

## 2024 Power Players in Health Care



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The PoliticsNY and amNY Metro 2024 Power Players in Health Care list is dedicated to honoring the individuals behind New York's health care landscape. From leaders of top medical institutions to deans of leading medical education programs to public officials shaping health care policy, the 2024 Power Players in Health Care are a world-class group of innovators who have dedicated their careers to ensuring the health and wellness of all New Yorkers. Their unwavering commitment to excellence is leading New York's health care industry into a future defined by innovation, compassion, and improved health outcomes for all.

### **Dan Savitt-President and CEO, VNS Health**

As CEO and president of VNS Health, [Dan Savitt](#) oversees one of the nation's largest nonprofit home-and community-based health care organizations, and is dedicated to VNS Health's mission to improve the health and well-being of people through high-quality, cost-effective care. Under Savitt's leadership, VNS Health has experienced organizational growth, geographic expansion, and improved quality ratings. As the need for home care grows, VNS Health is a trailblazer, combining traditional compassionate care with targeted innovation.

#### **Do you have advice for those interested in joining the health care field?**

Health care careers can be challenging. Careers in home care require a passion to serve and a dedication to delivering complex care in difficult situations. Home care can also be extremely rewarding; I often hear our team members say there's nothing they'd rather do. To help people navigate today's

complicated health care system, it's important to stay agile, to enjoy problem-solving, and balance new tools and learning with compassionate care delivery.

**How can policymakers support New York's health care system?**

New York has long struggled with fragmented and costly care for older adults and New Yorkers with disabilities who are "dually eligible" for Medicaid and Medicare. These individuals have the greatest long-term health care needs that make up the largest share of Medicaid spending. We need to innovate and effectively integrate Medicaid and Medicare services, in order to help vulnerable New Yorkers stay in their homes while addressing long-term care Medicaid spending.

**What is the most important lesson you've learned in your career so far?**

I've learned that challenges are opportunities. To realize those opportunities, we must understand why a challenge exists, determine its "root causes" and work together on solutions. In particular, the challenge of ensuring access to care for the underserved shouldn't be seen as a burden – it's a pathway to improved health outcomes overall. If health care providers can work with the government to keep expanding that pathway, the result will be better, more equitable care for all.

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