



Thursday, February 10, 2011

## Plans Announced To Move Medicaid to ASO; CHA Offers Medicaid Solutions to Ease Budget Crisis

On Tuesday, February 8, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and OPM Secretary Ben Barnes announced [plans](#) for moving the state's Medicaid plan to a self-insured administrative services organization (ASO) contract with the goal of reducing overhead costs, improving service delivery, and preparing for national healthcare reform. Lt. Governor Wyman noted that tens of millions of dollars have been saved since the state-employee health plan was converted to self-insured status about two years ago. Behavioral health and dental health services in public health coverage are also being run successfully under a similar model.

The plan calls for the Department of Social Services to issue a Request For Proposals to hire an ASO in March. A contract is expected to be executed by August 2011, with implementation of the new system by January 2012.

As the Malloy administration wraps up its budget plan, which will be announced next week, CHA has been meeting with key officials from the administration and members of the General Assembly to discuss the development of the state budget as it relates to potential hospital cuts or taxes and overall Medicaid funding. We have been urging state leaders not to subject Connecticut hospitals to Medicaid cuts or increased hospital taxes. Our message is that it is time for investing in the healthcare system, not dismantling it.

Within this context, CHA is also sharing a solution for how to fix the Medicaid system – a [CHA plan](#) to restructure Medicaid, developed by the Committee on Hospital Finance and approved by the CHA Board. Similar to the ASO plan announced by Lt. Governor Wyman, CHA's plan for modernizing Medicaid also calls for converting the existing managed care contracts to an ASO model and applying medical management to all Medicaid populations. Essential to the effort is using the savings from such a conversion to expand access, reduce the cost shift, and reduce the deficits incurred by providers and the state. While all the details of the Malloy administration's plan are not yet available, if all of the savings that accrue from the ASO conversion are used to balance the state budget without reinvesting in healthcare, we are missing an opportunity.

The [plan](#) proposed by CHA explains how our Medicaid modernization solution simultaneously improves access to care through rate enhancements, creates an up-to-date Medicaid system, and helps to reduce the state deficit. It outlines key actions, effective dates, and savings to the state. In addition, our solutions improve the care and value for patients, dramatically reduce the state deficit, materially reduce the cost shift to Connecticut businesses and workers, and make it possible for Connecticut hospitals to remain strong and viable in their role as Connecticut's healthcare safety net.

On Tuesday, CHA Member Hospital CEOs/Presidents signed a letter to Governor Malloy asking him to consider the CHA plan. They wrote, in part, "On behalf of the millions of Connecticut residents who rely on a strong, stable hospital and healthcare system to meet their needs, we ask that you consider the Connecticut hospitals' Medicaid Modernization solution as you develop the biennial state budget and strive to balance priorities within current fiscal constraints."

For more information on CHA's solution for fixing the Medicaid system, contact Stephen Frayne, CHA's Senior Vice President for Health Policy, at [Frayne@chime.org](mailto:Frayne@chime.org).

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## Attorney General George Jepsen Meets With CHA Committee on Government

On Friday, February 4, Attorney General George Jepsen met with CHA's Committee on Government in order to establish a relationship and to begin a dialogue on issues of concern to the hospital community. Attorney General Jepsen, the first new attorney general in 20 years, highlighted his vision and mission of the office of Attorney General, acknowledging there is much he needs to learn about hospital and healthcare issues.



The attorney general (pictured) discussed the nuances of the constitutional challenge to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and noted that he had signed onto an *amicus* brief in favor of the healthcare reform law on behalf of Connecticut. He said his three priorities as attorney general are organizational efficiency, making the AG's office run more smoothly; mortgage foreclosures; and environmental issues, a long-time passion. Attorney General Jepsen said he is the "litigator of last resort," and preferred mediating conflict and solving problems to litigating.

CHA welcomed the opportunity to meet with Attorney General Jepsen, the state's chief elected legal authority, and will continue conversations with the attorney general and his staff.

## Legislative Committees Hold Public Hearings: CHA Provides Testimony On CON, Captive Audience, and ID Badges

Connecticut hospitals provided testimony on Wednesday, February 8, before the Public Health Committee in [opposition](#) to [HB 5048](#), *An Act Requiring Certificate Of Need Approval For The Termination Of In Patient And Outpatient Services By A Hospital*. As drafted, the bill would impose significant burdens on hospitals by reinstating the requirement that hospitals first obtain OHCA approval before terminating any service, creating an unfair and un-level playing field as the requirement for a CON does not apply to other healthcare providers. CHA also provided testimony in [qualified opposition](#) to [HB 5045](#), *An Act Requiring Health Care Providers To Display Photographic Identification Badges During Working Hours*. Similar to a bill from last session, HB 5045 would require healthcare providers who work for, or on behalf of, a facility or institution, to wear photographic identification badges when providing direct patient care during working hours.

On Thursday, February 9, the Labor and Public Employees Committee held a public hearing and CHA provided [testimony](#) in opposition to [HB 5460](#), *Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings*. HB 5460 would prohibit any person engaged in business from requiring his or her employees to attend employer-sponsored meetings that have as their primary purpose communications concerning religious or political matters. The captive audience proposal has been filed in prior legislative session and CHA, along with CBIA, will continue to work collaboratively in opposition to this legislative attempt to interfere with employers' ability to communicate with their employees as regulated by the federal National Labor Relations Act.

## Governor Malloy Previews Budget—Consolidates Department Of Energy & Environmental Protection Agencies and Higher Education Boards

On Tuesday, February 8, Governor Dannel P. Malloy released the first of what is expected to be a series of announcements regarding the consolidation of state agencies. During the campaign, Governor Malloy promised to restructure, consolidate, and seek efficiencies in state agencies as a way to help close the budget deficit and make state government more responsive to the needs of the citizens. The announcements provide an insight into what to expect in the Governor's FY 2012-2014 budget, scheduled to be released on February 16.

Governor Malloy announced via [press release](#) his plan to create a newly consolidated Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), an agency that will combine Connecticut's widely dispersed energy functions, including the Department of Public Utility Control, with the Department of Environmental Protection. Today, the governor announced the appointment of Donald Esty, the Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University and a world-renowned expert on environmental strategy, to be the commissioner of the newly-merged department. Mr. Esty's nomination will be vetted through the legislature's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee before being brought to the General Assembly for final confirmation.

On Wednesday, February 9, the Malloy Administration announced a [plan](#) to overhaul the state's higher education system, resulting in the creation of one governance board, eliminating the Board of Governors for Higher Education, as well as the boards that are overseeing the Connecticut State University system, community colleges, and Charter Oak, and replacing them with one Board of Regents for Higher Education. The University of Connecticut will remain a separate entity with its own governing structure. The plan does not close or combine any campuses.

Any additional announcements from the Governor's office relative to the consolidation of state agencies after the publication of this week's *Update* will be included, along with a summary of the Governor's budget proposal, next week.

## Save the Date for CHA's Patient Safety Summit, March 11



The agenda continues to shape up for CHA's 2011 Patient Safety Summit, scheduled for Friday, March 11, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Wallingford. Brian Wong, MD, MPH, CEO of The Bedside Trust in Seattle, WA, will give the keynote address, Patient Driven Leadership, kicking off a day-long schedule of expert speakers on patient safety and quality. Dr. Wong is a quality and patient safety expert who has spoken nationally and internationally on these topics.

Save the date for the Patient Safety Summit and look for more information coming soon. Click [here](#) to register.

## CHA's 2011 Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling To Be Held February 22

Smart Moves is a statewide initiative on safe patient handling that aims to improve the health and safety of nurses and other healthcare workers, increase patient safety, and reduce healthcare costs. The campaign focuses on increasing awareness and education regarding safe patient handling; promotes the use of evidence-based curricula; encourages implementation of safe patient handling programs; and increases the use of assistive equipment and patient handling devices.



Presented through a collaboration of CHA, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the Connecticut Association for Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice, the program will feature two speakers on Tuesday, February 22 at CHA. James Collins, PhD, MSME, will open the program with "NIOSH Research Addressing Safe Patient Handling and Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention Among Healthcare Workers." Dr. Collins has 26 years experience as an Engineer and an Epidemiologist conducting laboratory and field research with the CDC/NIOSH. Jim Murphy, RN, BSN, COHN-S, ASSE, will speak on "Managing Safe Patient Handling for Stroke Patients and Other Special Needs Considerations." His clinical background includes pediatrics, NICU, Army Nurse Corp, and EMT/Firefighter as well as more than 20 years as an ED nurse.

*The Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (2.75 contact hours). This program has been approved by the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators for 2.75 CEUs for Nursing Home Administrators.*

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

## Education Updates

### Eliminating Preventable Harm Through FMEA, Tuesday, February 15, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) has become a centerpiece in today's proactive patient safety improvement initiatives. Although many healthcare organizations began using FMEA to meet Joint Commission standards, the technique has turned out to be an effective process improvement strategy. However, misconceptions or misapplication can turn FMEA into a laborious project that generates a lot of paperwork without sustainable patient safety gains. In this workshop, participants learn how to harness the power and benefits of FMEA for their organizations by avoiding common pitfalls and concentrating efforts on making sustainable safety improvements.

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to: describe the steps required to implement an effective failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA); determine how to identify the potential failures in high-risk patient care processes and select failures most in need of prevention; identify and avoid common errors that turn FMEA into a "paperwork" exercise rather than a tool to prevent harm; and integrate FMEA projects into the organization's quality improvement strategy.

The program's speaker, Patrice L. Spath, is a Healthcare Quality Specialist, teacher, and author, who has presented more than 300 training programs on quality improvement, case management, outcomes management, and patient safety improvement topics for hospitals and healthcare organizations, including past programs at CHA. She has also written numerous books and journal articles on these subjects for the American Hospital Association, Health Administration Press, and the American Health Information Management Association.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

### **Changes in CPT/HCPCS for 2011, Wednesday, February 16, 8:30 a.m. – noon**

CPT and HCPCS codes are the primary codes that describe individual hospital services that are billed to all payers. These code sets go through annual revisions with codes that are added, deleted, or revised. There are 1,066 code changes for 2011: 343 new codes, 545 deleted codes, and 178 codes with revised descriptions.

Co-Sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, this workshop will review code changes in CPT and HCPCS code ranges, with emphasis on the coding changes in wound debridement, cardiac catheterizations, and the entire new section on revascularization procedures. There are also changes in interventional radiology and other key issues for both CPT and HCPCS codes. Additionally, the workshop will provide any updates published by AMA or CMS since the actual files were posted.

Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines all the key code changes in 2011. The manual includes an itemized table that shows all added, deleted, or revised CPT or HCPCS codes for 2011. Deleted codes will list cross-reference codes where possible and revised codes will list the content of the revision. The program's speaker, Penny Brennan, Certified Massachusetts Patient Account Manager, is the Director, Consulting Division at Medical Bureau/ROI.

*This program is approved for 3.25 hours of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).*

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

### **Rescheduled Date: OPPS Final Rule for 2011, Wednesday, February 16, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2011, defining what CMS will be implementing for OPSS in 2011. The Final Rule documents CMS's final decisions regarding its proposed changes, including composite Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs), drug administration, visits, partial hospitalization, implantable biologicals, physician supervision (more changes), pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation, reduced payments for therapy services, and new codes for 2011. In addition, the Final Rule continues to address quality reporting of outpatient services.

Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines the final changes for 2011, an itemized table that shows all the changes for each CPT/HCPCS code between 2010 and 2011, and detailed material and references for the other topics.

*This program is approved for 3.0 hours of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).*

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

### **Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager. Now What? Thursday, February 17, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

Making the transition from being a staff person one day to a supervisor/manager the next is a significant step for nearly everyone. Taking on a leadership role is far more challenging and complicated than ever before. Once you have met the challenge of simply getting oriented to what it means to be a manager/leader, you will discover that you carry the responsibility for meeting the demands of your organization for high productivity combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance. You will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others. This program has been designed to get you started by exploring the basics of management and leadership in theory and applied practice, and to lay the groundwork for continued development of your leadership and management skills.

The program's speaker, Victor Walton, MA, is a professional educator, speaker, trainer, and leadership consultant to organizations throughout the United States. He has a deep personal involvement and interest in the professional, personal growth, and development of people in changing organizations. Participants who have attended this program in the past routinely rate Vic as an outstanding speaker who offers practical approaches to effective leadership.

*Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (6.25 contact hours). This program has met the HR Certification Institute's criteria to be pre-approved for recertification credit (6.25 credit hours). This program has been approved for Continuing Education Credit Hours by the National Association of Social Workers, CT and meets the continuing education criteria for CT Social Work Licensure renewal (6.25 credit hours).*

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

**Coaching Skills to Improve Performance, Monday, February 28, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Effective managers from all walks of life have discovered that the same skills successful coaches use to create winning athletic teams are applicable in an organizational setting as well. In fact, the ability to have effective coaching conversations with colleagues and employees is a critical skill for leaders today. So what are the characteristics of a successful coach—and how do coaching skills help to develop a culture of excellence, reliability, and accountability? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging and mentoring growth, active listening, providing constructive feedback, asking insightful questions, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process. In this highly interactive program, participants will learn how coaching is different from other developmental strategies, understand the coaching process, and practice coaching tools and techniques.

The program's speaker, Joan Evans, MBA, has presented several successful programs in CHA's leadership and management development series, and is a national speaker and author on a variety of leadership topics. She currently serves as Chief Learning Officer for the Moses Cone Health System in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.