

## Atlantis Health Plan Sponsors *CureNY: What's the Prognosis?*

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**NEW YORK, NY, October 29, 2007** - The state of New York's healthcare delivery system is on the verge of historical changes. On Thursday October 18, 2007, Atlantis Health Plan sponsored *CureNY: What's the Prognosis?* a panel discussion on the future of New York's healthcare system. Industry leaders gathered at the Lighthouse Executive Conference Center & Theatre to discuss the delivery of healthcare as well as how the care currently provided can be managed more efficiently. Panelists including; Dr. Sury Anand, President and CEO of Atlantis Health Plan; Fred Barba, EVP of the Long Island Association Health Alliance; Marjorie A. Cadogan, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access; Mark Kessler, Small Business Expert; Dr. J. Brent Pawlecki, Medical Director for Pitney Bowes; and Keith Zuckerman, President of Professional Group Plans addressed many concerning healthcare. Moderated by Laurel Pickering, Executive Director of the New York Business Group on Health, the panel touched on ideas churning at both the state and national level. Findings and recommendations from the panel include:

- 2.5 million New Yorkers are currently uninsured, many of whom are working
- 200,000 uninsured New Yorkers are between the ages of 18 and 25
- 16% of GDP is spent on healthcare today and by 2015 it is estimated to be 20%
- Currently, New York State spends more per capita on healthcare than any other state in the nation. Despite this level of spending, New York ranks average or worse on important quality indicators based on research studies by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research
- 60% of employers offer health insurance to employees currently, down from 69% in 2000
- Mandates contribute significantly to the escalating healthcare premiums (10% - 15%)
- A basic, affordable package of benefits with optional buy up riders needs to be provided to individuals
- Healthcare IT currently lacks connectivity
- Secrecy surrounding pricing and costs associated with medical care needs to be eliminated
- Providers need to practice evidence-based medicine
- Government programs, such as Healthy New York, need to be expanded

Dr. Sury Anand, President and CEO of Atlantis Health Plan, stated "Universal Healthcare is coming to New York". Policy makers, providers, healthcare carriers, and others are working together to achieve the goal of providing health coverage to all New Yorkers. Panelists agree no universal healthcare proposal will work without an affordable plan option. Atlantis is focused on providing affordable, quality coverage to New Yorkers by truly managing care. "We carefully look at outlier cases for unnecessary procedures, over-prescribing, over-practiced medicine and we make suggestions for change while educating the consumer" says Dr. Sury Anand. Without truly managing care, New York will be unable to offer affordable coverage. The panelists generally agreed that they were optimistic about the future of healthcare. Dr Anand stated "in spite of everything, we provide the best care in the world here in New York and we should work to make it better"

The goal of providing affordable health coverage to all New Yorkers is now within reach. With the support of public and private sectors working together through various public hearings and meetings, the previously unattainable is in reach.

