

## Noyac Civic Council Minutes of the January 18, 2018 Meeting in coordination with the John Jermaine Memorial Library.

Guests: Steven Bernstein., Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Chief Development Officer and President.

Anthony Cardona, Cardona and Company, Health and Life Insurance Specialists, Water Mill, NY.

Mr. Bernstein described the future of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital since the recent merger.

Stony Brook Southampton hospital will become a:

1. Level 3 Trauma Center—providing quicker, higher level of care; the new hospital will open on the campus of the Stony Brook Southampton College. (Land will be leased cheaply.) Southampton combined with Stony Brook to establish an East End Regional Hospital. The new facility will have approx. 100 beds in private rooms. The state-of-the-art hospital will launch a \$275 million capital campaign.
2. Open a New Cancer Center Building. This will be a new building in Southampton in the vicinity of the car dealers and diner on Rt. 27.
3. Cardiac catheterization lab on Cty. Rd. 39 .
4. An Emergency Services Satellite ER in East Hampton: Cost: \$30 million.

Q. from the audience:

There is a need for Neo Natal Care Center (there is none so far), an increase in obstetrics staff including midwives, and a 24-hour obstetrics & anesthesia operating room.

Mr. Bernstein responded that there has been a discussion on opening a Neo Natal Care and an increase in Mental Health care.

Housing is a problem for hospital staff. Part of the plan is to renovate the dorms at the college to provide housing for our hospital staff.

Q. from audience:

What will happen to the existing hospital building in Southampton?

Mr. Bernstein: If we are able to raise \$285 million, we will not sell the building. It possibly will become Senior Housing with different care levels—modeled after Peconic Landing.

Q. Are there plans for providing advanced scans?

Mr. Bernstein: If there is anything we don't provide, Stony Brook will provide that care.

Q. Which insurance will the hospital take after the merger?

Mr. Bernstein: The hospital will keep as much insurance in place as possible. We will remain unchanged. If you are transferred to Stony Brook, Stony Brook will take your insurance.

Q. Will there be alternative treatment for cancer?

Mr. Bernstein: Patients would be in touch with agencies such as Fighting Chance and Lucia's Angels.

Anthony Cardona provided a handout “Demystifying Health Insurance on the East End. He discussed why insurance plans are so expensive, some strategies to save you money, telemedicine, high deductible plans, and plan comparisons.

He discussed the difference between Health Care (any care, treatment) and Health Insurance (pays for health care). The cost of health care is \$3.3 trillion annually, which is 20% of the GDP. The Cost of Care per individual is approx. \$10,348 per year. Here are major sources for the \$3.3 trillion: Medicare -- 20% share, Medicaid—17% share, Private Health Insurance---34% share, Out-of -Pocket –11% share.

Health Insurance may be purchased through Group/Employer, or Individually or PEO (professional associations).

What is driving the Cost of Health Insurance?  
Medical malpractice, Preventative care (more tests), Medical technology (very expensive) Fraud.

Mr. Cardona discussed important concerns:

How do you choose a health care plan?

Does the network work for me?

Your decision comes down to how much the plan pays the doctor?

The best plan will be the one that answers the Q—Does the network work for me? Am I comfortable with the plan?

Ask yourself--Do I want to pay more at the doctor’s office or for the premium?

If you can join the same network, consider the out-of-pocket expenses—you’d have the same quality healthcare.

Mr. Cardona provided many charts including the number of providers within 5, 10 and 20 miles for different plans: Oxford Freedom, Oxford Liberty, Oxford Metro, Aetna Elect Choice EPO, Empire EPO/PPO and Emblem Select Care.

On the East End, Oxford, Anthem and Emblem are the best plans. If you are on an individual plan, the best plan is Anthem.

The ACA plans watered down the networks and there are different tiers for coverage.

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Elena Loreto.