Monroe named co-chair of statewide Medicaid panel

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Staff Buffalo Business First

Ann Monroe will help lead a panel tasked with reviewing Medicaid redesign plans by hospitals and health providers from across New York.

Monroe, president of the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York, was named co-chair for the DSRIP Project Approval and Oversight Panel along with William Toby Jr., former administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Monroe is among several members of the governor's Medicaid redesign team who make up the panel's 18 voting members, along with professionals from academia, private foundations and other private healthcare research and consulting organizations. The 25-member panel also includes eight non-voting state officials.

The DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment) initiative is a plan by the state Department of Health to redesign Medicaid, with a goal of reducing avoidable hospital use by 25 percent over five years through community-level collaborations focused on system reform.

The program is funded by $8 billion from CMS through a federal waiver program.

A total of 25 multi-provider groups across New York have submitted plans to the DOH. Those include two groups representing the Western New York region: one led by Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida; and a second by Catholic Health.

Their plans will now be assessed and scored by the statewide panel to determine if they should be accepted, rejected or modified.

The panel meets for the first time on Jan. 12 in Albany, followed by meetings in February that will be webcast live.