



Thursday, April 21, 2011

Governor Malloy and Democratic Leaders Reach Budget Deal; Hospital Provider Tax Included

Last night, Governor Dannel Malloy, Senate President Pro Tempore Don Williams (D-Brooklyn), and House Speaker Chris Donovan (D-Meriden) announced they have reached a deal on a biennial budget. The budget is closely based on Governor Malloy's February budget proposal with some changes to the income tax rate and structure, the items to be taxed under the state's sales tax, as well as minor changes to the spending proposal. There is no change to the hospital tax proposal.

The budget agreement assumes \$2 billion in union concessions, which are yet to be defined. Senate and House Republicans are not part of the budget agreement.

At a press conference last night announcing the deal, the Democrats provided a short [summary](#) of the tax and spending plan. The only details about the hospital tax are on page 1, stating: "DSS - Adjusts the hospital tax proposal to generate additional reimbursement and provide some funding for hospitals (\$128.5 million in FY 12 and \$129.7 million in FY 13). The revision will increase funding to hospitals by \$50 million and result in a net gain of federal revenue to the state of \$15 million beyond the Governor's initial recommendation."

The Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees are scheduled to meet today to approve the budget agreement.

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Eliminating Healthcare Disparities Focus of CHA-Saint Francis Hospital Conference

On Monday, April 18, 2011, CHA hosted *Partnerships: A Model for Addressing Community Health*, a luncheon discussion that focused on addressing community health needs, eliminating health disparities, and moving toward healthcare equity. The event focused on a groundbreaking research partnership between the Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute at Saint Francis and Tuskegee University to combat prostate cancer and improve health outcomes in African-American men. The Men's Health Institute, which provides community-based prostate cancer education, screening, biopsies, surgery, and postoperative treatment at no cost to any man in need of financial support, has partnered with prestigious Tuskegee University to provide prostate cancer tissue from African-American men to further the study of how prostate cancer is passed on in African-American men and to predict which cancers will be more aggressive.



The luncheon included a panel discussion, facilitated by Marie Spivey, EdD, (*pictured above, left*) Chairperson of the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, who provided a brief overview of the state focus on health disparities.

Christopher M. Dadlez, FACHE, (*pictured above, right*) President and CEO, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and CHA Chairman of the Board, noted that eliminating health disparities and attaining health equity is a major focus for his hospital and for CHA. He commented that this partnership is a model that can be applied to other disparities initiatives.

Curtis D. Robinson, Founder and Chairman, Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and Board Member of Saint Francis and CHA, talked about the important role of every individual involved in creating the Men's Health Institute, noting in particular the work of Marcus McKinney, DMin, LPC, Director of Pastoral Counseling and

Community Outreach, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, who was instrumental in bringing 35 members of the faith community together to work collaboratively on prostate screening and detection in the community.



Jeffrey Steinberg, MD, (*pictured left*) Senior Vice President for Health Policy and Disparity at Saint Francis and the Medical Director of the Men's Health Institute, commented on this leading-edge approach to research and introduced the various partnership members.

Ben Carson, MD, world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, the director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and author of the memoir *Gifted Hands* and a motivational book, *Think Big*, talked about the importance of education and access to care. "It all comes back to care, access, and attitudes of people giving care," said Dr. Carson. "Education and changes in access will make a large difference in

achieving health equity. Tackling health disparities in cancer detection and treatment has implications far beyond the African-American community and far beyond cancer."



Gilbert Rochon, PhD, MPH, (*pictured left*) President of Tuskegee University, re-emphasized the important role that education will play in achieving health equity—and that it is an essential component of also moving people from poverty. He stressed that he is looking forward to fostering a closer relationship with Saint Francis and the Men's Health Institute and, in particular, is excited about the progress to be made in identifying prostate cancer therapeutics and biomarkers among African-American men—and spreading this excellence in cancer research throughout Tuskegee University.

Until such time as the issues of health disparities and inequity are addressed, along with the many underlying determinants that cause them, hospitals cannot meet their full potential in delivering the highest quality and safest healthcare. "CHA and its hospitals are passionate about eliminating health disparities and seeking viable solutions and programs," said CHA CEO Jennifer Jackson. "We look forward to tackling these issues, finding ways to collaborate in Connecticut, and creating venues for people to share their successes."



Pictured left: Gina Calder, Bridgeport Hospital, Director of Geriatric Services and Business Development

Pictured center: Attendees

Pictured right (from left to right): Marie Spivey, EdD; Jeffrey Steinberg, MD; Christopher M. Dadlez, FACHE; Curtis D. Robinson; and Ben Carson, MD

SustiNet Plan Moves Forward

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and leaders from the Democratic caucus have reached an agreement on the widely debated SustiNet state-run health plan. The reported compromise calls for the opening of the state employee health plan to municipalities and some nonprofit organizations, but excludes offering insurance to the public, a "public option." The plan also does not call for combination of Medicaid and state employee and retiree health plans into a large pool, as the current SustiNet legislative proposal does.

Although not fully drafted, the compromise would establish a "SustiNet cabinet" advisory panel, chaired by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, which would replace the quasi-public authority established under the current SustiNet legislation. Also as part of the compromise, the state comptroller's office would be charged with trying to identify cost-saving measures and payment reforms in the state employee plan. Additional resources needed for the SustiNet cabinet and for additional staff in the comptroller's office would be funded in the new biennium budget.

Starting in the next fiscal year, municipalities would be allowed to buy coverage through the state employee and retiree plan. Nonprofits that have contracts with the state would be allowed to buy in beginning the following fiscal year. The agreement does not include allowing small businesses to buy coverage through the state employee plan, but leaves the option to include small business in the future.

Nomination Deadline for Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award Extended to May 18

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare has a simple mission: to provide compassionate healthcare so that patients and their professional caregivers relate to one another in a way that “provides hope to the patient, support to caregivers, and sustenance to the healing process.” The annual Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award® honors New England caregivers who display extraordinary compassion in caring for patients. The winner will receive \$5,000 and recognition at the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center Compassionate Healthcare Dinner on November 17, 2011 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The nomination deadline for this award has recently been extended to May 18, 2011.

Healthcare professionals or community members can submit nominations, and any paid, employed caregiver or team of caregivers with direct contact with patients in any New England healthcare setting is eligible. To nominate a caregiver, visit www.theschwartzcenter.org or call (617) 724-4746.

Education Updates

2011 Corporate Compliance Conference, Wednesday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Co-Hosted with the Connecticut Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA's 2011 Corporate Compliance Conference will feature a keynote presentation by Aaron Beam, former co-owner and Chief Financial Officer of HealthSouth, who will discuss the series of events that resulted in a corporate culture that allowed fraud to continue for seven years, and the impact on those prosecuted for fraud.

HealthSouth, one of the nation's largest providers of outpatient surgery and rehabilitation services was a NYSE Fortune 500 Company. The company was started with minimal resources, raised venture capital, and went public in two years. Millionaires were made before it all unraveled. Mr. Beam will talk about Richard Scrushy, the other co-founder, and the series of events that resulted in a corporate culture that was fraught with fraud.

Additional presentations include: *Active Enforcement and New Techniques; Beyond HIPAA — Managing Privacy and Data Protection Risks; The Brave New World of Electronic Technology: Social Media—Opportunities and Risks; and Enterprise Risk Management—Ready or Not, An Integrated Approach to Risk Management is the Future.*

This program has been approved for 5.25 contact hours from ASHRM and ACHE, as well as 5.1 Compliance Certification Board Continuing Education Units.

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

The Art and Science of Obstetrics Safety, Tuesday, May 17, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

CHA, in partnership with PeriGen, specialists in OB risk reduction, will provide healthcare professionals an overview of a comprehensive evidence-based OB safety program, including a discussion of perinatal high reliability programs, components of a program to eliminate birth trauma, and a thoughtful look at the issues of patient outcomes, cultural change, staff satisfaction, liability losses, and team dynamics, in the process of building an effective OB patient safety program.

Click [here](#) to register.

Building the Quality Foundation, Tuesday, May 24, 8:30 a.m. - noon

As healthcare reform continues to make clear, everyone must be involved in quality improvement and patient safety. This introductory course is designed to provide all hospital administrative, operational, clinical, and support staff with the fundamental knowledge and practical tools needed to build and sustain a culture of quality and patient safety.

Participants will gain a working knowledge of common quality terms, explore how organization culture either permits or prevents errors, why being on the sharp end of healthcare delivery is difficult when a mistake happens, and how to avoid communication breakdown – cited as the number one sentinel event reported to The Joint Commission. The presentation will review how to build PI teams, develop measures of improvement, and utilize evidence-based practices to investigate errors and learn from defects. Concepts and methods to improve hand off communication will be introduced including briefings, rounding, huddles, and other practical tools.

Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President of Quality and Patient Safety, will be the program's speaker.

Click [here](#) to register.

Sexual Harassment Prevention, Wednesday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Connecticut law requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide training and education on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace to all supervisory employees within six months of their hire or assignment to a supervisory position. Most employers, regardless of size, have discovered that whether or not they are required to provide training to their supervisory staffs, it makes good business sense to do so.

This program provides a practical, application-oriented, and cost-effective way for newly appointed supervisors and managers to fulfill the mandatory state training requirement. The format is highly interactive and uses group discussion, a video, examples, and case studies to teach participants how to recognize and deal with sexual harassment.

Click [here](#) to register.

NOTE: CHA is also pleased to support the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership by hosting its symposium on language access services on Monday, May 16, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at CHA.