



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
[Leslie S. Moran](#)
(518) 462-2293
(518) 588-6655 (cell)

New York Health Plan Association Announces Departure of Eric Linzer *HPA Board Names Kathy Preston Interim President & CEO*

The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) Board of Directors today announced that it has accepted the resignation of President and CEO Eric Linzer when his contract ends on December 31. Linzer recently informed the Board that he would be returning to Massachusetts on a full-time basis to help his father in managing his medical needs. Prior to joining HPA in 2018, he served for close to 16 years at the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans in a variety of senior-level roles.

“We deeply appreciate Eric’s leadership on behalf of the industry and his willingness to assist the association during the transition to a new President and CEO,” said Junior Harewood, CEO of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware for UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual and HPA Chair. “He has done a tremendous job in his nearly nine years at HPA, guiding the association with vision and insight, and has been a strong advocate for health plans, working with policymakers and stakeholder groups on measures to make health care more affordable and accessible for New Yorkers.”

The HPA Board also announced that Kathy Preston, the association’s Executive Vice President, will serve as Interim-President and CEO upon Linzer’s departure until a new leader is named. Preston joined HPA in 2014 and has been Executive Vice President since 2018, focusing on government-sponsored programs, including Medicaid managed care, the Essential Plan, and Managed Long-Term Care, as well as issues related to maternal health, substance use disorders and behavioral health.

Prior to joining HPA, Preston served in senior roles at NY Presbyterian and overseeing SUNY’s hospitals and medical schools. She began her career in the state legislature, spending 13 years at the Senate Finance Committee, later serving as the Assistant Director of the Committee where her portfolio included issues related to health care delivery, Medicaid, and health insurance.

“HPA will benefit from the strong team that is in place and Kathy is widely recognized for her policy expertise,” Harewood noted. “She is well respected among legislators and their staffs, members of the Administration, and stakeholders in Albany for her knowledge and policy efforts on the issues facing the health care industry.”

HPA will be appointing a search committee to choose a permanent replacement.

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