

RAISING CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY VOICES WHEN HOSPITALS ARE CONSOLIDATING

**My family
can't travel
to another
hospital.**

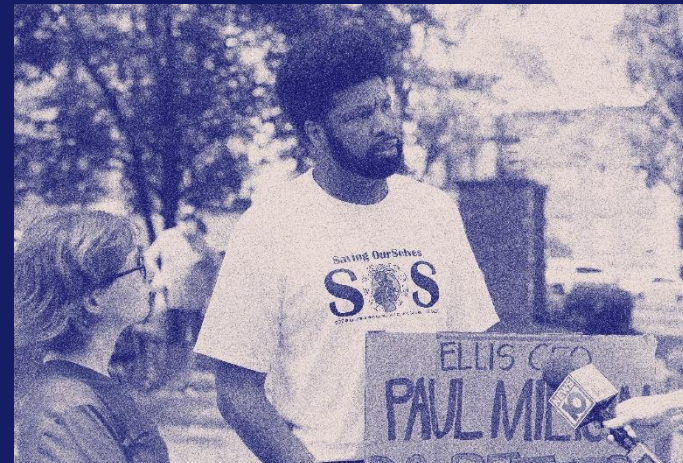
**Where
will I go if
the clinic
closes?**

**We
deserve
a say!**



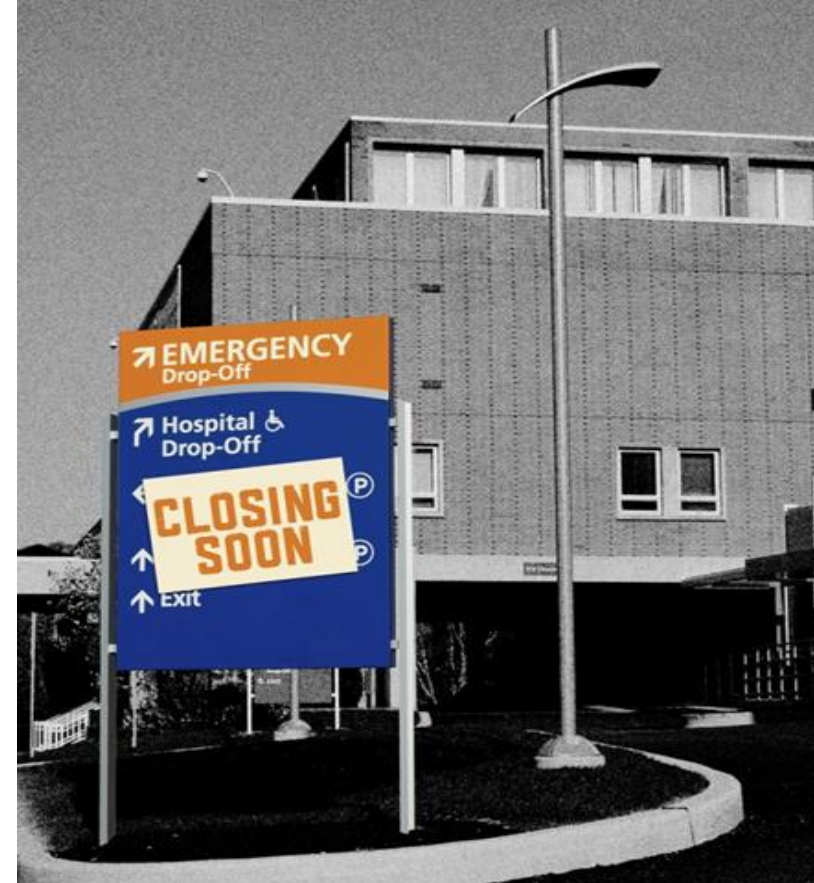
**NY HEALTH
WEBINAR**

December 5, 2022



The health care delivery system is changing rapidly

- Over the last 20 years, more than 40 hospitals have closed all across NYS.
- Remaining hospitals have joined large health systems.
- These systems may downsize acquired hospitals by closing maternity, ICU, psych and other units, and directing patients to system “hub” hospitals.
- Decision-making may shift away from local hospital boards to system governance.

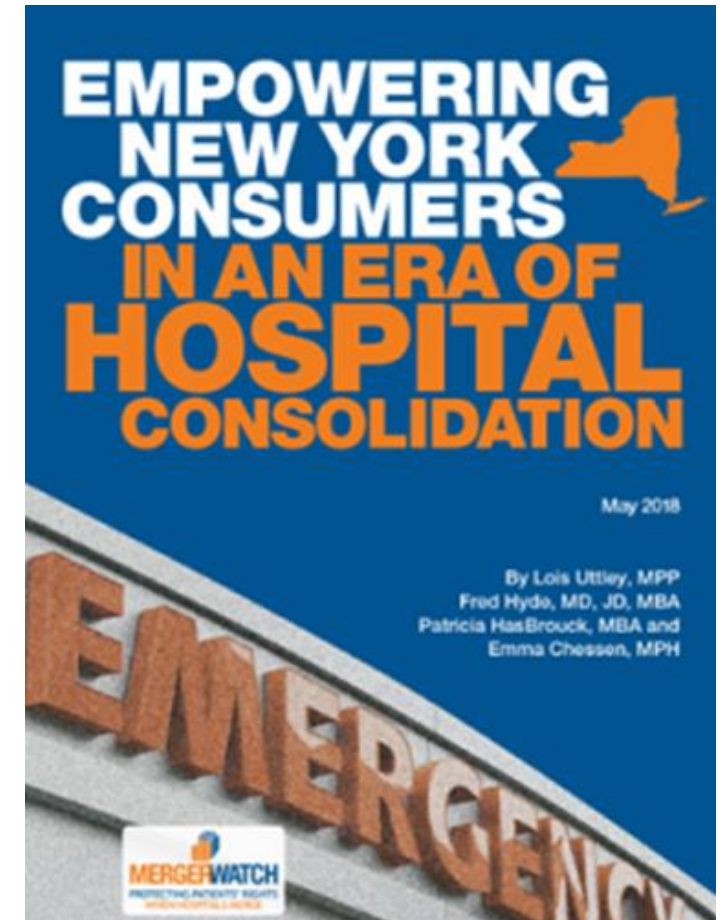


State review of proposed hospital consolidation

- State health officials must give approval to proposed hospital consolidation. Most transactions are reviewed through the **Certificate of Need (CON) process**.
- **There is no system of regional health planning** to forecast the need for beds and encourage/reward proposals that meet those needs.
- Urgent care centers and retail health clinics have been assuming an increasingly important role in the health delivery system, but are not subject to review under the CON system.

State oversight through CON does not serve communities well

- Our 2018 study: **State CON process is not consumer-friendly and needs reform.**
- Communities that will be affected by consolidation do not have enough notice or say.
- Representatives of big health systems dominate state review board, the state Public Health and Health Planning Council
- Recent progress: Finally, 2 consumer representatives have joined the 24-member board!



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**AN ACTION TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITIES
FACING HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATION**



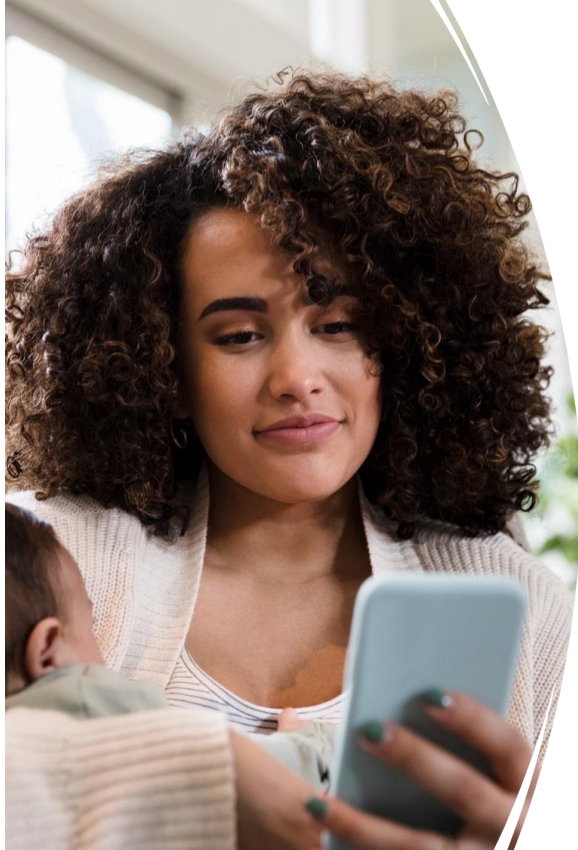
Raising community voices through coalition work

- Statewide Senior Action Council
- Medicaid Matters -- NY
- Children's Defense Fund-NY
- NY Immigration Coalition
- Empire Justice Center
- March of Dimes NY
- Community Catalyst
- Metro NY Health Care for All
- Community Service Society-NY
- Center for Independence of the Disabled
- Commission on the Public's Health System
- Neighbors to Save Rivington House
- Schenectady Coalition for Healthcare Access

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New! Health Equity Assessment Act



- CON applicants will be required to submit an independent assessment of what the **impact of the proposed change would be on medically-underserved people.**
- There must be **meaningful engagement of community residents.**
- The assessment would identify potential negative consequences, such as reducing services or requiring people to travel elsewhere for care.
- It could also reveal whether new proposed facilities would improve access to care for medically-underserved people.
- **Goes into effect in June of 2023.**

Who are the medically-underserved New Yorkers whose future access to health care would be assessed?

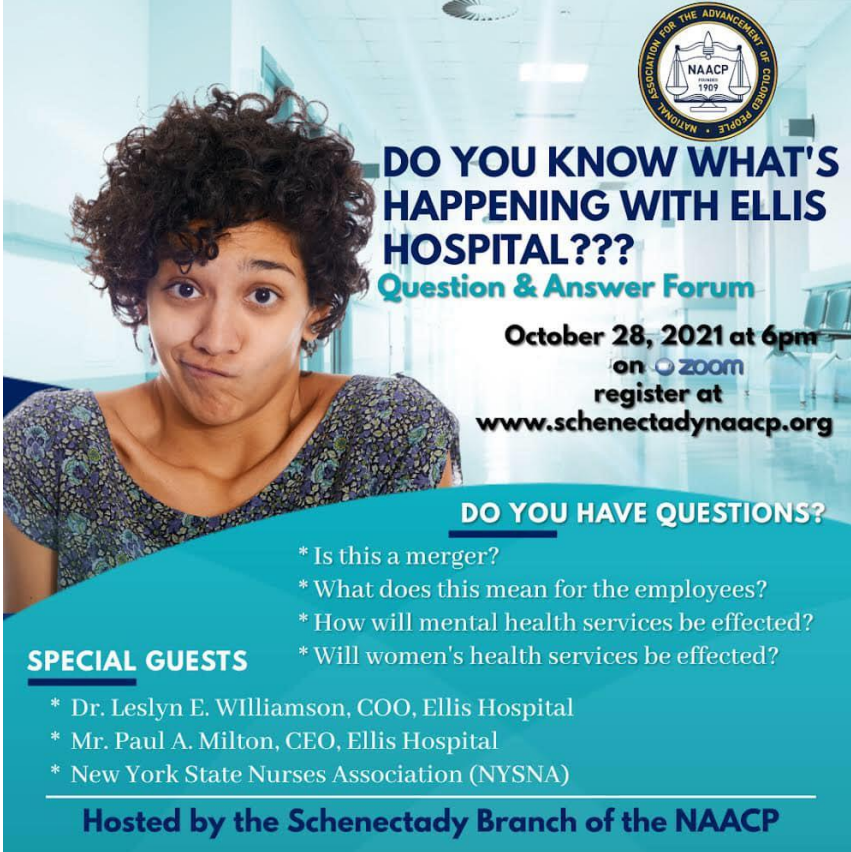
- People with low incomes
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Immigrants
- Women
- LGBTQ+ people
- People with disabilities
- Older adults
- Persons living with a prevalent or infectious disease or condition
- Persons living in rural areas
- People who are eligible for or receive public health benefits
- People who do not have third-party health coverage or have inadequate third-party health coverage
- Other people who are unable to obtain health care

Schenectady case example: Community members form coalition, take action

- Coalition includes wide array of community members, clergy, women's, LGBTQ+ and end-of-life groups.
- Public officials lend their support.
- Coalition holds community forum and a rally in 2021.
- Coalition representatives visit neighborhood associations.



Interacting with hospital officials



DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ELLIS HOSPITAL???
Question & Answer Forum

October 28, 2021 at 6pm
on  zoom
register at
www.schenectadynaacp.org

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

- * Is this a merger?
- * What does this mean for the employees?
- * How will mental health services be effected?
- * Will women's health services be effected?

SPECIAL GUESTS

- * Dr. Leslyn E. Williamson, COO, Ellis Hospital
- * Mr. Paul A. Milton, CEO, Ellis Hospital
- * New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA)

Hosted by the Schenectady Branch of the NAACP

- CEO of Ellis Medicine invited to listen to community concerns expressed in coalition's community forum.
- Coalition representatives meet with CEOs of Ellis Medicine and St. Peter's Health Partners to discuss specific issues.
- NAACP Schenectady branch hosts community Q and A with Ellis Medicine CEO.

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Conducting a community health needs or impact survey



Our goal – to enable the community to assess our health care needs and speak out for those as the hospitals consider merging.

- What are the existing gaps in services available locally?
- How are residents being affected by hospital changes to date?
- Are people turning to other hospitals for care?

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EXAMPLES FROM TOOLKIT

Why is it important to form a community coalition?

- Tips on how to form an inclusive coalition.
- Ground rules for effective coalition discussions.
- Agreeing on goals.



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EXAMPLES FROM TOOLKIT

Step-by-step guides to organizing an effective community forum or a rally.

How do we go about organizing a community forum or a rally?



SAVE ♥ UR **SOS** SERVICES *Join the Rally!* **SOS** SERVICES

Sunday, July 25 at 12:30pm
Veterans' Park, Schenectady
(in front of MVP, 625 State Street)

Ellis Medicine is planning a merger with Trinity Health — an out-of-state mega healthcare system of 90+ hospitals. Services have already been cut — with more to come.

What's at Stake?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reproductive Care: contraception, tubal ligations, vasectomies, abortions and IVF● End-of-life: patient-directed care including pain management and withdrawal of care● Equity: Trinity's policies and cuts to services threaten gender-affirming care and will worsen care for people already facing healthcare system barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demand TRANSPARENCY!● Demand ACCOUNTABILITY!● Demand it IN WRITING!

Rally Location
Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library
McChesney Room
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady

Following CDC COVID Guidance

Sponsored by Schenectady Coalition for Healthcare Access
A coalition of organizations and residents concerned about the merger between Ellis and Trinity Health
www.schdy.org

The Future of Beth Israel Hospital: An Online Community Information-Sharing and Discussion Forum

- 📅 Start: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 • 7:00 PM • Eastern Daylight Time & Canada (GMT-04:00)
- 📅 End: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 • 8:30 PM • Eastern Daylight Time & Canada (GMT-04:00)
- 🖥️ This is a virtual event



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EXAMPLES FROM TOOLKIT

- How to write press releases.
- How and when to do a press conference.
- Tips for writing letters to the editor and op eds.
- Samples from NY coalitions.

When and how should we engage the news media?



EXAMPLES FROM TOOLKIT

- What is the NYS Certificate of Need process?
- How can communities weigh in when proposed hospital mergers and other transactions are up for state review?
- What are the roles of the state Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission?

How do we bring our concerns to the attention of state and federal regulators?

Department of Health

Public Health and Health Planning Council

The Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) has a broad array of advisory and decision-making responsibilities with respect to New York State's public health and health care delivery system. It is charged with adopting and amending the Sanitary Code and health care facility, home care agency, and hospice operating regulations. The PHHPC also makes decisions concerning the establishment and transfer of ownership of health care facilities, home care agencies and hospice programs. It makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Health concerning major construction projects, service changes, and equipment acquisitions in health care facilities and home care agencies. It also advises the Commissioner on issues related to the preservation and improvement of public health. The Council's powers and duties are set forth in [section 225 of the Public Health Law](#)



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

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