

2023 Power Players in Health Care



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New York is renowned for its world-class medical institutions and medical education programs. Behind these premier organizations are dedicated individuals navigating the health care landscape and working to provide accessible, equitable, quality health care to all New Yorkers. Alongside them, are political heavyweights shaping health care policies that guide the health care industry. The PoliticsNY and amNY Metro 2023 Power Players in Health Care list seeks to honor these individuals, who have dedicated their careers to ensuring the health and wellness of all New Yorkers while also pioneering positive change and innovation throughout the industry. 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 president and CEO of [VNS Health](#), Dan Savitt oversees one of the country's largest nonprofit home- and community-based health care organizations. Under his leadership, the organization has integrated sophisticated data analytics and broadened its reputation as a national leader in developing innovative care management solutions delivered at home. Building on a commitment to health equity first framed by founder Lillian Wald, Savitt's vision is to make health care today simple and accessible with meaningful outcomes.

What influenced you to pursue a career in the health care field?

Health care is a basic right that should be available to all and accessible at every stage of life. I've always been inspired by people—in any field—who find creative, efficient solutions to obstacles that improve health equity. Taking care of yourself or your loved ones shouldn't be a struggle. Leaders and

organizations that embrace change, prioritize excellence, spur innovation, and empower their people influence us all, whether we realize it or not.

What is the biggest challenge currently facing New York’s health care system?

The need for care delivered in the home and community has never been greater. Health care in New York must accommodate the physical and behavioral health needs of our families and the growing older population. Underinvestment in home health care services has created an accelerating access-to-care crisis. As this gap grows, so do negative implications for the health of New Yorkers. Regulatory rules and reimbursements must reflect the reality of health care today and in the future.

How do you describe your position to people outside of the health care industry?

VNS Health works to make health care simple to understand, easy to access, and meaningful in outcomes. Care delivered in the home and community is an essential part of today’s health care ecosystem. On any given day, more than 50,000 New Yorkers are in our care. Our teams deliver care through a range of provider services, health plans and innovative health care solutions. No matter where you are on your health care journey, we are there for you.

What can policymakers do to ensure equitable access to quality health care?

We must have the workforce to meet the growing needs of a rapidly aging population. This means not just physical health care, but also home and community-based mental health and long-term services. Integrating these services for people who are “dually eligible” for Medicaid is a rational and cost-effective way to address the needs of our most vulnerable communities. DOH and CMS must work with stakeholders to make integrated care a reality.

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