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[Printer-Friendly Version](#)**In This Issue:****Hospitals Turn Out in Force for Hospital Day at the Capitol****Patrick Green Named New President and CEO of L+M Healthcare****CHA Announces Statewide Patient Family Advisory Council****Candidates Emerge for Two Special Elections****Public Health Committee Takes Action on Legislative Proposals****CHA Hosts Kickoff Program for Care Decisions Connecticut****Education Updates**[Update Archives](#)**Hospitals Turn Out in Force for Hospital Day at the Capitol**

More than 600 hospital employees from across Connecticut gathered in Hartford on April 5 to deliver a strong, unified message – healthcare must be protected, not taxed and crippled, by the state – drawing a supportive reaction from lawmakers who stood side by side with hospital executives, caregivers, and patients at a standing-room-only press conference early in the day.

At the forefront of the message hospitals delivered to state officials Wednesday was their objection to a proposal that would allow municipalities to impose a property tax on hospitals, ending hundreds of years of tax-exempt status. If approved, the property tax proposal would be an added burden on hospitals, which already pay \$556 million annually through the hospital provider tax.

Under the Governor's proposal, municipalities would be allowed to tax hospitals on their real property, which could bring in approximately \$212 million for cities and towns. The state has said it would return the funds to hospitals through supplemental payments, but CHA and the hospitals it represents say it is hard to believe the state's promises to return the money because of promises the state made, and broke, when it instituted the provider tax in 2011.

Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA, told reporters at the press conference that hospitals pay more than half a billion dollars in taxes every year, which is hurting patients' access to care, and cannot shoulder a larger tax burden.

"The state cannot keep balancing the budget on the backs of the poor and the sick through taxes and cuts to hospitals, year after year," said Ms. Jackson, adding that hospitals need lawmakers to stop taxing hospitals, to preserve the small hospital pool, and to oppose the elimination of hospitals' property tax exemption.

Lawmakers who stood with hospitals at the press conference said they understand that the state's policies are harming hospitals, which provide an invaluable service.

"We're all on the same side here," said State Representative Jonathan Steinberg (D-Westport), who serves as House Co-Chairman of the Public Health Committee. "Hospitals are among our largest employers. If we are going to keep our economy moving forward, we need to encourage hospitals to grow rather than find ways for them to cut employees, which has a ripple effect through our economy."

Rep. Steinberg said he and Rep. Linda Gentile (D-Ansonia), have been tasked by House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz to "to create a different dialogue" with hospitals. Also speaking in support of hospitals were Rep. Vincent Candelora (R-North Branford) and Senator Paul Formica (R-East Lyme).

Rep. Candelora said he believes the administration taxes hospitals to help solve the state's fiscal problems because "they think you can accommodate and pay for it, but that practice needs to come to an end."

Sen. Formica agreed, saying, "It is time to stop the downward spiral in our state," adding that he believes hospitals should be part of the solution to improving the economy.

The lawmakers' remarks followed impassioned speeches by two hospital executives, caregivers, and a patient, who talked about the dire effects the state's taxes and cuts on hospitals have had on patient care.



"Connecticut hospitals have been taxed and cut more than \$2 billion since the hospital tax was put in place a few years ago. We simply cannot absorb any more and we cannot revisit this debate every year," said Dr. John Murphy, CEO, Western Connecticut Health Network, which comprises Danbury Hospital, with campuses in Danbury and New Milford, and Norwalk Hospital. "Cuts result in higher costs for people with commercial insurance, fewer health programs and services, staff reductions, and longer wait times for care which can lead to catastrophic patient outcomes. Unfortunately, it's the weakest and poorest among us who are harmed the most. They are the people who suffer silently and on whose behalf I am speaking today. I am talking about those who are mentally ill, the addicted, the elderly, the demented, those at the dawn of life, those at end of life and those living in the shadows of life."

Dr. Murphy said the state needs to stop taxing hospitals for the care they provide to patients, adequately fund Medicaid, and "stop playing politics with our local communities and the people we are collectively tasked with serving."

Kurt Barwis, CEO of Bristol Hospital, described his journey over the last decade to bring Bristol Hospital back from the brink of closure. He says now the hospital is facing a dire situation again, due to the state taxes.

"My 1,700 employees and I worked hard to turn the hospital around. It's hard for me to believe that the thing that is actually going to take it away is the state of Connecticut," said Mr. Barwis, adding that his hospital lost \$1.8 million last year. "It's not like we are making money hand over fist. There's no question we lose money. It has to stop."



Also speaking at the press conference were Octavio Goncalves, CRNA, of the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists; Dan Freess, MD, President-Elect of the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians; and Janie Mezzatesta, RN, a former nurse at Griffin hospital and patient. Mr. Goncalves described the devastating effect funding cuts are having on services for those with opioid addictions, while Dr. Freess said that cuts and taxes imperil the "health safety net" and lead to longer wait times and reduced services in the Emergency Department and elsewhere.

Ms. Mezzatesta, who worked as a nurse on the cardiac unit at Griffin Hospital before the illness that led to three of her limbs being amputated, movingly described the value of having dedicated healthcare providers when you most need them. She said the hospital staff who treated her at Griffin, Bridgeport Hospital, and Gaylord Hospital "saw to my emotional, physical, and spiritual needs, making me whole again."



Before and after the press conference, the hundreds of hospital employees who made the trip to the Capitol met with their local legislators in private meetings, where they were told their presence makes an impact as lawmakers begin their budget deliberations.

Speaking to employees from Yale New Haven Health who packed a huge hearing room, Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Branford) said the state has a responsibility to "ensure hospitals are strong."

"Too often we look to hospitals to make up for the state's budget shortfalls," Sen. Kennedy said. "You can be a powerful advocate just by showing up here and telling stories about how cutbacks impact real people."

In addition to Yale New Haven Health, which includes Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, and Yale New Haven Hospital, hospital attendees included those from The William W. Backus Hospital, Bristol Hospital, Danbury Hospital, Day Kimball Hospital, Griffin Hospital, Hartford Hospital, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Saint Mary's Hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Stamford Hospital, Gaylord Hospital, Natchaug Hospital, the Rushford Center, The Hospital for Special Care, Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Prospect, Trinity Health – New England, and Western Connecticut Health Network.

CHA would like to thank the legislators who showed their support for hospitals at the press conference. House Democrats: Cathy Abercrombie (D-Meriden); James Albis (D-East Haven), David Arconti (D-Danbury); Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret); Michelle Cook (D-Torrington); Joe Gresko (D-Stratford); Liz Linehan (D-Cheshire); Cristin McCarthy-Vahey (D-Fairfield); Russ Morin (D-Wethersfield); Chris Perone (D-Norwalk); Sean Scanlon (D-Guilford); and Chris Soto (D-New London). Senate Republicans: Paul Formica (R-East Lyme); Henri Martin (R-Bristol); and Michael McLachlan (R-Danbury). House Republicans: Whit Betts (R-Bristol); Mitch Bolinsky (R-Newtown); William Buckbee (R-New Milford); Gary Byron (R-Newington); Vin Candelora (R-North Branford); Jay Case (R-Winsted); Holly Cheeseman (R-Niantic); Tom Delnicki (R-South Windsor); Laura Devlin (R-Fairfield); Michael Ferguson (R-Danbury); Robin Green (R-Marlborough); Brenda Kupchick (R-Fairfield); Gail Lavielle (R-Wilton); Tim LeGeyt (R-Canton); Kathleen McCarty (R-Waterford); Cara Pavalock-D'Amato (R-Bristol); Jason Perillo (R-Shelton); Bill Petit (R-Plainville); Prasad Srinivasan (R-Glastonbury); Scott Storms (R-Windsor Locks); Mark Tweedie (R-Manchester); David Wilson (R-Litchfield); and Terrie Wood (R-Darien).



Patrick Green Named New President and CEO of L+M Healthcare

After a national search, Patrick L. Green, FACHE, has been named the new President and Chief Executive Officer of L+M Healthcare and Executive Vice President of Yale New Haven Health. L+M Healthcare, a member of Yale New Haven Health, includes Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Westerly Hospital, the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut, and other ambulatory services throughout the market. Mr. Green, whose appointment is effective June 5, 2017, will succeed Bruce Cummings, who announced his

retirement in January.

Mr. Green is currently the Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of St. Anthony Hospital, a member of Centura Health – the largest health system in Colorado. St. Anthony Hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center in Lakewood, Colorado, where Mr. Green is also responsible for a market that comprises a vast ambulatory network that includes neighborhood health centers, ambulatory surgery centers, and urgent care centers. Mr. Green began his tenure at St. Anthony Hospital in 2012 as Chief Operating Officer, and was instrumental in achieving unprecedented growth as well as strong financial viability and operational excellence. In addition to hospital strategic and daily planning, Mr. Green is responsible for the operational oversight of systems of care, including oncology, neurosciences,



and the heart and vascular care programs for the mountains and north operating group.

"We are delighted to attract someone with Patrick's talent as the new president of Lawrence + Memorial," said Marna P. Borgstrom, CEO of Yale New Haven Health and Yale New Haven Hospital. "He brings a wealth of experience running organizations within complex health systems. As we continue to develop the recent affiliation of L+M with Yale New Haven Health, Patrick will play a critical role through his hospital and health system responsibilities."

"Working collectively with our colleagues at Yale New Haven Health, we were able to generate an exceptionally strong list of candidates for the president and CEO position at L+M," said Alan Hunter, Chair of the L+M Healthcare Board of Trustees. "We are very pleased to welcome Patrick to our organization and believe that he will bring the type of exceptional leadership that these uncertain times demand."

Mr. Green is an accomplished healthcare executive with over 19 years of experience leading not-for-profit health systems and academic medical centers in complex markets, and has a successful track record of community involvement, associate engagement, and building physician relationships.

Mr. Green, a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, earned a bachelor's degree from Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, and an MBA from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma. Mr. Green, his wife LaNece, and their son Peyton are looking forward to their move to New England.

CHA Announces Statewide Patient Family Advisory Council

On April 4, 2017, CHA launched the statewide Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) as part of its continuing efforts to engage and empower patients and their families to improve patient care. The statewide PFAC will identify patient safety and quality of care practices to advance patient-directed care across Connecticut hospitals.

"Connecticut hospitals are committed to providing accessible, equitable, safe and high quality care that is focused on the needs of the people who matter most – their patients," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Patients and their families are essential partners in hospitals' efforts to improve the quality and safety of healthcare, making CHA's statewide PFAC the natural next step in the important work hospitals have undertaken in this area."



PFACs at hospitals in Connecticut and throughout the country make important and lasting improvements in patient care. CHA's statewide PFAC dovetails with the quality and culture change work being done in Connecticut hospitals as participants in the national Partnership for Patients collaborative and on high reliability, which continues to expand across the healthcare landscape. Since 2011, through CHA, more than 50,000 staff and physicians in hospitals across the state have been trained in high reliability safety behaviors.

High reliability has since been extended to the patient and family advocate community, resulting in numerous initiatives intended to empower patients and heighten awareness about issues central to patient care. On November 22, 2016, the CHA Board of Trustees approved the creation of the statewide PFAC, which was part of a recommendation set forth by the CHA Committee on Patient Care Quality.

The CHA Statewide PFAC will be led by Cheryl Hoey, Senior Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Connecticut's Children's Medical Center, and Friso van Reesema, Healthcare IT Consultant and current Co-Chairperson of the Patient Family Partnership at Stamford Health.

Candidates Emerge for Two Special Elections



Endorsed and petitioning candidates for two Special Elections have emerged and are actively campaigning for House seats left vacant as a result of two state representatives resigning after they were elected to the Senate.

In the Hartford-based House seat, Democrats have endorsed Rickey Pinckney. The three-way race also includes former State Representative Kenneth Green, who collected enough signatures to get on the ballot, and Joshua Hall, who was endorsed by the Working Families Party. The 7th House District seat includes portions of the city of Hartford.

Mr. Pinckney served 20 years in the Army before working as a military contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2002 to 2012. He returned to Hartford four years ago and works as an engineering contractor with Quest Global in East Hartford. Mr. Green is a former eight-term State Representative from the 1st House District, and Mr. Hall is a Vice President at the Hartford Federation of Teachers.

In the Watertown-based House seat, Republicans have endorsed Joe Polletta, while Democrats have endorsed Louis Esposito. The 68th House district seat includes the town of Watertown and parts of Woodbury. Mr. Polletta is a member of the Watertown Town Council and Vice Chairman of its Budget Committee. Mr. Esposito is a member of the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Special Elections will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Public Health Committee Takes Action on Legislative Proposals

The Public Health Committee met on March 24 and took action on a number of legislative proposals. Specifically, the Committee voted to release with a Joint Favorable (JF) report:



- **[SB 444](#), *An Act Requiring The Health Care Cabinet To Study Establishing A Health Care Cost Growth Target And Report On Total State-Wide Health Care Spending***, a bill that would require the Health Care Cabinet to study methods of establishing a healthcare cost growth target and to monitor and report on total statewide healthcare spending. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[SB 451](#), *An Act Protecting Patients From Unreasonable Medical Bills***, a bill that seeks to amend the statute regarding facility fees charged at hospital-owned and hospital-affiliated facilities. CHA's testimony can be found

[here](#).

The Committee voted to release with a Joint Favorable Substitute (JFS) report:

- **[SB 938](#), *An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations For The State-Wide Adoption Of The Medical Orders For Life-Sustaining Treatment Program***, a bill supported by CHA that allows the Commissioner of Public Health to implement the medical orders for the Life-Sustaining Treatment Program statewide. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[SB 250](#), *An Act Concerning Clinical Placements For In-State Medical Students***, a bill that would give preference to students of medical schools located in the state over foreign medical students for placement in clinical programs at state hospitals. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).

The Committee met on March 27, and voted to release with a JF report:

- **[SB 447](#), *An Act Concerning The Bidirectional Exchange Of Patient Electronic Health Records***, a bill that would require a hospital to both accept from and send to community healthcare providers patient electronic health records, including, but not limited to, diagnostic imaging. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[HB 7222](#), *An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes***, a bill that would implement the recommendations of the Department of Public Health concerning various revisions to the public health statutes. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[SB 904](#), *An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Facilities Guidelines For Technical Review Of Facility Construction And Renovation***, a bill that would require hospitals to be in compliance with industry-recognized standards and authorities for healthcare planning, design, and construction. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).

The Committee voted to release with a JFS report:

- **[SB 37](#), *An Act Concerning Health Emergency Response Operations***, a bill that would establish conditions and protocols upon the imposition of public health orders regarding quarantine, isolation, or other public health restrictions.
- **[SB 940](#), *An Act Establishing A Program To Reduce Malpractice Costs And Requiring A Cool-Down Period Prior To Commencing A Malpractice Action***, a bill that would make changes to the medical malpractice system in Connecticut. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[HB 7174](#), *An Act Allowing Certain Hospital Personnel To Administer A Saline Flush To An Intravenous Line***, a bill that would allow certain unlicensed hospital personnel to flush a peripheral IV. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).

CHA Hosts Kickoff Program for Care Decisions Connecticut



On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, CHA will host the kickoff program for Care Decisions Connecticut, a collaboration with healthcare partners across the continuum of care and state government with the goal of integrating patient-directed care strategies to improve palliative/hospice care and quality of life for people in Connecticut with serious illnesses.

Susan Frampton, President of Planetree International, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Frampton, a medical anthropologist, has authored numerous publications, including the three editions of [Putting Patients First](#) (Jossey-Bass 2004, 2008, 2013), and served as lead author on the National Academy of Medicine's "Harnessing Evidence and Experience to Change Culture," released in early 2017.

Dr. Frampton leads Planetree's advocacy efforts, chairs the National Quality Forum's National Quality Partners Leadership Consortium, and has co-chaired NQF Action Teams on Advanced Illness Care, Patient-Family Engagement, and Decreasing Hospital (Re)Admissions. She serves on the Governing Board of the WHO-CC International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals, and on the editorial board for the Journal of Compassionate Healthcare.

In addition to speaking internationally on culture change, quality, safety, and the patient experience, Dr. Frampton was honored in 2009, when she was named one of "20 People who Make Healthcare Better" by Health Leaders magazine.

The program will take place from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at CHA. Co-sponsors include CHA, the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF), and The Conversation Project. Click [here](#) for the program announcement and [here](#) to register.

Education Updates

Healthcare Financial Management - An Overview

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present the program.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

The Basics of Budgeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business financial training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary knowledge or tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results, particularly in an environment of chronic federal and state underfunding. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and organizations. This management development program, part one of a two-part series, provides managers with an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, and salary and supply budgets, and information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Bill Ward will present the program.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

Promoting Safety and Connectedness: A Philosophy of Care for the High-Risk Infant and Family

Friday, April 21, 2017

8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

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

Stephen W. Porges, PhD, Distinguished University Scientist at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University Bloomington, and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, will be the keynote speaker at this conference. Dr. Porges is the developer of the Polyvagal Theory linking the evolution of the autonomic nervous system to social behavior.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

2017 CHA Regulatory Compliance Conference

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Join us for CHA's Regulatory Compliance Conference, which will feature a keynote presentation on the new administration's impact on compliance enforcement. This presentation by Jonathan Diesenhaus and Gejaa Gobena, Partners at Hogan Lovells, will describe "hot topics" in compliance enforcement as the transition to a new administration evolves, and will provide up-to-date information and best practices for handling these changes. Hogan Lovells is a legal firm that offers extensive experience and insights gained from working in healthcare and other complex legal environments. The firm provides counsel to the American Hospital Association on compliance issues.

Following the keynote address, attorneys from Wiggin and Dana will present two sessions on Stark and Anti-kickback, and what to do when the government shows up at the hospital with a search warrant. Additionally, Jennifer Cox, from Cox & Osowiecki, will present—alongside an IT specialist—a session on privacy and security in health IT, sharing information on the "Top 10" things hospitals should be thinking about in this arena.

This conference is specifically designed for compliance officers, risk managers, in-house legal counsel, health information managers, IT specialists, and others interested in privacy, security, and the impact of the new administration's policies on compliance enforcement.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.



