

**For Immediate Release**

## **Northeast Business Group on Health Plays Key Role in New York State Innovation Model (SIM) Initiative**

NEW YORK, July 7, 2015 – Northeast Business Group on Health (NEBGH) is working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to advance a new primary care initiative designed to transform healthcare delivery and payments throughout the state. The initiative, funded by a \$100 million federal State Innovation Model (SIM) grant awarded earlier this year, includes a new advanced primary care model, value-based payments and resources for improving primary care practices, among other components. NEBGH's role initially is to convene a series of meetings throughout the state to present the state's plan and obtain feedback from employers, health plans, healthcare collaboratives and other stakeholders.

"We are very excited to be playing an important role in changing the face of healthcare in New York State," said NEBGH President and CEO Laurel Pickering. "We have a unique opportunity to achieve better care, smarter spending and healthier people. NEBGH is committed to bringing employers, health plans and other key stakeholders together and engaging them in focused discussion and a substantive exchange of ideas. The benefits of a successful initiative are clear -- better, more coordinated healthcare and lower medical costs. And for employers, outcomes will include higher employee satisfaction, higher productivity, fewer absences, lower workers compensation claims and a reduced need for the multiple vendors they use to plug gaps in the current system."

"New York State is forging full-speed ahead to create a stronger and more cost-effective healthcare system," said Hope Plavin, Acting Director, Health Innovation Center, NYSDOH. "Participation and buy-in from employers, multiple payers and other constituencies are key to our success, and NEBGH has unique experience in bringing together and opening the lines of communication among these stakeholders in the pursuit of common goals. As a regional multi-stakeholder organization with a focused mission of achieving the highest value in healthcare delivery and the consumer experience, NEBGH is a great advocate and partner, and we look forward to working together."

The first of eight regional meetings convened by NEBGH to discuss the new initiative will be held in the Hudson Valley on July 8, 2015; the remaining schedule is as follows: New York City, July 8; Long Island, July 9; Buffalo, July 22; Rochester, July 23; Syracuse, July 23; Albany, week of July 27; and Adirondacks, week of July 27. Once the meetings are concluded, several months of work will take place at the state level to incorporate feedback into a final advanced primary care model. NEBGH will then convene a second set of regional meetings throughout the state in fall 2015 to again bring stakeholders together to present the model and obtain alignment.

More details on the SIM grant and NYSDOH work thus far can be found here:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/technology/innovation\\_plan\\_initiative/](https://www.health.ny.gov/technology/innovation_plan_initiative/)

A PDF version ([PDF version](#)) and recorded video version ([click here](#)) of an introductory webinar held on June 22 can be found here.

### **About Northeast Business Group on Health**

NEBGH is an employer-led coalition of healthcare leaders and other stakeholders with the mission of empowering members to drive excellence in health and achieve the highest value in healthcare delivery and the consumer experience. NEBGH currently has 170 members comprised of national and global self-insured employers based in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts; plus national health plans, major consulting organizations, regional hospital systems and other key stakeholders.

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