



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR FEDERAL MEDICAID COMMISSION MEETINGS

Brooks to Give Presentation Today to Commission Members

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** left today for Washington, D.C. to attend meetings of the Federal Medicaid Commission. Brooks was appointed to the Commission in July 2005 by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt. Brooks is the only public official from a local government named to the national Commission. The County Executive has become known on the Commission as “the voice of the local taxpayer”.

“I look forward to the opportunity to present to my fellow Commission Members some of the positive results we’ve seen in Monroe County when it comes to Medicaid Managed Care,” said **Brooks**. *“The bottom line is ensuring access to quality care for both children and adults, while providing these services in the most cost efficient way possible to save taxpayer dollars.”*

The County Executive will speak to the Commission on the topic of *Health Quality Improvement* with a presentation titled **“The Case for Medicaid Managed Care”**. Brooks’ presentation will address the improved health outcomes experienced by Medicaid Managed Care providers locally, especially in the areas of Newborn ICU admission reductions and Disease Management (Asthma for Children and Diabetes for Adults). These local successes have been published in the *American Journal for Managed Care*.

Brooks will specifically highlight successes of the Monroe Plan, the Medicaid health insurance program of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. Both Excellus and Preferred Care Medicaid Managed Care programs are nationally ranked for quality.

In addition, Brooks will be presenting a national study showing that increased access to managed care for Medicaid recipients could save as much as \$30 Billion over five years, improving health outcomes while saving taxpayer dollars.

The focus of day one of the two-day meeting is Medicaid Quality, while day two will focus on Health Information Technology. The meeting will provide Commission Members with information needed to provide recommendations on lowering administrative costs of the health care program to allow more dollars to be spent directly on quality care for recipients.

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Medicaid Commission

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The Commission was created to advise the Secretary on ways to modernize the Medicaid program so that it can provide high-quality health care to its beneficiaries in a financially sustainable way.

Joining Brooks in Washington is Monroe County's Medicaid Czar, Bill Carpenter.

LOOK AHEAD TO WEDNESDAY

Addressing the Commission on Wednesday will be Bill Schroth of the New York Intergovernmental HIT Work Group, New York State Department of Health. Mr. Schroth will discuss efforts to expand the use of electronic medical records, including the local initiative of the Greater Rochester-Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO). Such efforts have been recognized nationally as a way to save money and improve patient care. The Rochester area was recently awarded over \$4 million in funding from New York's Health Information Technology initiative to implement a health care information network locally.

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