



COMMISSION ON THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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November 2011

Dear Friend of CPHS:

2011 has been a pivotal year for the Commission on the Public's Health System (CPHS), and we are pleased to report on some of our successes – and changes – that have made this year unlike most others. Throughout it all, we continue to rely on the financial support of people and organizations that believe in CPHS' mission, and stand by our work. In this spirit, we hope you will consider contributing to CPHS this fall so we can continue to sustain our advocacy and expand our efforts to win equal health care access for all in New York.

One of our most notable achievements this year was the re-convening of the Save our Safety Net Campaign (SOS-C) – which we co-coordinate. SOS-C was born out of the critical need to mobilize the health advocacy community and unions in response to State changes to Medicaid and health care spending proposals. Upon taking office early this year, Governor Cuomo appointed a very large – and very well connected – group of health care industry insiders to review the State's Medicaid spending. The newly-formed "Medicaid Redesign Team" (MRT) was charged with recommending cost-saving proposals for Medicaid, with virtually no input from the public. In response the SOS-C reconvened to monitor the MRT and to ensure that the public's voice was heard loud and clear. Because of the SOS-C, the MRT did make recommendations to set up a Health Disparities Committee to look at what could be done to address the needs of under-served communities. We mobilized people to speak out at public hearings and to submit written statements. For a clip of our work on YouTube, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEnQ-JuABUw&feature=related>

At the same time, with support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, CPHS collaborated with a noted health care academic to review the State's Charity Care program and to shed light on exactly how nearly \$1 billion in state and federal dollars – which is supposed to help those hospitals that serve the uninsured – is spent. The report, which was released earlier this year, showed that a large

\*Putting the public back in public health

portion of the money is misdirected, and that there is little accountability for where the money goes, and what it pays for. The report recommends an important change in the allocation of these public dollars to assist in providing access to care for the uninsured. CPHS has created a set of principles that could ensure the dollars are spent wisely and appropriately, including the basic premise that the money should follow the patient. For a detailed summary of the report:

<http://www.cphsnyc.org/cphs/what/charitycare/CharityCareReportSummary.pdf>

We continued our city-based work this year through our coalition efforts with the People's Budget Coalition for Public Health, which annually develops city budget public health priorities and organizes around funding for important programs that target and serve our low-income, medically underserved communities of immigrants and people of color.

CPHS had some organizational milestones in 2011. First, we turned 20! We were happy to celebrate our anniversary at our annual gala, with over 250 of CPHS' closest friends. The event was a great night to remember the work we've done in the past, and look towards the future of CPHS. We have also brought our web site into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and you can now follow much of our work at [www.cphsnyc.org](http://www.cphsnyc.org)

And the future comes with exciting news. In order to meet the expanding scope of CPHS' work, and to grow the organization, we have brought on Ed Mendez-Santiago as Co-Director of CPHS. Ed will be working closely with Judy Wessler to plan our advocacy and policy efforts for 2012, strengthen our ties with existing partners, and to grow new relationships that will deepen our work in more communities throughout New York City. Ed comes to CPHS with a long and impressive background in community-based advocacy, policy, and high-level administration, and recently served as the Commissioner of New York City's Department for the Aging. Ed was also a member of the HHC Board for many years. We are thrilled to have Ed on board.

As you can see, 2011 was an important year for CPHS, and we have a lot more work ahead. And your financial support is key to our work. Please consider making a contribution today to CPHS to get us ready for the year ahead. We rely on the generous support from people like you to help us continue the organizing, research, advocacy and community work that allows us to "put the public back in public health."

Thank you.

With respect,



Anne Bove  
Co-Chairperson



Daniel Porro  
Co-Chairperson



Judy Wessler  
Co-Director

**cphs\***

**\*Putting the public back in public health!**

Yes! I would like to support the work of CPHS!

My tax exempt contribution is enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Other

Please make checks payable to:

Commission on the Public's Health System (CPHS)

45 Clinton Street, New York, NY 10002

For more information please call 212-246-0803 or email [ladyhcalth@aol.com](mailto:ladyhcalth@aol.com)

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