

Ernest J. Baptiste
Executive Director
Kings County Hospital Center

BIOGRAPHY

Ernest J. Baptiste became Executive Director of Kings County Hospital Center (KCHC) in August 2012. This marked his return to NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), after building an extensive and distinguished career in healthcare. Just prior to this appointment, he worked at Catholic Health East, a multi-institutional health system covering 11 Eastern States from Maine to Florida. At Catholic Health East, he served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. At St. Francis Hospital, Mr. Baptiste successfully implemented a wide range of strategies to increase collaboration and engagement between staff, reduce costs, increase efficiencies, improve quality and enhance patient satisfaction.

Prior to his tenure at St. Francis Hospital, Mr. Baptiste was the Chief Operating Officer at Durham Regional Hospital, part of the Duke University Health System in Durham, North Carolina. Previously, Mr. Baptiste served in several leadership positions at prominent healthcare facilities around the country, including New York City. Mr. Baptiste was the Executive Director at St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn and held progressive management positions at North General Hospital and Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Manhattan; and Coney Island Hospital-HHC, Brooklyn.

With more than twenty-five years of successive leadership experience in executive level management and hospital operations, Mr. Baptiste brings a wealth of expertise to Kings County Hospital Center. He has senior administrative experience in operations, planning and financial management – skills especially suited to the challenges of today's complex healthcare environment. He has worked successfully with physicians, administrators and department heads concerning departmental operations and organizational needs to ensure the delivery of high quality, safe, efficient and cost-effective care. His tenure at KCHC will be guided by several core values which he emphasizes to staff: **Respect** for each other and for patients; **Integrity** in one's work; and **Trusting** staff to do the right thing.

Although he worked outside of New York City for several years, Ernest Baptiste is no stranger to Brooklyn. He spent many of his formative years here, living in Canarsie, Prospect Heights and Flatbush. Prior to embarking on a career in healthcare, Mr. Baptiste served in the U.S. Army, where he received Army Achievement and Good Conduct Medals upon his honorable discharge. He has received numerous awards including Caribbean Images TV-Dr. Martin L. King Award for Excellence in Healthcare and Community Service, and an award from the Boy Scouts of America for Community Service.

Mr. Baptiste holds an M.S. in Health Financial Management from New York University, an M.P.A. in Healthcare Administration from C.W. Post College and a B.S. in Healthcare Administration from St. John's University of New York.

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