

What we achieved together

HANYS is proud to support the great work that New York's hospitals and health systems do every day to serve each community across the state. Our advocacy efforts, educational programs and one-on-one assistance are all done with the goal of helping our members. Together, we will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

Financial advocacy successes for our members in 2023

Total fiscal relief for our membership:

\$4,163,010,900

Federal advocacy: **\$2,062,126,700**

State advocacy: **\$2,100,884,200**

Advocacy victories were critical in 2023

The numbers above represent key financial victories that benefited our members, including:

- **Federal:** preventing immediate Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts, securing a significant adjustment to the Medicare area wage index, changes to the capital DSH components of Medicare rates, improvements to the Medicare rate update factor, and a remedy for previously instituted cuts to the 340B program.
- **State:** the largest Medicaid rate increases for inpatient, outpatient and nursing home services in over a decade and structured supportive funding for eligible hospitals through the Medicaid Directed Payment Template and Vital Access Provider programs for rural and essential community providers.

A comprehensive summary of advocacy accomplishments continues on the following pages.

Collective education and member engagement made an impact in 2023

- More than 6,800 individuals from member organizations participated in over 200 educational programs.
- 1,158 individuals served on 45 HANYS-led member committees and task forces.
- HANYS staff are in daily contact with our members to answer questions, provide resources and help navigate challenging issues.



HANYS' work on our members' behalf in 2023

Advocacy

State advocacy

HANYS' sustained advocacy throughout a prolonged state budget process secured billions of dollars in new investments, including the largest Medicaid increase for inpatient, outpatient and nursing home services in over a decade. While this increase was critical, we are advocating for further investments because much more needs to be done to support hospitals and nursing homes. In addition, more than \$1 billion in capital funding, \$800 million in Essential Plan rate increases and nearly \$2.5 billion in funding for financially distressed hospitals was included or restored in the enacted budget.

Our advocacy to address the persistent healthcare workforce crisis achieved expanded funding for multiple workforce programs, increased oversight for temporary healthcare staffing agencies and multiple temporary extensions of Executive Order 4, which declared a state of emergency due to healthcare workforce shortages. HANYS also successfully advocated to codify or extend many necessary flexibilities offered under EO 4, including temporary practice permits for certain out-of-state professionals, expanding non-patient-specific standing orders for registered nurses and providing community paramedicine flexibilities.

Our strong advocacy as part of an organized coalition secured a veto of legislation that would have significantly expanded the state's wrongful death statute. Our work with the governor's office on this issue continues as both houses of the Legislature subsequently passed an amended but still similar version of the bill.

Federal advocacy

In Washington, HANYS advanced our legislative agenda in collaboration with the American Hospital Association and New York congressional delegation members including Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-Brooklyn) and House GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik (R-Schuylerville).

Despite a divided Congress, HANYS has kept the New York delegation unified in support of key hospital and health system priorities. We made progress toward delaying billions of dollars in impending Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts, including through the advancement of bipartisan legislation led by Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Brooklyn).

On the regulatory front, HANYS worked to secure much-needed federal funding for hospitals and health systems. This includes finalized inpatient rates and changes that significantly increase wage index values for many New York state hospitals, expand access to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital funds and provide

adjustments to nursing and allied health education payments. HANYS and AHA worked to ensure 340B hospital payments were restored after CMS implemented cuts in 2018-2022. The one-time, lump-sum payment totals \$591 million for New York's hospitals and health systems.

HANYS has made progress to address widespread challenges associated with Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance funds. In partnership with the delegation, we made significant strides working with FEMA and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to expand eligibility for reimbursement for certain COVID-19-related expenses, streamline application processes, reduce burdensome requirements and expedite the flow of funds to hospitals.

Advocacy tools and campaigns

HANYS provides our members with tools to advocate on specific issues and makes them available on our website. For example, HANYS and our allied regional hospital associations' December 2022 *Critical Condition* report was a powerful tool in our advocacy efforts in Albany and Washington this year. The report highlighted data points underscoring the serious fiscal and workforce challenges facing our members, driving home the importance of taking action to support New York's healthcare system.

HANYS worked with the Greater New York Hospital Association to launch the public-facing *The Heart of New York* campaign to combat negative narratives about hospitals. We also supported the Patients First Alliance's *Enough Already* campaign, which highlighted insurers' bad behavior related to patient care and coverage.

HANYS' members can easily keep track of important legislation using our online *Federal Legislative Tracker* and access other state and federal advocacy information through our *Advocacy Resource Center*, released in 2023. HANYS maintains our online Summary of 2023 State Legislation of Significant Interest as a resource on important bills, as well as our *2023 state regulatory activity* tracker.



Managed care and insurance

HANYS continued our aggressive advocacy on behalf of our members at the state and federal levels on issues related to commercial insurance products, Medicaid managed care and Medicare Advantage.

HANYS continues to engage with the New York State Department of Financial Services and DOH to address challenging health plan behavior and ensure proper oversight and enforcement of state laws and regulations governing insurers. HANYS advanced several managed care reform bills aimed at strengthening hospitals' position in an increasingly aggressive payer landscape.

Continued

HANYS continues to convene the monthly Managed Care Advisory Group, sharing updates with hospital members and gathering real-time information on payer relationships to help inform our advocacy. We have regularly updated members on managed care and insurance issues throughout the year.

Quality and health equity initiatives

The HANYS Quality Advocacy, Research and Innovation team sponsored numerous high-value educational programs focused on quality, health equity and professional development. HANYS leveraged outside funding from longtime and new partners to provide members with most of these programs at no cost. Nearly all were hosted virtually and participation was strong throughout the year.

HANYS engaged members across the state and at all organizational levels through various committees, including our Statewide Steering Committee on Quality Initiatives and clinical staffing, maternal and child health, infection control and critical care committees. These member-driven discussions encouraged collective problem-solving and identification of advocacy priorities and resulted in the creation of impactful tools and resources for the broader HANYS membership.

HANYS continues to administer the Eastern US Quality Improvement Collaborative (a CMS Hospital Quality Improvement Contract grant program) working with several other state hospital association partners, engaging many New York hospitals and health systems to reduce readmissions, all-cause patient harm and adverse drug events.

In collaboration with our members, community-based organizations and other institutions and leaders, HANYS continues our strong commitment to health equity.

- The HANYS Health Equity Task Force and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officers Workgroup focus on systematically and intentionally closing economic, racial and health gaps in every New York community.
- HANYS awarded leadership development scholarships to five dynamic and emerging leaders and secured funding to continue this program into 2024.
- Our Advancing Healthcare Excellence and Inclusion collaborative equips hospitals and health systems with tools and support to identify and address healthcare disparities; through AHEI, HANYS provided more than 30 leadership development scholarships to program participants.
- HANYS provided members resources to advance health equity efforts, including *Advancing health equity: A moral and business imperative* and an interactive Health Equity Measures and Standards crosswalk.

The HANYS Community Health Task Force meets quarterly and continues to focus on issues related to the New York State *Prevention Agenda* to promote health equity and improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. HANYS also serves as a representative on a DOH ad hoc committee tasked with organizing the upcoming phase of

the *Prevention Agenda*, advocating for the requirements and interests of our members.

Post-acute and continuing care

DOH appointed HANYS to several committees focused on the state's Master Plan for Aging and the future of nursing homes and long-term care. HANYS made targeted outreach to members to gain input on nursing home Medicaid reimbursement, workforce and other priority issues. HANYS convened nursing home and other post-acute care members regularly to connect and share challenges and promising practices.

In addition to advocacy, HANYS' post-acute and continuing care staff implemented the Age-Friendly Health Systems New York State Action Community which, since 2020, has supported 103 sites in achieving Age-Friendly Health Systems recognition from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

In related work, HANYS has supported 32 sites in achieving Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation through the American College of Emergency Physicians since 2022. With the generous support of multiple private foundations, HANYS looks forward to continuing both collaboratives in 2024.

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. We provided regular updates and advocacy as members confronted an ongoing surge of comprehensive behavioral health policy changes. Comment letters this year responded to several proposed bills and advocacy needs affecting behavioral health services.

In addition, our task force and two workgroups provided valuable input into our advocacy work and educational webinars related to violence in healthcare settings.

HANYS, with the support of our task force, released a report highlighting the results from our 2022 data collection pilot demonstrating the scope of complex case discharge delays in New York state and hosted additional webinars on this critical issue. We continue to engage diverse stakeholders and advance strategic policy solutions with government leaders. Several recommendations are now being implemented or discussed.

Workforce

The healthcare workforce remains a top priority for our members and HANYS' state and federal advocacy. The Statewide Human Resource Advisory Committee continues to provide a valuable platform for feedback that guides HANYS' advocacy.

Continued

In the fall, HANYS continued its collaboration with the Center for Health Workforce Studies and allied associations to obtain current data on the state of the workforce and the persistent recruitment and retention challenges our members experience. HANYS will use these data to inform our regulatory and legislative advocacy.

HANYS will continue to work with members to communicate challenges and advocate for funding and policy and regulatory changes to close the gap and strengthen the workforce.

Legal and compliance

HANYS' legal department works directly with general counsels, compliance officers and their teams to share information and guidance on legal concerns, risk management, governance and other areas of common interest. HANYS hosts a quarterly Statewide Compliance Officers Council, sharing updates on laws and regulations that may impact policies, examining issues and risk mitigation strategies and sharing best practices for effective compliance programs.

We also continue to populate the online HANYS *Litigation Tracker* to monitor the progress of critical litigation that impact HANYS' advocacy and policy priorities, and when necessary, file amicus briefs to support our members' interests

Health information technology

HANYS brings together members, regulators and other healthcare leaders across New York to advocate at the state and federal level for appropriate technology-related regulations to improve technology use, streamline operations, enable peer networking and improve care. We schedule educational events, peer groups and workgroups to assist with HIT strategy and day-to-day IT operations. Our bi-weekly *HIT Update* highlights useful news and regulatory changes and notifies members of our educational offerings.

Our HIT workgroups include the HIT Strategy Group, Telehealth Workgroup, Epic EMR User Group and the HANYS/HAWCNY Privacy and Security Workgroup. Each workgroup includes regulatory updates and peer networking opportunities and directs and advances HANYS' state and federal HIT regulatory, legislative advocacy and educational agenda. HANYS holds frequent educational sessions based on workgroup input to help members navigate the challenges associated with ongoing digital transformation, electronic medical record optimization, cybersecurity and regulatory compliance.

HANYS' HIT team also leads the activities of the Healthcare Innovation and Lean Network of New York, a collaborative network of Lean management and innovation practitioners from hospitals and health systems across the state. Led by a steering committee of member leaders, HILNYY offers educational programming to facilitate idea sharing and highlight use cases for Lean and change management in hospital operations.

Healthcare trustee education

Healthcare Trustees of New York State provides education, tools and resources to help hospital leadership and trustee boards fulfill their fiduciary and local advisory responsibilities. Working closely with its board of governors, HTNYS supports trustees with the education needed to guide their hospitals through complex issues.

Through our well-attended *Annual Trustee Conference*, email communications, monthly *Trends* newsletter, resources on our website and webinars, we continue to drive valuable content to the trustee membership.

HTNYS supports HANYS' advocacy efforts by hosting virtual advocacy days each spring to lobby and bring the trustee voice to key state budget and legislative debates. This year, trustees advocated for Medicaid rate increases and policies and funding to address the significant workforce issues impacting hospitals and health systems across the state.

Emergency preparedness

HANYS continues to address member concerns around the clock related to emergency preparedness. We serve on New York's regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalitions and provide feedback to state and federal policymakers to inform guidance on planning, response and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

We are here for you

HANYS leverages our advocacy and expertise to benefit all members, from large academic medical centers to small rural hospitals. We're here to tackle tough issues like Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, workforce shortages, leveling the playing field with insurers and ensuring fairness in a highly competitive marketplace. We work with your staff on topics ranging from behavioral health and regulatory challenges, antibiotic resistance, telemedicine and cybersecurity. We love what we do and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024.

Have any ideas for how we can support you further? Contact us today. We're here to help.

Questions?

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