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Today's News Wednesday, June 11, 2008

[Click here to access Pulse Extra](#)**Stanzione to Leave Good Samaritan**

Dominick Stanzione, chief executive of the Bon Secours Charity Health System and Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, is leaving the network on July 9. He will become a partner in the Manchester Group, a consulting firm in Hoboken, N.J. Bon Secours has been a client of Manchester's. Mr. Stanzione, 56, joined the system as chief executive in late 2000. The system is conducting a national search for his successor. John Shea, Bon Secours' senior vice president of strategic planning and development, will serve as interim chief executive.

Graying of DOH

More than 20% of the state Department of Health's workforce is eligible for retirement within two years, according to DOH's Program to Eliminate the Gap. That those who would be leaving would be the DOH's most experienced workers might make it tough for the agency to stick to its plan of cutting the operating budget by 3.35%, or \$20.5 million, by leaving 103 staff vacancies unfilled. One longtime staffer noted that fewer than 200 of DOH's 5,681 workers are under 30—the effect of years of previous hiring freezes. Meanwhile, about half of the employees at the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General—an independent entity within DOH—are eligible to retire within the next two years. But OMIG is on a hiring spree: Its budget authorizes 753 full-time positions by next June, compared with its current 481.

Layoffs in NJ

Southern Ocean County Hospital announced it is laying off 59 employees, including 27 RNs. The hospital, in Stafford Township, blamed cuts in government aid and increases in uninsured patients. "Over half the hospitals in New Jersey are operating in the red," the hospital said in a statement.

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Bronx group lodges discrimination complaint

New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Mount Sinai Medical Center and Montefiore Medical Center are the targets of a complaint alleging that the hospitals discriminate between privately insured and Medicaid patients. The complaint was filed by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest on behalf of Bronx Health REACH. The coalition of community-based organizations, which aims to end racial and ethnic disparities in health care, is headed by Dr. Neil Calman, president and chief executive of the Institute for Family Health.

The complaint, filed with Linda Laceywell, special counsel at the state Office of the Attorney General, alleges that the hospitals steered patients seeking cardiac or endocrine referrals either to clinics or doctors' offices, depending on patients' insurance, and that the hospitals don't ensure that the providers' care is comparable.

The coalition based its complaint on a study that updated its 2005 research on racial disparities. The groups made about 75 phone calls to hospital referral lines using a script and made follow-up calls. The coalition concluded that Medicaid patients and the uninsured were referred to clinic residents and interns, while patients with private coverage were sent to doctors' offices.

Similar allegations were made in 1993 and 1994 against Mount Sinai and New York-Presbyterian regarding their inpatient maternity services. An allegation about segregation on the basis of payer source and race was brought to the Office of Civil Rights at HHS. The hospitals voluntarily changed their policies, but OCR investigated and found probable violations of federal law.

At a Glance

WHO'S NEWS: Reginald Bullock Jr. was named general counsel at the Nassau Health Care Corp., which operates Nassau University Medical Center and A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility. Mr. Bullock was senior associate general counsel at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System from September 2000 until last month.

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