

## **2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: BUILDING A HEALTHIER CONNECTICUT**

*As the healthcare system undergoes significant transformation, hospitals are focused on the health and well-being of every Connecticut resident, and providing the leadership necessary to bring success to the goals of this transformation, which are: improved access to care, improved quality and safety, and reduced cost.*

### **Improve the Health of Our Communities**

#### *Building Blocks:*

- Ensure vulnerable populations receive appropriate healthcare and access to care.
- Improve health equity.
  - Support community partnerships that advocate for population health priorities, especially those that target improving social determinants of health.
  - Foster care continuity through the use of technology and best practices.
  - Reinstate the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity.
- Strengthen behavioral healthcare for children and adults.
  - Support community-based initiatives and partnerships, such as Community Care Teams.
  - Ensure patients have timely and appropriate access to short- and long-term beds.
  - Adopt additional measures to combat drug abuse.

### **Enhance Quality and Safety**

#### *Building Blocks:*

- Coordinate federal and state requirements, as well as align regulatory oversight, through evidence-based practices and approaches that improve care.
- Change the Certificate of Need (CON) process to foster innovation and promote efficiencies, enabling hospitals to be more responsive to the transformation of healthcare.
- Enhance statewide commitment to patient safety and high quality healthcare through high reliability.

### **Shape a Sustainable Performance-Based Reimbursement System**

#### *Building Blocks:*

- Phase out the hospital tax.
- Achieve a property tax structure that reflects hospitals' benefit to their communities.
- Partner with state officials and advocates in redesigning Connecticut's Medicaid system with a focus on outcomes and quality, while balancing cost containment with adequacy of reimbursement.
- Support value-based purchasing, which links reimbursements to performance.

## Promote Transparency

### *Building Blocks:*

- Provide communities and patients with access to robust and meaningful quality and pricing data.

## Ensure a Workforce for the Future

### *Building Blocks:*

- Stabilize Connecticut's medical malpractice liability environment.
- Allow healthcare professionals to work to the full extent of their education and training.
- Support scope of practice initiatives including the use of telehealth, which will provide hospitals with flexibility in providing care and improve quality and patient safety.
- Ensure hospitals have the ability to manage human resources appropriately to meet ever-changing patient care needs.
- Develop and sustain a robust, highly trained, and culturally competent healthcare workforce, and strengthen the health careers pipeline to ensure that Connecticut has the workforce necessary to meet the needs of a rapidly changing healthcare system.

*Approved by the CHA Board of Trustees at its December 7, 2016 meeting*