

What we achieved together

HANYS is proud to work on behalf of our members and is committed to supporting New York's hospitals and health systems. This report shows the many ways HANYS' advocacy and initiatives support our membership and advance healthcare in New York.



Advocacy, education and one-on-one contact with our members was essential

- Significant advocacy victories include provider relief funding, delay of federal funding cuts and averting mandatory hospital staffing ratios.
- More than 7,900 individuals participated in 260+ education programs.
- HANYS staff had thousands of contacts with members to answer questions, provide resources and help navigate operational challenges.



Advocacy successes

State

\$136,583,600

in Medicaid across-the-board cuts to New York hospitals and health systems averted.

\$765,529,900

in supportive funding to New York hospitals and health systems retained.

\$135,038,000

in Indigent Care Pool cuts to New York hospitals and health systems averted.

Federal

\$1,317,776,000

in federal Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts to New York hospitals and health systems averted.

\$262,119,000

in federal sequestration cuts to New York hospitals and health systems eliminated.



Grants

\$7,625,400

in grant money awarded to our members from HANYS (funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and/or Mother Cabrini Health Foundation).



HANYS' work on behalf of our members

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, HANYS worked side by side with our members as a key resource, providing advocacy, guidance and educational programming as healthcare organizations navigated the complex operational, clinical and financial issues associated with COVID-19.



Advocacy

On the state level, HANYS successfully stopped passage of mandated hospital staffing ratio legislation by securing a compromise that will help avert the threat of ratios for several years. We also avoided the passage of other damaging legislation that would have enacted harmful changes to the Hospital Financial Assistance Law, imposed challenging new billing requirements and significantly increased medical liability in wrongful death lawsuits.

Strong advocacy on the state budgetary front led to the rejection of hundreds of millions in proposed Medicaid cuts to healthcare and enactment of a two-year delay in a harmful policy that would have a significant negative fiscal impact on many hospitals that participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

To help address the worsening healthcare workforce crisis, we advocated for the declaration of a statewide disaster emergency due to healthcare staffing shortages and secured the issuance of Executive Order 4, which included regulatory and statutory flexibilities needed to recruit new staff and increase the efficiency of existing staff. HANYS testified at a legislative hearing on healthcare workforce and pushed for support of a package of recommendations for both short- and long-term solutions to the workforce crisis, including requesting the creation of a \$1 billion fund in the 2022 state budget.

On the federal level, HANYS has worked in partnership with Majority Leader Schumer, the New York congressional delegation and across presidential administrations to protect hospitals whose special status (340B eligibility, Critical Access Hospital, etc.) may be threatened.

HANYS worked in close collaboration with the American Hospital Association and other key federal partners, including key delegation members, to influence significant policy and payment provisions for hospitals and health

systems in the CARES Act, American Rescue Plan Act and other COVID-19-related legislation. Major provisions included:

- \$186.5 billion in Provider Relief Funds (including \$8.5 billion in rural funding);
- delay of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts until federal fiscal year 2024;
- reprieve from the 2% Medicare sequestration cuts through March 30, 2022, and the 4% PAYGO sequestration cuts to reduce Medicare spending in FFY 2022; and
- billions in state and local funding, including more than \$12 billion directly to New York state that helped prevent drastic cuts at the state level.

HANYS has continued to keep the New York delegation unified in support of other key hospital and health system issues, yielding significant progress in several priority areas. For the first time in over two decades, Congress passed an increase in Medicare-funded Graduate Medical Education slots. In addition, HANYS played an integral role in ensuring that the No Surprises Act passed by Congress was carefully modeled after New York state's landmark consumer protection law — without setting a federal benchmark rate. As regulations are rolled out to implement the law, our work continues to ensure the policy is implemented in alignment with congressional intent.



Continuing support on COVID-19

HANYS continues to address member concerns around the clock relating to the COVID-19 emergency in New York. We served as a key member of New York's regional healthcare emergency preparedness coalitions and provided feedback to state and federal policymakers to inform evolving guidance in addressing the ongoing surge in patients and financial challenges. Our advocacy for continuation of broad regulatory flexibilities at the state and federal level has included the expansion of telemedicine, workforce flexibility and Certificate of Need efficiencies.

Continued

HANYS continues to convene regional coordination calls across the state to bring members together to discuss key aspects of the pandemic response and to provide timely input to HANYS' advocacy to help shape state policies. These calls also resulted in the creation of a new patient transfer portal to assist communication between members seeking to send and receive patient transfers.



Managed care and insurance

HANYS continues to develop and advance a proactive legislative managed care agenda that is shaped by constant dialogue with our members on the top issues encountered with health plans.

HANYS' managed care team negotiated a new Department of Financial Services circular letter that removed significant payer obstacles to full and timely payment and reduced administrative rules. This letter reaffirms many of HANYS' longtime advocacy priorities and will simplify the reimbursement process for providers. In addition to a number of streamlining requirements, the letter prohibits administrative reasons as the sole basis for a claim denial, forces payers to use national coding guidelines and affirms that reviews on level of care or site of service are medical necessity reviews, with the appropriate accompanying appeal process.

The managed care team also successfully blocked or delayed six harmful payer policies that would steer patients away from hospitals. As the payer landscape becomes more aggressive in steering patients away from hospital-based care, our advocacy efforts continue with regulatory agencies and health plans themselves.



Quality

In addition to their continued role in HANYS' COVID-19 response and vaccination rollout, the HANYS quality advocacy, research and innovation team sponsored numerous high-value educational programs focused on

quality, patient safety, health equity and professional development. HANYS leveraged outside funding from longtime and new partners to provide most of these programs at no cost to members.

HANYS' Statewide Steering Committee on Quality Initiatives engaged in direct dialogue with state and federal policymakers and national thought leaders on healthcare quality measurement and public reporting, health equity, maternal mortality, patient-reported outcomes, diagnostic accuracy and communication and resolution programs. The QARI team continued a high level of member engagement through various committees, including two new statewide committees on critical care and infection control, and a new Clinical Staffing Committee Consortium. These high-level discussions encouraged collective problem solving and resulted in the creation of impactful tools and resources for the broader HANYS membership.

The HANYS Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety recognized members at the forefront of healthcare innovation. Our expert panel received and reviewed more than 120 nominations and four award recipients were chosen.



Post-acute and continuing care

HANYS continued our engagement with post-acute and continuing care providers in 2021 through a series of regular calls focused solely on the needs of this segment of our membership. These meetings provide an opportunity to solicit input from the field to inform our advocacy related to nursing home Medicaid reimbursement, workforce and nursing home reform bills targeting staffing, transparency and revenue restrictions.

In addition to advocacy, HANYS' post-acute and continuing care staff implemented the Age-Friendly Health Systems New York State Action Community, which successfully supported 38 sites in achieving Age-Friendly Health Systems recognition from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. HANYS will expand our work to include supporting 10 sites in achieving Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation through the American College of Emergency Physicians.



Behavioral health

HANYS' Behavioral Health Task Force, comprised of behavioral health leaders from member organizations across the state, continued to play a key role in helping identify and guide HANYS' policy priorities. HANYS released a white paper highlighting the complex case discharge delay problem with input from our newly established complex case discharge delay workgroup, and made significant strides to engage government leadership and partner associations. A number of recommendations are now being implemented or discussed.

As members statewide experienced a rise in aggressive patient behavior and alarming increases in youth presenting with behavioral health crises and complex case challenges, HANYS convened experts and decision makers to provide guidance and advocacy. We also wrote nine comment letters in response to proposed bills and advocacy needs impacting behavioral health services this year.



Workforce

This year, workforce efforts at HANYS have expanded based on the extraordinary circumstances impacting the healthcare workforce both statewide and nationally. The Statewide Human Resource Advisory Committee has provided valuable feedback that guides HANYS' advocacy efforts.

This year, HANYS convened a roundtable discussion for healthcare leaders, policymakers and educators regarding the current workforce crisis and discussed ways to build and strengthen the workforce pipeline. This initial discussion was the first in a series of solution-focused efforts to identify ways to address many longstanding issues in the educational, regulatory and legislative space. As previously mentioned, HANYS testified at a public hearing and has advanced a multi-pronged set of recommendations aimed at addressing the short- and long-term aspects of the workforce crisis.



Legal and compliance

As part of HANYS' work to support our members' legal, compliance and contractual needs, HANYS has continued to promote the General Counsel Forum and the HANYS-OMIG Workgroup. We continue to work with regional association compliance officers to bring members together to discuss areas of common concern and identify best practices. We also continue to populate the online HANYS Litigation Tracker to help members monitor the progress of critical litigation matters that impact the advocacy and policy priorities of HANYS and our members.



Health Information Technology

HANYS brings together members, regulators and outside groups to streamline operations and enhance care through the thoughtful use of technology. HANYS' HIT work, as guided by our HIT Strategy Group and telehealth and cybersecurity committees, includes:

- working with national groups on federal HIT issues such as the latest Promoting Interoperability Program updates, patient identification and telehealth regulatory concerns;
- working with DOH on telehealth regulatory changes, as well as home health strategies to match the federal guidelines; and
- working with the New York eHealth Collaborative to guide updates to the Statewide Health Information Network for New York's strategies and policies, such as changes to consent policies.

Questions?

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