A Community Health Care Perspective on Governor Paterson’s 2009-2010 Executive Budget

CHCANYS’ CEO Elizabeth Swain released the following statement at press conferences today with NYS Health Commissioner Richard Daines:

“We recognize the hard choices faced by the Governor as he put this budget together. We applaud the effort made in this proposal to protect the State’s most vulnerable people.

“By mission and by mandate, community health centers provide primary care services to more than 250,000 uninsured people yearly plus thousands more who are underinsured. The Executive Budget provides critical support for the uninsured by proposing to double the funding for uninsured people at community health centers throughout New York. Right now, funding for the uninsured in primary care settings is grossly inadequate, and will be stretched even further as the economic hardships of the next months unfold.

“The budget also makes it easier for eligible people to get and keep their health coverage. The proposal would eliminate the face to face interview, finger imaging, and asset test requirements. These and other changes in eligibility will make health coverage more accessible to people and strengthen their coverage.

“By expanding access to coverage, the budget takes a significant step in reducing the numbers of uninsured and underinsured people in our state.”