

Health Care Access Coalition

A project of the Labor-Religion Coalition of Southwestern New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Athena Godet-Calogeras
716-372-3348
athenagc@verizon.net

What kind of health care system do Western New Yorkers want?

The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York in conjunction with the John R. Oishei Foundation, the P² Collaborative of Western New York and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute recently launched *One Friday, Four Futures*, an initiative that uses scenario planning to elicit community input on what the region's health care system might look like in the future.

Though conversation and dialogue *One Friday, Four Futures* proposes to build a composite picture of what users of the health care system would like the system to deliver in the future. The information will be used to provide policy makes with recommendations regarding proposals to address the complex issues challenging the region's health care system, including costs and access to care. Conversations are being hosted throughout Western New York by various entities, including church and civic groups, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations and block clubs.

Members of the Health Care Access Coalition and others from the community are seizing the opportunity to add their voices. The Coalition will host a *One Friday, Four Futures* community conversation Thursday, May 29, at 3 P.M. at the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, E. Main St., Allegany. The event is free and open to the public.

Formed in the fall of 2005 as a project of the Labor-Religion Coalition of Southwestern NY, the Health Care Access Coalition is a collaboration of people involved in health care, organized labor, faith and civic community. Believing in health care as a right, the Health Care Access Coalition works to promote affordable, comprehensive, and quality health care for all through education and advocacy. "Participating in this initiative," comments the coalition's chair, Athena Godet-Calogeras, "helps keep the light on our sick health care system and encourages all of us work for a cure."

For further information on *One Friday, Four Futures* visit online at www.rx4excellence.org.