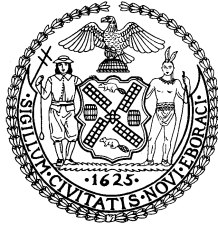


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

HEALTH, SENIORS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd Street (Park-Madison)
Carnegie Room
Monday, June 22, 2015
6:30PM

Committee Members Present: David Liston, Jacqueline Ludorf, Lorraine Johnson, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa, Barbara Rudder

Public Members Present: Jeffrey Ascherman

Susan Scheer, Special Assistant for Policy, Office of the NYC Comptroller and lead researcher and writer of the **“Holes in the Safety Net: Obamacare & the Future of New York City’s Health & Hospitals Corporation”** will be making a presentation on this report.

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been beneficial to many, the law contains a drawback that is of particular relevance to New York City. There are proposed reductions of up to 43% in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments. This is a dedicated fund that states give to hospitals for caring for large numbers of uninsured patients. Many of these uninsured residents are undocumented immigrants making them ineligible for Medicaid and under the ADA prohibited from buying private insurance. For this reason the City is interested in ensuring that Health & Hospitals Corporation (HCC) maximizes all its other revenue sources.

HHC currently estimates that the number of new enrollees in the ACA choices will never come near the reductions in DSH funds. HHC currently reflects a reduction of 24% in DSH funds but the drop in uninsured patient is expected to be only 7.2%. HHC’s MetroPlus Health Insurance plan is expected to offset 28% of the DSH cuts. As a result HHC expects to finish 2019 with a cash position of \$44M down from \$1B projected for 2015. Without the DSH cuts HHC would end 2019 with a cash position of \$425 million.

Comptroller Scott Stringer has several suggestions on how to fix this problem. Delay the DSH cuts until everyone has a better understanding of the cuts impacts. Make undocumented immigrants eligible for coverage under the ACA.

Comptroller Stringer also has several ideas for the state. Create a state funded insurance program for undocumented immigrants and for those who do not purchase insurance. In 2016 New York State budget authorizes a new insurance option known as the Basic Health Plan (BHP). This is part of the ACA which would replace state funds with city funds for those who don’t qualify for Medicaid or who can’t afford insurance even with the subsidies.

Another proposal was to realign DSH cuts more in line with the number of uninsured treated. It is important for the overall health of the city that the HHC continue to serve the patients of New York who would otherwise not be eligible for care.

Approximately 400,000 of uninsured New Yorkers that total 1- 2 million signed up for insurance under ACA. Nationally DSH funds are expected to decrease by \$35 billion between 2017 and 2024. New York States reduction will be \$5 billion between 2017 and 2024. These reductions are brought about because of the expected off set in ACA signups. New York has such a large immigrant population who are prohibited by the ACA to purchase health insurance. There are currently 369,528 undocumented immigrants in New York City.

David Liston and Jackie Ludorf
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee