



Thursday, March 24, 2011

## Hospitals Continue In Efforts To Oppose Tax and Cuts in Proposed Budget

As the legislative session continues, hospitals are sustaining their efforts to talk to legislators and the administration about the serious impact of the proposed hospital tax and cuts to uncompensated care funding in the 2012-13 biennium budget.

This week the bill that implements the Governor's hospital provider tax, [SB 1013](#), *An Act Implementing the Governor's Recommendations Concerning Social Services*, was sent from the Human Services Committee directly to the Appropriations Committee. SB 1013, as well as legislation that would have separated functions of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), were not given favorable reports by the Committee, but were simply referred to the Appropriations Committee. This vote means the Committee is keeping the bills alive and allowing them to continue in the process, but does not give them the Committee's favorable support.

For more information about CHA's advocacy issues, contact Jim Iacobellis, Vice President for Government Relations, at [iacobellis@chime.org](mailto:iacobellis@chime.org).

## CHA Provides Testimony on Public Health Committee Bills

On Monday, March 21, the Public Health Committee voted to amend and release [SB 1050](#), *An Act Concerning The Availability Of Automatic External Defibrillators In Certain Health Care Settings*. As suggested in CHA [testimony](#), the bill was amended to clarify that hospital-based dialysis units were not included under the provisions of the bill. SB 1050 was sent to the floor for further action.

On Wednesday, March 23, CHA provided testimony to the Public Health Committee on hospital and healthcare-related bills including:

- [SB 1204](#), *An Act Establishing The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange*, which establishes a state health insurance exchange pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and a basic health plan. CHA [supports](#) the provisions in the bill establishing an exchange, but opposes the provisions creating a basic health plan. CHA is also asking for an amendment to provide a CHA representative on the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.
- [SB 1184](#), *An Act Concerning Health Care Facilities*, which, among other things, authorizes the Commissioner of Public Health to issue summary orders and fines against hospitals, and requires hospitals to submit additional financial information to the Office of Health Care Access. CHA strongly [opposes](#) this bill.

The Committee will meet on Monday, March 28, to take action on other bills.

## MacArthur Fellow and Expert in Older Adult Fall Prevention To Be Keynote Speaker for Patient Falls Collaborative Learning Session

Rita K. Noonan, PhD, Home & Recreation Team Leader, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, will be the keynote speaker for the Fourth Learning Session for the Patient Falls Collaborative, *Moving Fall Prevention Evidence into Practice: Coordinating Across the Continuum*. The Learning Session will be held at CHA on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Home and Recreation team, under Dr. Noonan's leadership, conducts epidemiologic, intervention, and programmatic

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research on a diverse array of injury topics, including the Center-level priority: older adult fall prevention.

Dr. Noonan received her doctoral degree in sociology from Indiana University in 1998. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Noonan worked as a sociology and women's studies professor at the University of Iowa, where she conducted research in Latin America on the global debt crisis, gender, social movements, and health outcomes. Dr. Noonan has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship and a MacArthur Fellowship.

The learning session, co-sponsored by CHA and Qualidigm, will also include a poster session for sharing effective practices and ideas. Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register. For more information on the Patient Falls Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Safety, [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org).

## CHA Annual Meeting Awards Nominations Due April 18

The deadline for CHA's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting award nominations is Monday, April 18. To complete a nomination, please use these materials for the Connecticut's Hospital [Community Service Award](#), the John D. Thompson [Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data](#), and the 2011 [Healthcare Heroes awards](#). Please note that there is a three-year period of ineligibility for previous Community Service Award winners, and a two-year period of ineligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners.

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. We look forward to your participation at CHA's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 23, 2011, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

## One-Year Anniversary of PPACA Noted by Connecticut Lawmakers

Connecticut's leading state and federal Democratic lawmakers gathered yesterday to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the passage of federal healthcare reform, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Congressmen John Larson, Joe Courtney, Chris Murphy, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, along with Senator Richard Blumenthal and Governor Dannel Malloy, spoke at a press conference sponsored by Health Care for America Now in Hartford yesterday.

Also this week, a report by consumer advocacy group Families USA showed that tens of thousands of Connecticut residents have received insurance coverage and protections from the law. According to the report in Connecticut:

- 28,800 uninsured young adults are eligible to stay on their parents' insurance plan;
- 36,900 Medicare beneficiaries received a prescription drug rebate check in 2010;
- 562,600 Medicare beneficiaries have access to free preventive health services;
- 44,200 children with pre-existing conditions were protected from losing coverage; and
- 44,000 small businesses are eligible for a federal premium tax credit.

CHA supported healthcare reform when it was passed last year, specifically as a means of achieving greater access to care for all Americans. CHA continues to advocate for initiatives statewide and at the national level that engage communities in improving their health and will support reforms that sustain hospitals as the primary safety net for everyone.

## Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs to Hold Conference Call

Hospitals throughout the nation are moving to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, because of the potential for quality and cost improvements in healthcare delivery. Registration for the program began January 1 for Medicare incentive payments; Medicaid registration for Connecticut hospitals will begin upon federal approval of Connecticut's State Medicaid HIT Plan, which is currently pending.

On Wednesday, April 6, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., CMS is holding a conference call for eligible hospitals about registration for the Medicare and/or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. The call will discuss: eligibility for incentive payments; special considerations for dually eligible hospitals; pre-registration and registration; and where to find helpful resources.

Click [here](#) to register and receive call-in information. Registration will close at 1:30 p.m. on the day before the call or when all available space has been filled, so please register early. For more information about the EHR Incentive Programs, please visit the [CMS EHR Incentive Programs website](#) for the latest news and updates.

In addition, CHA is hosting *Ensuring Integrity: Electronic Health Records* on April 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Please see the article below and click [here](#) for the brochure.

## Education Updates

### ***Ensuring Integrity: Electronic Health Records, Wednesday, April 6, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.***

As hospitals nationwide and in Connecticut accelerate efforts to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, they realize that understanding and managing the complex and inherent risks of these systems is essential.

This program will examine the general legal and risk implications beyond HIPAA, of record system integrity, including the impact of system failures and software defects, processing errors, and version control, all of which can create significant user problems and potential regulatory and malpractice liability concerns for the organization. The program format for this half-day session will be part lecture and part panel discussion where defense counsel, investigators, and system analysts will share their experiences with real world consequences of the failure to maintain system integrity. There will also be time to answer participants' questions.

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to: describe the legal factors to consider in record integrity and version control (other than HIPAA); discuss the implications of record system integrity for malpractice, regulatory compliance, and direct care; and identify general steps to better assess the risks to their enterprise relating to security, information use, and record management planning.

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

### ***CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program, Thursday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***

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.

Curriculum for the *Nurse Preceptorship Program* was 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 include 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, evaluating competence, delegating effectively, and more. The *Nurse Preceptorship Program* will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to RN preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Speakers for the program include: Janice Costello, RN, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Goodwin College; Anna McGuirk, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, RN, Clinical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry, The William W. Backus Hospital.

*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 (6.0 contact hours).*

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

### ***Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Schedules Learning Session, Tuesday, April 12, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

The Fourth Learning Session for the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, co-hosted by CHA and Qualidigm, has been scheduled for April 12, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Eliot Lazar, MD, Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer from New York-Presbyterian Hospital, will be the keynote speaker, sharing details of the hospital's patient safety program and successful strategies that have helped them improve their hospital-wide medication reconciliation process. Other topics will include assessing hospitals' current heart failure program model, enhancing patient and family education, and incorporating palliative care in symptom management. Patsy Twohill, a clinician who will share her experiences as a patient undergoing treatment for heart failure, will also be featured.

The learning session will also include a poster session for sharing good practices and ideas. To register online for this learning session, click [here](#). For more information on the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Safety, [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org).