



Thursday, March 10, 2011

Hospital Leaders Testify on Impact of Budget Cuts at Appropriations Committee Hearing

It was a long night at the Legislative Office Building last Friday, March 4, when the Appropriations Committee held a public hearing for the Department of Social Services portion of [HB 6380](#), *An Act Concerning The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2013*. CHA was well represented at the evening's hearing by hospital leaders, who joined a couple hundred other social service agencies and individuals who were making their cases in opposition to the bill. Testimony began at 5 p.m. and continued until after midnight.

The hearing was split into two rooms to accommodate the large number of people who wanted to be heard. The two panels were chaired by Senator Toni Harp (D-New Haven), and Representative Toni Walker (D-New Haven). Hospital leaders testified in both rooms, detailing the impact a provider tax and cuts to funding would have on their ability to care for their communities.

Testifying in person on behalf of hospitals were (click on the name to read the testimony): [Kurt Barwis](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital; [Susan L. Davis](#), RN, EdD, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincent's Medical Center; [Christopher Hartley](#), Senior Vice President, Planning and Facilities, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; [Elliot Joseph](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Hospital; [Clarence Silvia](#), President/CEO, Hospital of Central Connecticut; [David Whitehead](#), President and Chief Executive of The William W. Backus Hospital; and [Michael Daglio](#), Senior Vice President of Operations, Danbury Hospital, and [Deborah Weymouth](#), Senior Vice President of Operations and Executive Director, New Milford Hospital (collectively Western Connecticut Healthcare.) Many other hospitals sent written testimony, including Bridgeport Hospital; Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Eastern Connecticut Health Network (Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital); Hospital of Saint Raphael; Johnson Memorial Hospital; Middlesex Hospital; Saint Mary's Hospital; Windham Hospital; and Yale-New Haven Hospital. For a complete list of all testimony, click [here](#).

To view a video of testimony from Stephen Frayne, CHA's Senior Vice President for Health Policy, who testified late in the evening, click below. To view the seven-hour hearing in its entirety, visit www.ct-n.com.

Several other bills of interest to hospitals were also heard last Friday. With legislative committees in the middle of the public hearing process, testimony was provided on:

- [HB 6487](#), *An Act Concerning Certificates Of Merit*, a bill before the Judiciary Committee, [strongly opposed](#) by CHA that would, among other provisions, significantly weaken the good faith certificate process by dramatically expanding the types of professionals permitted to give pre-suit expert opinion.
- [HB 6107](#), *An Act Modifying Certain State Grants In Lieu Of Taxes And Authorizing The Assessment Of Property Owned By Universities And Hospitals*, a bill before the Planning and Development Committee that would create a "reverse payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for hospitals and universities." CHA provided [testimony](#) in opposition to this bill.
- [HB 6437](#), *An Act Concerning The Development Of A Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health Services*, a bill before the Judiciary Committee that would require the Attorney General to create a uniform consent form for mental health treatment, with input from the Department of Public Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Insurance. CHA [expressed](#) concern that the bill does not include hospital stakeholders in the development process of the uniform treatment authorization form.
- [HB 5608](#), *An Act Concerning The Implementation Of Culturally And Linguistically Appropriate Standards In Health Care Settings*, a bill before the Public Health Committee and [supported](#) by CHA that would require the Commission on Health Equity to establish a comprehensive collaborative committee to monitor the implementation of, and compliance with, standards 4 to 7, of the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health.

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- [SB 1050](#), *An Act Concerning The Availability Of Automatic External Defibrillators In Certain Health Care Settings*, a bill before the Public Health Committee that would require each dialysis unit, outpatient surgical facility, and residential care home to have at least one automatic external defibrillator (AED) readily accessible, with appropriately trained personnel able to use the AEDs, consistent with a facility policy for responding to cardiac-related patient emergencies. CHA [expressed concern](#) that as drafted, the bill states every “dialysis unit” would be subject to these requirements and seeks further clarification from the committee to make it clear that the provisions of the bill do not apply to dialysis units at a hospital where trained emergency response personnel already have access to defibrillators and other lifesaving procedures.

For more information about CHA’s advocacy issues, contact Jim Iacobellis, Vice President for Government Relations, at iacobellis@chime.org.

State Comptroller Kevin Lembo Meets with CHA’s Committee on Government

Last Friday, March 4, State Comptroller Kevin Lembo met with CHA’s Committee on Government (COG). Chairman David Whitehead, President and Chief Executive Officer of The William W. Backus Hospital, thanked Comptroller Lembo for taking the time to meet with the Committee and provide his perspective on the critical healthcare issues facing the state.

Mr. Lembo began his remarks on a humorous note, quipping: “Things are bad. Any questions?” As the former state healthcare advocate, Mr. Lembo said the transition to working as comptroller was a shift from helping people with healthcare issues to rolling up his sleeves and working on budget issues—not a popular topic these days.

Comptroller Lembo explained his office’s role of providing monthly economic and budget data to the Governor and overseeing the state’s purchase of healthcare services for state employees and retirees. Mr. Lembo noted that the state spends \$1.3 billion on healthcare purchasing. He pointed out areas of focus for his office: medical homes, a look at episodes of care by location and provider; and pharmacy purchasing. He also plans to engage the new Department of Social Services commissioner (see related article) on the evaluation of the agency. *(Photo, left to right: David Whitehead, Chair of the COG; Kevin Lembo; and Jim Iacobellis, CHA Vice President, Government Relations.)*



Mr. Lembo was asked about the top issues he handled as healthcare advocate, and answered that mental health system issues comprised a quarter to a third of the questions and complaints received by the office. Major hospital-related issues included concerns about coverage, prior authorization, and denials. Committee members also asked questions about Sustinet, medical homes, and the state’s conversion of the Medicaid program to an ASO model.

As she thanked him for speaking to the Committee, Jennifer D. Jackson, CHA’s President and CEO, emphasized that hospitals are focused on improving care, and stressed that although we oppose the proposed provider tax and cuts in hospital funding, CHA hospitals want to be part of the solution. She noted that some cuts aren’t savings in the long-run.

Public Health Committee Releases CHA-Proposed Bill

On Friday, February 25, the Public Health Committee met and took final action on several bills of interest to Connecticut hospitals. The Committee unanimously voted to release with a favorable report a CHA-proposed bill, [SB 969](#), *An Act Providing For An Independent Review Of Any Finding Of Deficiency By The Department Of Public Health Relating To A Hospital’s Compliance With Applicable Public Health Statutes And Regulations*. SB 969 would create a mechanism for engaging an impartial reviewer during the DPH oversight process with the expected outcome of this new process to be improved care, better cooperation, and more efficient use of resources that are better spent on patient care and effective oversight. The bill was referred to the Senate floor for further action.

The Committee also voted to release with a favorable report, [HB 6372](#), *An Act Concerning Patient Access To Records Maintained By Health Care Institutions* and [HB 6373](#), *An Act Concerning The Administration Of Peripherally-Inserted Central Catheters In Long-Term Care Settings*. HB 6372 would allow certain authorized persons to conduct an on-site examination of records maintained by a healthcare institution and to establish an administrative hearing process within the Department of Public Health to address complaints concerning lack of access to such records. HB 6373 would allow IV therapy nurses to place or remove peripherally-inserted central catheter lines in patients residing in long-term care facilities.

For more information on these actions, please contact James Iacobellis, CHA Vice President for Government Relations, iacobellis@chime.org.

New Commissioner of Department of Social Services Appointed

On Tuesday, March 8, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced the appointment of Roderick L. Bremby as the new Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

"I am truly thrilled to have Rod join the team," said Governor Malloy. "DSS is an agency with a critical mission—having Rod's leadership and experience will help us streamline the agency and provide services to the people who are depending on them the most. I've said over and over that we will not cut the safety net—and DSS and their partners are a lifeline for people in crisis. Rod has an extensive administrative skill set and the right mindset to make the changes needed to ensure we are making progress for Connecticut's most vulnerable residents."



Mr. Bremby was appointed to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003 and was the longest serving KDHE Cabinet Secretary in the state. There, he led a department which had an annual operating budget in excess of \$230 million and employed more than 1,015 fulltime staff. Prior to his tenure with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Mr. Bremby was an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Kansas, where he also served as the Associate Director of the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development and coordinated the launch of the Institute for Community Health and Development.

Mr. Bremby served on the Board of Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Health Policy Authority, was a member of the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, founded the Lawrence Partnership for Children and Youth, and was the President of the Lawrence, Kansas, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Connecticut Business Day Features Session on Labor and Healthcare

Almost 500 business people from across the state were in Hartford at the Legislative Office Building yesterday for Connecticut Business Day, sponsored by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) and the Connecticut Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives. Business leaders heard from Governor Dannel Malloy, who laid out, "in honest terms," the elements of his budget and answered tough questions from the audience. House Minority Leader Larry Cafero (R-Norwalk) and Senate Minority Leader John McKinney (R-Easton) followed, telling the overflow crowd that if they wanted positive change in Hartford, the business community must become more active.

CHA's Senior Vice President for Health Policy Stephen Frayne joined Business Day and participated on a panel discussing "Labor and Healthcare," which was moderated by John Whitcomb, Vice President and Past President of the Western Connecticut chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management. After thanking CBIA for the opportunity to discuss hospitals' impact on business in the state, Mr. Frayne indicated that hospitals depend on business for goods and services, as well as their role helping to cover the costs for healthcare that government is unwilling or unable to pay – the cost shift. Mr. Frayne noted that hospitals and businesses share the same costs of doing business for labor, fuel, electricity, and other utilities; as well as mandates for workers' compensation and unemployment insurance. He also conveyed the unfortunate news that healthcare costs for business will be under even higher pressure in the future if the proposed budget is passed with its hospital provider tax and cuts to existing DSH funds.

Other panelists included state legislators and a wide range of business leaders. For more information on the Labor and Healthcare panel on Business Day, click [here](#).

Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport Opens

On Monday, February 28, healthcare providers and administrators, Primary Care Action Group (PCAG) members, and Bridgeport officials gathered to cut the ribbon on the new Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport, located in the Bridgeport Department of Health building. The facility provides free prescription medication to the region's uninsured and under-insured.

The first in Connecticut, the program is a partnership between the Primary Care Action Group, a collaboration of local health service organizations, and the Dispensary of Hope, a national network of sites that collect pharmaceutical samples and distribute them to the needy. The program was funded by a \$160,000 grant from St. Vincent's Medical Center's parent company, Ascension Health. Sponsors of the project include: Bridgeport Hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Optimus Health Care, Southwest Community Health Center, City of Bridgeport Department of Health, AmeriCares Free Clinic of Bridgeport, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Greater Bridgeport Medical Association, Southwestern Area Health Education Center, and Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition,

all of which are PCAG members. The City of Bridgeport and State of Connecticut are donating the space for the dispensary.

To qualify for prescription assistance, an individual must have no prescription coverage and be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A licensed pharmacist and AmeriCorps intern will staff the site, and the Greater Bridgeport Medical Association will coordinate outreach to doctors to encourage them to donate unused drug samples and products.



Photo, left:(L to R: Hope Dispensary staff pharmacist Christine Toni, RPh; Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch; Bridgeport Hospital President/CEO William Jennings, St. Vincent's President/CEO Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD; and Bridgeport Health Director Kristin DuBay Horton celebrate the opening of the new Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport before an artistic recreation of its tree logo. Photo, right: Staff members of St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital, and other members of the Primary Care Action Group.

St. Vincent's Medical Center's President and Chief Executive Officer Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD, praised St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport Hospital, and the other PCAG members in "getting down to issues and developing vital programs such as this." William Jennings, President/CEO of Bridgeport Hospital, thanked the city and state, calling the dispensary "a great example of community spirit to help residents who cannot afford badly needed medications."

"We know our people are being taken care of, so this is a great day for Bridgeport," said Mayor Bill Finch. "At the same time, we have also reduced the environmental impact that our children face from the improper disposal of drugs."

The Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (203) 332-5653 or visit www.hopedispensarybridgeport.org.

Education Updates

Leaping From Staff to Management, The Next Steps, Tuesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to periodically step back to review your knowledge of management theory and practice, and determine how well your problem-solving and decision-making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing and challenging healthcare environment. For those of you who attended our first program "Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager – Now What?" in February, and all managers who want to improve their skills and learn practical techniques for dealing with conflict, leading change initiatives, responding to the "dead horse" dilemma, coaching employees for better performance, and using time management strategies, this highly interactive session will help you manage both the people and business components of your job more effectively.

This program is co-sponsored with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives. At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to: define conflict, its role in the process of change, and the emotion of anger; describe why power can be both positive and negative, and how it can influence individual and team problem solving; discuss how a rewards and recognition system can improve employee competency; and explain why time is a valuable resource and list ways to use it more effectively.

Victor Walton, MA, professional educator, speaker, trainer, and leadership consultant, will be the program's speaker.

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 (5.75 contact 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 (5.75 credit hours). As an independent chartered Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives is authorized to award 5.5 hours of Category II continuing education credit toward advancement or recertification in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Participants in this program who wish to have it considered for Category II (non-ACHE) credit should list their attendance when they apply to the American College of Healthcare Executives for advancement or recertification.

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

2011 Nurse Manager Leadership Academy

CHA's popular Nurse Manager Leadership Academy is a five-part series modeled after the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Nurse Manager Leadership Collaborative Learning Domain Framework ©2004 NMLC AONE and specifically designed to meet the development needs of new and aspiring nurse managers.

Developed and implemented with the first cohort of nurse managers in the spring of 2008, and repeated in 2009 and 2010, the program has five comprehensive and successive learning modules built upon each other to focus on the link between clinical background and the leadership, business, and interpersonal skills needed in the role of the nurse manager. We are excited to have Jo Manion, PhD, RN, a nationally recognized speaker and author, returning to present two sessions on March 30 and 31.

Wednesday, March 23: Creating the Leader in Yourself, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Wednesday, March 30: Leading the People (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Thursday, March 31: Leading the People (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Wednesday, April 13: Managing the Business (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Monday, April 25: Managing the Business (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Click [here](#) for the brochure.