

ANDREW J. SPANO, Westchester County Executive
JOSHUA LIPSMAN, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of Health
SUSAN TOLCHIN, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2007

**WESTCHESTER COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH TO RECEIVE TWO AWARDS
FOR COMMITMENT TO COMPASSIONATE CARE**

The Westchester County Commissioner of Health, Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., will be receiving the Ellen Wood Healthcare Award this year from the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley. The award is given each year in recognition of outstanding commitment to compassionate care-giving within the community. Commissioner Lipsman will also be honored at Hudson River Healthcare's Pieces of Joy annual art auction in June.

"The Ellen Wood Healthcare Award recognizes individuals in the healthcare industry who have made a positive impact in the field and whose work has assisted the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley in carrying out its mission," said Martha Liebowitz, Special Events Coordinator for the Association.

Dr. Lipsman will receive the award at the Association's 13th Annual Awards Dinner on May 17th, which will be held at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. The event last year was attended by over 200 guests.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley is a nonprofit home health care agency dedicated to providing quality care 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The Association, originally named the District Nursing Association of Northern Westchester, was founded in 1898. Ellen Wood was the first home visit nurse to serve with the organization and her compassionate care became the inspiration of many to follow.

On June 9th, Commissioner Lipsman will be honored at the Pieces of Joy annual event at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon. Pieces of Joy is a gala art auction to benefit Hudson River Healthcare.

MORE

Jeannette Phillips, Executive Vice President of Hudson River Healthcare, praised Commissioner Lipsman’s “appreciation for the role of community health centers and the interconnectedness of housing and health to ensure the well being of all residents.”

In particular, she cited Dr. Lipsman’s support for Westchester County’s Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Elimination of Health Disparities Among Blacks and his leadership in increasing access to HIV primary care and testing as examples of his commitment to community health.

Hudson River HealthCare is a network of 13 community health centers in the lower Hudson Valley that provide the highest quality comprehensive primary, preventive, and behavioral health services to all who seek it, regardless of insurance status and ability to pay. It serves over 42,000 patients throughout the Hudson Valley through over 183,000 health center visits annually in nine counties.

For more information, please call the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.