



Thursday, January 26, 2017

Printer-Friendly Version

In This Issue:**State Reporting a \$23.3 Million Surplus****Lawmakers Scheduled to Vote on State Pension Changes****Timothy McClung, MS, MPH, Joins CHA as Director, Quality Informatics****CHA Annual Meeting Awards - Call for Nominations****Hebrew HealthCare Sells Skilled Nursing Facility****Education Updates****State Reporting a \$23.3 Million Surplus**

The state's fiscal outlook took on a slightly rosier glow this week with the announcement by the Governor's office that Connecticut currently has a \$23.3 million surplus.

The \$23.3 million surplus was projected by the Office of Policy and Management in [its monthly report](#) to Comptroller Kevin P. Lembo.

One factor that contributed to the improved budget picture was a boost to General Fund tax receipts, which were higher than predicted by about \$25 million, largely as a result of increased corporation tax revenues. Also, projected spending for the current budget was cut by roughly \$8.2 million, primarily through savings in fringe benefits accounts.

Although the surplus is a sign that the state's current fiscal outlook is stabilizing, Connecticut continues to face significant budget deficits in the next two fiscal years unless adjustments are made. The latest estimates are for a \$1.42 billion deficit in 2017-18 and a \$1.6 billion deficit in 2018-19.

Governor Dannel Malloy is scheduled to deliver his budget address on February 8, 2017. In public statements since the beginning of the 2017 Legislative Session, Gov. Malloy has discussed the need to reduce the state's obligation to cities and towns, which represents 22 percent of the state budget, but has not been specific about other areas of state spending he is considering for cuts in the upcoming budget.

Meanwhile, this week CHA published a report, *2017: Connecticut Hospitals Today*, which provides an overview of the contributions hospitals make to their communities, describes hospital challenges, and details actions legislators can take to support hospitals and healthcare.

Specifically, the report discusses how hospitals positively impact their communities and the economy, and how hospitals can be part of the solution to the state's budget problems. It describes hospital concerns regarding reimbursement and the hospital tax, as well as the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, it details hospital issues including patient care quality, mental health, and population health.

Click [here](#) to access *2017: Connecticut Hospitals Today* in single page format. Click [here](#) for the document in a two-page spread format. Additionally, the *CHA Issue Briefs*, a comprehensive set of documents highlighting hospital issues, is accessible by clicking [here](#).

Update Archives

Lawmakers Scheduled to Vote on State Pension Changes

As the 2017 Legislative Session ramps up, lawmakers in the Senate and House of Representatives are scheduled to meet in session on February 1 to debate and vote on a bill that would impose a modified payment schedule on the state's employee pension plan.

The modified payment schedule, as agreed on by the Malloy administration and union officials, will spread payments over an additional 15-year period, thus allowing for reduced payments in the near term.

The House and Senate will also meet in session next week to debate a number of Judicial, Executive, and Legislative nominations, including the nomination of Robert Kane of Watertown for the position of Auditor of State Accounts. Mr. Kane, a former state Senator, was not sworn into office on January 4 so he could instead accept the nomination as state auditor. A special election has been called to fill his Senate seat, which will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Also next week, the Labor and Public Employees and Environment Committees will hold public hearings. At the time of publication, agendas for the public hearings were not posted. Any bills of interest heard at the public hearings will be reported in the next edition of *Update*.

Timothy McClung, MS, MPH, Joins CHA as Director, Quality Informatics

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) welcomes Timothy McClung, MS, MPH, as Director, Quality Informatics, with CHA's ChimeData. In this role, Mr. McClung will develop data-driven solutions that will improve quality, patient safety, and performance for member hospitals. ChimeData provides innovative data products and advanced analytic solutions embedded with predictive models so



hospitals and health systems can gauge their performance in quality improvement and patient safety, track and trend the utilization of key hospital services, and meet regulatory reporting requirements.

Mr. McClung will work with hospitals participating in CHA's Toward Excellence in Care (TEIC), a program that provides acute care hospitals with quality improvement services through data collection and analysis of clinical processes and outcomes. Additionally, he will manage and oversee the electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) initiative for ambulatory and inpatient hospital quality reporting programs.

Mr. McClung brings a broad range of experience to CHA. Most recently, he was Director of Quality and Patient Safety at Westchester Medical Center, where he led a team to deliver strategies and programs that improved the Medical Center's quality and patient safety performance. Prior to that, Mr. McClung, who has a clinical background in Respiratory Care, was employed at Norwalk Hospital, where he held a number of positions including Director of Quality Operations, Administrative Director of Pathology and Laboratory Services, and Director of Operations Improvement.

Mr. McClung received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and a Master of Science in Business Administration from Western Connecticut State University. He holds a Masters of Public Health degree in Health Services Management and Policy from New York Medical College. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ), and is currently serving as a Commissioner on the Healthcare Quality Certification Commission of the National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ).

CHA Annual Meeting Awards - Call for Nominations



CHA is accepting nominations for the Annual Meeting awards. The deadline for all applications is Friday, March 17, 2017. The presentation of the awards is an important part of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements. Award applications/nomination forms are linked below.

The 2017 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA's education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF). All CHA acute care and other hospital members are encouraged to apply. Note: There is a two-year period of ineligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners. [Click here](#) for an application.

The 2017 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Note: There is a three-year period of ineligibility for previous Community Service Award winners. [Click here](#) for an application.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes Awards celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. CHA is seeking nominations from both direct patient care and non-clinical areas of CHA member facilities. Ten healthcare heroes, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded a \$100 cash prize. [Click here](#) for an application.

All entries must be received by Friday, March 17, 2017. Winners will be honored at the 99th Annual CHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Hebrew HealthCare Sells Skilled Nursing Facility



[Hebrew HealthCare](#) has announced the sale of its skilled nursing facility to National Health Care Associates. The sale allows Hebrew HealthCare to focus on its specialty hospital, medical model senior day center, geriatric physician practice, assisted living facility and services, and dementia consultation and education. Hebrew HealthCare will also continue to explore additional services for the aging.

"The sale of the skilled nursing facility positions Hebrew HealthCare to move our geriatric services away from the institutional setting, which is in line both with the state's long-term care rebalancing plans and the desires of the burgeoning baby boomer population, and allows us to preserve the values of our Jewish heritage and roots," said Gary Jones, Interim President and CEO, Hebrew HealthCare. "Hebrew HealthCare will continue to develop cutting edge services to serve the needs of our 21st century seniors."

National Health Care will own and operate the 257-bed skilled nursing facility located on Abrahms Boulevard in West Hartford under its new business, Hebrew Home for Health and Rehabilitation, LLC. Hebrew HealthCare will remain on the property under a 30 year initial lease agreement to operate its other service lines.

Hebrew HealthCare ensures that aging adults and their families have what they need to manage complex medical needs and live full lives. Recognizing the changing needs of seniors and reacting to those changes has always defined Hebrew HealthCare's philosophy as an aging care provider. "We are experts who don't shy away from a challenge and who understand the complexities of living well at all ages," said Incoming Board Chair Debbie Kleinman.

Education Updates

Every Woman Connecticut
Friday, February 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

CHA is pleased to host this project of the Connecticut Maternal and Child Health Coalition in partnership with the March of Dimes, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Connecticut Women's Consortium.

The Every Woman Connecticut Symposium will examine chronic conditions that can affect maternal health and future pregnancies, with the goal of improving birth outcomes through pregnancy intentionality, optimal birth spacing, and pre-/inter-conception health. The program will feature One Key Question (OKQ), a screening tool to identify each woman's need for reproductive and pre-/inter-conception healthcare.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside.

CHA's Nurse Preceptorship Program features a curriculum developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing, and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, and evaluating competence.

The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors who have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules, with an emphasis on patient access rights and stepped-up enforcement activities by the Office for Civil Rights. The program includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a review of business associates rules, and practical tips and solutions for remaining compliant with HIPAA. Also covered are: emerging issues in cyber security, trends in state enforcement, devices and technology issues, social media considerations, and the growing risks for HIPAA covered entities and business associates.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

