



**Thursday,
January 19, 2012**

SAVE THE DATE

**Connecticut Hospital Association's
94th Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Hospital Leaders Meet with Legislators

Susan Davis, President and CEO of St. Vincent's Medical Center, and Bill Jennings, President and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital, and their senior staff, along with representatives of CHA, met with area state legislators January 11, to discuss community benefits provided by the hospitals and the impact of healthcare reform.

Carolyn Salsgiver, Senior Vice President of Planning & Marketing at Bridgeport Hospital, and Bill Hoey, Vice President of Mission Services at St. Vincent's Medical Center, provided legislators with an overview of the community benefits and community programs offered by the hospitals and a broad coalition of community partners.

Hospital leaders thanked the legislators for their efforts to increase reimbursement to hospitals by moving those in the former State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) program to Medicaid. Medicaid is funded jointly by the state and federal government and reimburses hospitals double what SAGA did (70 percent of healthcare costs versus 35 percent under SAGA). This move also provided a financial benefit to the state budget through a federal matching payment.

CHA Senior Vice President of Health Policy Stephen Frayne presented an overview of the impact of healthcare reform, and warned that while extending Medicaid coverage to SAGA patients has helped stabilize hospital budgets in the short term, federal healthcare reform in the next two years will reduce Medicare reimbursements to hospitals to help pay for expanded enrollment in Medicaid. In addition, Mr. Frayne said hospitals are currently serving the increased number of Medicaid patients at a loss of 30 cents on the dollar, and that Medicaid rates will not increase without the deliberate action of the legislature. If Medicare cuts go through as planned, and Medicaid rates are not increased from where they are today, hospitals in Connecticut will lose approximately \$1.1 billion more in reimbursement by 2014 compared with current levels.

State legislators at the meeting included Representatives Andres Ayala (D-Bridgeport), Auden Grogins (D-Bridgeport), Jack Hennessy (D-Bridgeport), Tony Hwang (R-Fairfield), Kim Fawcett (D-Fairfield), Larry Miller (R-Stratford), and Laura Hoydick (R-Stratford).

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Photo (L-R): President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent's Medical Center Susan Davis, Reps. Fawcett, Miller, Ayala, Hoydick, Grogins, and Hwang, and Bridgeport Hospital President and CEO Bill Jennings. Missing from the photo is Rep. Hennessy.

Recruitment Underway for the National Partnership for Patients Initiative

CHA is partnering with the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the nonprofit research and educational arm of American Hospital Association, on the National Partnership for Patients Hospital Engagement Network. The goal of the Partnership for Patients initiative is to reduce patient harm caused by a set of nine conditions by 40% and to reduce readmissions by 20%. CHA/HRET will provide a range of quality improvement support activities designed to meet participating hospitals' needs.

Through the partnership with HRET, CHA becomes part of the largest Hospital Engagement Network in the country, with access to experts to provide improvement support to hospital participants. Recruitment is now open to acute care member hospitals through January 23, 2012.

The ten clinical areas of focus for Partnership for Patients are:

- Preventing adverse drug events (ADE);
- Preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI);
- Preventing central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI);
- Reducing injuries from falls and immobility;
- Preventing obstetrical adverse events by reducing the number of elective inductions prior to 39 weeks gestation;
- Preventing pressure ulcers;
- Preventing surgical site infections;
- Preventing post-surgical venous thromboembolism (VTE);
- Preventing of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP); and
- Reducing preventable readmissions.

The Partnership for Patients initiative begins in the first quarter of 2012 for an initial two-year period. For more information, please contact Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, at hong@chime.org or (203) 294-7266.

Department of Public Health Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee Discusses Two Storm Panel Recommendations

On Thursday, January 19, the Department of Public Health's Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee (DPH-PHPAC) held its quarterly meeting, where it discussed Governor Malloy's Two Storm Panel [report](#). The PHPAC reviewed [16](#) public health-related recommendations.

The committee, which includes Brian Cournoyer, Manager of Government Relations for CHA, is tasked with developing a plan for emergency responses to a public health emergency. The plan includes public health surveillance, improving communication systems, strengthening partnerships, public health planning, and trainings and exercises. Each year, the committee will report on the status of the public health emergency plan and the resources needed for implementation.

DPH-PHPAC membership includes key state policymakers, healthcare providers, and public health officials. In its advisory role, the committee works collaboratively with DPH to improve the state's ability to respond to a wide range of emergencies, including biological, chemical, radiological, and natural disasters that impact public health.

The committee is co-led by Jim Paturas, Director, Yale New Haven Center for Excellence for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, and Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Manchester Health Director.

Health Insurance Exchange Board Meets

On Thursday, January 19, the Board of Directors of the state's Health Insurance Exchange [met](#) to receive updates and take action on a limited number of items. Most notably, the Board voted to establish a number of advisory committees, which will work in collaboration with the Board and other interested stakeholders on a number of policy and health insurance reform implementation issues.

Specifically, the Board voted to establish advisory committees that will be co-chaired by a member of the Board and an external stakeholder. Each advisory committee shall have no more than 15 members in total. Nominations to serve as a co-chair or member of an advisory committee will be open until February 3, 2012. The list of potential external co-chairs will be forwarded to the Lt. Governor's office. The Lt. Governor will make the selection of the final co-chairs. The advisory committees and named Board co-chairs are: Health Plan Benefits and Qualifications (Jeannette DeJesús, Special Advisor to the Governor on Healthcare Reform); Small Business Health Option Program "SHOP" (Mary Ellen Breault, Director of the Life and Health Division at the Connecticut Insurance Department); Consumer Experience and Outreach (Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate); and Brokers, Agents and Navigators (Mickey Herbert, Healthcare Access Issues Faced by Self-Employed Individuals Expert). Nominations to be considered to serve on an Exchange Advisory Committee should be sent to Amy.Tibor@ct.gov.

Also of note, the Board announced the hiring of Boston-based Fitzgerald Associates, an executive search firm that will assist the Board in identifying qualified candidates for the CEO position.

The Board of Directors of the state's Health Insurance Exchange is scheduled to hold a special meeting next Friday, January 27, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., to vote on Human Resource and Procurement Policies and Bylaws. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Additional information on today's meeting of the Health Insurance Exchange Board can be found [here](#).

Governor Dannel P. Malloy Responds to Fourth Quarter Revenue Shortfall

This past Wednesday, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) released consensus revenue figures that show a decline of \$94.9 million in FY12 – one-half of one percent of the annual budget. Additionally, the estimates for FY13 show a decline of \$139 million or seven-tenths of a percent of the annual budget. The FY13 consensus revenues will be the basis for the Governor's mid-term adjustments, which will be announced on February 8, 2012.

According to OPM, the decline in revenue is almost entirely due to a decline in income tax revenue, particularly among higher income taxpayers that file quarterly returns.

In response to the consensus revenue figures, Governor Dannel P. Malloy directed OPM Secretary Ben Barnes to pare back on current year expenses and develop a budget management plan to limit spending to available resources in FY12.

He reiterated his commitment to ending the current fiscal year in the black.

Read more:

[OPM & OFA's consensus revenue estimates for FY11-13 biennium and next three fiscal years](#)

[Governor Malloy's letter to Secretary Barnes on budget management plan](#)

Michele Sharp joins CHA as Director, Communications and Public Affairs



The Connecticut Hospital Association welcomes Michele Sharp as Director, Communications and Public Affairs. Ms. Sharp will lead the planning and implementation of strategic communications for CHA advocacy and member services. She will serve as CHA's primary spokesperson and liaison with the media, and direct the design of CHA's website and production of publications, newsletters, presentations, and other member and legislative materials.

Ms. Sharp brings a broad array of communications and public relations experience to CHA. She was previously Associate Director, Public Affairs, at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), where she led efforts to raise the visibility of the organization. In this role, Ms. Sharp managed communications efforts for government relations, advocacy, and development initiatives, as well as for the scientific research published in AACR journals or presented at AACR meetings.

Prior to her work at the AACR, Ms. Sharp was Manager of Earned Media for The Karma Agency, where she led communications campaigns for clients including The Brookings Institution and Penn Medicine. Early in her career, Ms. Sharp worked as a news researcher and producer for US News and World Report and CNN, respectively. She was a television producer at WBAL - TV in Baltimore, where she earned a Peabody Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. Ms. Sharp holds a master of arts degree in Public Affairs and Broadcast Journalism from American University and a bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr College.

Education Updates

Member Briefing on the CHA Statewide Policy on Mandatory Influenza Vaccination February 7, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Last month, the CHA Board of Trustees adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory flu vaccination of hospital staff as part of Connecticut hospitals' commitment to patient safety. Several Connecticut hospitals have already made influenza vaccination mandatory, requiring all employees regardless of position to be vaccinated unless a valid medical reason contraindicating vaccination exists, in which case the employee must wear a mask.

A multidisciplinary panel of representatives from those hospitals will share information on how they developed and implemented their policies, including how they addressed medical staff considerations and human resources/union issues, and developed their communications and public relations strategy. The program will also include ample Q&A and discussion time.

Please plan to join us for this timely and practical session, which is offered exclusively to CHA provider members.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Reducing Heart Failure Readmission Collaborative Learning Session February 10, 2012, 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

We are very pleased to announce the sixth learning session for the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, which began in February of 2010. Please join us as we continue to discuss and share best practices and learn from one another effective strategies and interventions to address the complex subject of preventable readmissions.

Final agenda and speaker details will soon be available.

[Click here to access the registration form.](#)

Webinar: Assessing Your Vendors for ICD-10 Readiness February 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

With a project as big as the ICD-10 transition, virtually no provider is undertaking the transition without an external partner. And no transition plan is complete without a thorough assessment of the ICD-10 readiness of your current vendors and payers. Choosing the right partner or having an existing partner who may not be ready in time can mean the difference between success and failure. Knowing how to leverage your partnerships will be invaluable to the success of your transition plan.

This session will focus on asking the right questions and knowing the right facts about your current vendors and in selecting any new vendors.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).