anderson, MPH, Special Assistant