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Hospital CEOs Meet with Head of CMS

Hospital CEOs and CHA staff met on Monday, April 25, with Donald M. Berwick, MD, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), who was invited to spend the day with Congressman John B. Larson, talking to healthcare providers and leaders about the state of healthcare in Connecticut.



Dr. Berwick opened his remarks by asking for “on the ground” input from hospitals leaders on CMS’s quality initiatives and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provisions. Hospital leaders shared information on their quality and patient safety initiatives and their thoughts on Accountable Care Organizations, value-based purchasing, and the newly-announced *Partnership for Patients*.

Dr. Berwick and Congressman Larson held a press conference after meeting with Governor Malloy. Dr. Berwick said Connecticut is “on track” in implementing health reform, and noted that he has visited states around the country, and has been “struck by the readiness of people to make changes.” He said the attitude he found among healthcare leaders in Connecticut, as in other places, was: “It’s time, how can we help?”

Dr. Berwick praised Connecticut hospitals for their work to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI).

CHA Board Member Named Man of the Year

Curtis D. Robinson, President of C&R Development Company, Inc., based in East Granby, a prostate cancer survivor, a member of the Board of Directors of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and a member of the CHA Board of Trustees, has been named “Man of the Year” by the African American Commission of the Connecticut State Legislature. The award will be bestowed at a ceremony on May 20 at the Legislative Office Building.



Mr. Robinson began a series of conversations with Jeffrey Steinberg, MD, Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Saint Francis, about why many African-American men delay screening for prostate cancer until the disease is in its most untreatable stages – and, as a result, die from the disease at a disproportionate rate. Out of those talks grew a commitment of \$1 million from Mr. Robinson as the charter benefactor of the Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Institute at Saint Francis.

To reach uninsured and underinsured men, the Institute conducts prostate cancer educational programs and free screenings in community locations such as churches, mosques, libraries, and barber shops. Should prostate cancer be detected, the Institute provides free treatment, including minimally invasive robotic surgery. In its first year in operation, the Institute has screened nearly one thousand men for prostate cancer, and treated 12 for the disease.

The Institute recently launched a new initiative in collaboration with Tuskegee University. Click [here](#) to read more about the Institute’s recent launch.

Save the Date: June 23 for the CHA Annual Meeting

“*Reform. Resilience. Resolve: Connecticut Hospitals Shaping the Future of Healthcare*” is the theme of the 93rd CHA Annual Meeting, which will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The meeting will begin with a one-hour business meeting and presentation of annual awards, followed by a networking session, and then a keynote

speech by Donna Brazile, political strategist and media commentator.

For more information about CHA's Annual Meeting, contact Christine Prestiano, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services, at Prestiano@chime.org.

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

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 in Boston. 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

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

There is widespread agreement that obstetrics is a complex, high-risk area in healthcare. Experts say three in 100,000 deliveries involve serious perinatal injuries that can result in serious disability or death. A comprehensive safety program using precise, standard protocols and evidenced-based guidelines can eliminate many of the adverse outcomes associated with obstetric care.

CHA is pleased to partner with PeriGen, nationally recognized specialists in OB risk reduction, to provide healthcare professionals with an exceptional program addressing an array of innovative and practical patient safety interventions, including a discussion on perinatal high reliability, a case study on eliminating birth trauma, a discussion of critical obstetric issues including inductions under 39 weeks, use of Oxytocin, and the role of laborists and midwives, and a thoughtful look at the issues of patient satisfaction, cultural change, liability losses, staff satisfaction, patient outcomes, and team dynamics in the process of developing a state of the art obstetric quality and safety program.

Several experienced obstetricians and OB/GYN specialists will serve as faculty including: Edmund Funai MD, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, and section chief at the Yale University School of Medicine; Christian Pettker MD, Yale Fellow in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Assistant Professor at Yale University; and William Cusick MD, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT.

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 (4.25 contact hours). This activity was approved by the National Association for Healthcare Quality for 4.25 CPHQ CE credits. The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Click [here](#) for the brochure. 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](#) for the brochure. 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.