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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEN ISLAND PERFORMING PROVIDER SYSTEM AND SAY AH! RECEIVED FUNDING FROM NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE AND ARE OFFERING FREE HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATION, TRAINING & SUPPORT FOR STATEN ISLAND HEALTH COALITIONS

Community members have a hard time with health concepts, using tools, or making positive choice- this is all related to limited health literacy skills

Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) and Say Ah! are partnering to bring Health Literacy education, training and support to five Staten Island coalitions. This initiative is being funded in part by SI PPS and from a grant received through National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM).

Each coalition taking part in the initiative will receive a half-day health literacy bootcamp where participants can learn what health literacy is and how it impacts health. The training will also identify NNLM resources that meet the health literacy information needs of different communities and help participants gain strategies to enhance communication. It is open to all members of coalitions from the steering committees to the workgroups and includes interested community members. Trainings will be scheduled at the coalitions' convenience between January and February 2019.

Each coalition will also receive health literacy workgroup coaching which will help participants understand how forming a health literacy workgroup at their coalition can address health literacy as a social determinant of health. This includes a one-day, advanced health literacy training (Health Literacy Retreat) to build skills in health literacy best practices and coaching support. This is open to individuals interested in deepening their health literacy skills like clear health communication and plain language, and will be scheduled between January and April 2019.

The experts behind the initiative are Celina Ramsey, MShc, Director of Health Literacy, Diversity & Outreach of Staten Island Performing Provider System and Anna Allen, co-founder of Say Ah!.

About Celina Ramsey: Celina Ramsey is the Director of Health Literacy, Diversity and Outreach at Staten Island Performing Provider System. She has 10 years' experience teaching Health Literacy concepts to adults and working with providers to improve health communication. Celina is

currently working with partners on becoming Health Literate Organizations with a focus on quality improvement and is leading a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program to Build Equitable Healthcare Organizations on Staten Island.

About Anna Allen: Anna Co-founded and runs Say Ah!, the nation's only consumer-led health literacy nonprofit organization. She has been working to advance health literacy for over a decade, training providers and educating and empowering consumers.

Developed resources reported in this press release are supported by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012342 with the University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

About Staten Island PPS

Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) is an alliance of clinical and social service providers focused on improving the quality of care and overall health for Staten Island's Medicaid and uninsured populations, which include more than 180,000 Staten Island residents.

SI PPS is one of 25 groups across the state working on the New York State Department of Health's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.

We are co-led by Staten Island University Hospital and Richmond University Medical Center. Our network of over 70 partners includes skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health providers, home health care agencies and a wide range of community-based clinical facilities, treatment centers, social service and community organizations, primary care physicians and medical practices across the island.

About Say Ah!

Say Ah! is a health literacy nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people understand health and medical information, and to improving communication between patients and health care providers. Say Ah! workshops provide people with the skills and information needed to access, understand and act on basic health and medical information.

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