



**Thursday, September 8,
2011**

OHCA Releases Annual Report On Financial Health Of Connecticut's Hospitals

The 2010 [Annual Report on the Financial Status of Connecticut's Short Term Acute Care Hospitals](#) was released this week by the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) of Connecticut's Department of Public Health. The report notes that despite ongoing economic challenges, the majority of acute care hospitals were able to improve their overall bottom-line financial performance.

However, OHCA notes that the report is released within the context of federal healthcare reform legislation passed in 2010, "which has the potential to dramatically change the healthcare landscape in the coming years." OHCA cautions that "this report focuses on the actual financial results of hospitals during Fiscal Year 2010 and therefore provides neither estimates nor projection of the potential impact of healthcare reform on individual hospitals within the State or on the State's acute care hospital system as a whole....OHCA believes that it will be critical to monitor Connecticut's acute care hospitals in order to understand federal healthcare reform's effect on the financial status of these safety net providers." The report also notes that healthcare reform and other changes, such as the imposition of the hospital tax, "may affect utilization and financial results of Connecticut's acute care hospitals for generations to come."

For more information on the impact to Connecticut's hospitals, contact Steve Frayne at frayne@chime.org.

Stop BSI Collaborative Reviews 12 Strategies To Achieve Zero Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections

On Tuesday, September 6, Connecticut hospitals participating in the "On the CUSP: Stop BSI" collaborative reviewed the 12 strategies necessary for reducing bloodstream infections compiled by the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET). HRET developed the strategy list after observing an ever-increasing number of hospitals that accomplished and sustained a rate of zero central line-associated bloodstream infections for more than a year, based on its experiences, site visits, and interactions with hospitals across the nation.

For more information about the Stop BSI collaborative and project resources, contact Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, hong@chime.org.

Hospitals Invited To Join CHA's Diversity Collaborative

CHA is launching a statewide Diversity Collaborative to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity. The Diversity Collaborative is a multi-year initiative that will structure and coordinate CHA's work in all three of these important areas.

Similar to CHA's previous statewide clinical collaborative, the Diversity Collaborative will be an intense work group committed to making changes that will improve quality and performance on a specific topic. Following the Institute for Healthcare Institute (IHI) model, hospitals identify teams who meet regularly to test different ideas and practices until they begin to see improvements. As part of the collaborative, work groups across the state participate in regular conference calls to share their improvement strategies. They also share ideas and progress. This collaborative model is one that has proven for many years and in many places to drive significant change.

In This Issue:

OHCA Releases Annual Report On Financial Health Of Connecticut's Hospitals

Stop BSI Collaborative Reviews 12 Strategies To Achieve Zero Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections

Hospitals Invited To Name Diversity Collaborative Teams

Readmission Collaborative Discusses Post-Discharge Interventions

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Discussing Possible Strategic Alliance With The Westerly Hospital

Connecticut Hospitals Well Prepared For Hurricane Irene

Education Updates

On Tuesday, October 25, 2011, CHA will launch the collaborative with a symposium on diversity and cultural competence, bringing in nationally recognized experts in the field to assist Connecticut hospitals in understanding the scope of the problem and in exploring improvement strategies. The symposium, hosted by Christopher Dadlez, CEO, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and Chairman, CHA Board of Trustees, will feature a guest panel of renowned experts, community partners, and stakeholders, and will mark the start of this multi-year initiative of team engagement, education programs, data sharing, and identification of and reporting on best practices and results.

For more information on CHA's Diversity Collaborative, contact Marie Spivey, EdD, CHA's Director of Health Equity, at spivey@chime.org.

Readmission Collaborative Discusses Post-Discharge Interventions

CHA's Reducing Heart Failure Readmission Collaborative met on Wednesday, September 7, and participants heard a presentation by Diane Collins, RN, MSN, Performance Manager, Heart and Vascular Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital, on "Interventions to Prevent Readmissions." The Yale-New Haven Hospital Team, under the executive leadership of Tom Balcezak, MD, Vice President, Performance Management, began its pilot project on two units at the start of the statewide collaborative in 2010.

Ms. Collins and colleagues detailed their experiences piloting best-practice interventions compiled by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement for post-discharge, inpatient, and the transition of care. Ms. Collins shared with the collaborative the detailed work flow chart she and her team designed, showing individual and team responsibilities, as well as the new discharge medications instruction sheet that is currently being used in the pilot project. The team is collecting data and evaluating the success of each intervention piloted. Early results are promising and utilizing the interventions in a third unit is planned. Ms. Collins underscored that "there is no magic bullet," interventions adopted on the units must be consistently carried out. She credits their multi-disciplinary team committed to implementing best practices for the success they have already seen.

For more information about CHA's Readmission Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, hong@chime.org.

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Discussing Strategic Alliance With The Westerly Hospital

Lawrence & Memorial (L&M) Hospital executives are in talks with their peers at The Westerly Hospital in Westerly, Rhode Island, about a possible strategic alliance.

New London-based L&M announced last week that it has signed a non-binding letter of intent with Westerly, just over the state line in Rhode Island. The letter authorizes start of a due diligence process to determine if a merger or other form of affiliation is in the best interests of the institutions and their communities, L&M and Westerly said in a press release.

"In these challenging times, and given the enormous changes being thrust upon hospitals, it is increasingly common for hospitals to explore opportunities to lower costs and enhance patient care through new organizational models and new inter-organizational relationships," L&M President and CEO Bruce D. Cummings said in the release.

Connecticut Hospitals Well Prepared For Hurricane Irene

Connecticut hospitals' preparation and advanced planning served their communities well during Hurricane Irene, which landed in Connecticut on the weekend of August 27, and throughout its aftermath. Several hospitals lost power, as did many more satellite hospital facilities such as nursing homes, clinics, satellite emergency departments, occupational health centers, cancer centers, and radiology units. Operations continued on emergency generator power, and in some cases hospitals converted to generator power to ensure that fluctuations in power did not affect medical equipment.

Johnson Memorial Hospital's generator failed after the hospital lost power, so that hospital was evacuated on Sunday afternoon, with patients being transferred to neighboring hospitals. Power was restored to all hospitals on Sunday, though some satellite locations remained on generator power for several days following the storm. Among the issues hospitals faced, in addition to power outages, were minor flooding, roof and window leakage, and downed trees. In spite of the difficulties on the roads and their own personal circumstances, most of the hospital caregivers made it to work.

On behalf of communities across the state, thank you for the hard work, preparation, and commitment.

Education Updates

Leaping from Staff to Management: The Next Steps, Wednesday, September 14, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Whether you have recently been assigned to the role of manager or you are a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well your problem-solving and decision-making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended our first program “Leaping from Staff to Management: You’re a Manager - Now What?” in June, this follow-up course is ideal for all managers who want to continually improve their skills.

The facilitator is Victor Walton, MA, routinely rated as an outstanding speaker by participants who have attended this CHA course in the past.

Click [here](#) to register. For more information, contact CHA Education Services at educationservices@chime.org.

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). This program has been approved for 5.5 hours of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Lean Principles in Healthcare, September 22, October 6, October 20, October 27, November 3; 8:30 a.m.-noon

The financial, clinical, and technology-driven changes resulting from health reform continue to challenge hospitals and healthcare providers to redefine and deliver value. Please join us for the “**Lean Principles in Healthcare**” series to learn the principles and practical skills needed to help your organization achieve operational excellence.

The first course, “**Learning Lean Fundamentals**” will be held at CHA on Thursday, September 22, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and will launch this five-module program. Class size will be limited to 25 participants, to facilitate a highly interactive learning environment, and preference will be given to those who register for the entire series.

For more information, contact CHA Education Services at educationservices@chime.org.

Click [here](#) for the brochure and for a printable registration form for all five courses.

Compliance Update: Expanded OFCCP Jurisdiction Over Hospital and Healthcare Providers, Tuesday, September 27, 9:00 a.m.--noon

Recent decisions by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC) have expanded the agency’s program jurisdiction over hospitals and healthcare providers, triggering affirmative action obligations and the possibility of intrusive OFCCP compliance audits. This half-day program will discuss and distinguish three cases relevant to the issue of OFCCP jurisdiction: *OFCCP v. Bridgeport*, *OFCCP v. UPMC Braddock*, and *OFCCP v. Florida Hospital of Orlando*—a case that is now on appeal. The session will describe specific compliance requirements that come into play if jurisdiction is established. Requirements that are triggered under Connecticut law for those hospitals that may have contracts with certain State agencies will also be reviewed.

In addition, new NLRB notice requirements, along with the proposed NLRB quick election rule, and the proposed US Department of Labor “persuader” rules will be discussed. John G. Zandy, a partner at Wiggin and Dana and chair of its Labor, Employment and Benefits Department, will present the program.

Click [here](#) to register. For more information, contact CHA Education Services at educationservices@chime.org.

Navigating Medicare Cost Report Changes for Acute Care Hospital Filing, Thursday, September 29, 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Co-sponsored by CHA and the Connecticut Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) this program will provide participants with an update on changes to the Form 2552-10, as well as insight into new worksheets, changes in software, transferring prior year data, utilizing the PS&R reconciliation tool, and much more. The program also provides time for an open discussion of current events (taxes, DSH Audits, DSH & Supplemental Payments, ASO Developments, etc.). Speakers from the National Government Services, Inc. (NGS), Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for Connecticut and New York, and Health Financial Systems (HFS) will present this program.

Click [here](#) to view brochure; and [here](#) to register. For more information, contact CHA Education Services at educationservices@chime.org.

