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**Connecticut's Hospitals Gather to Address Emergency Preparedness
CHA, DPH Sponsor Conference on Planning for a Public Health Crisis**

Wallingford, CT — Planning for a catastrophic healthcare crisis was the focus today for clinical, administrative, and operational healthcare leaders from throughout Connecticut attending *Emergency Preparedness – Standards of Care During Prolonged Health Emergencies*. In collaboration with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the full-day program featured state and national experts in healthcare disaster planning.

Among the nationally recognized experts addressing the gathering were Stephen Cantrill, MD, Denver Health Medical Center, speaking on *Disaster Alternate Care Facilities: The Old, The New, and The Difficult* and Dan Hanfling, MD, Director of Emergency Management and Disaster Medicine, Inova Health System, Falls Church, VA, presenting *Crisis Standards of Care: A Review of the IOM Report (and Reflection from Haiti)*. Dr. Hanfling's September 2009 publication, "Guidance for Establishing Standards of Care," outlined those patients who should receive the limited resources available in a crisis, who decides this, and when these standards of care should be adopted.

Kathryn Brinsfield, MD, Medical Director for the United States Department of Homeland Security, addressed *Disasters, Resources, and Standards of Care*. Dr. Brinsfield discussed creating a standard of care matrix that is right for each individual organization, building on work that has already been done. She emphasized the importance of creating awareness, and implementing and communicating the best ways to move resources in a time of crisis.

Representatives from the Department of Public Health led a discussion on a [draft white paper](#), "Standards of Care: Providing Healthcare During a Prolonged Public Health Emergency," to provide crisis planning guidance for healthcare facilities and providers. Public forums to discuss the white paper and gather public input will be held throughout the state in March and April, and the public is encouraged to submit comments electronically at www.ct.gov/dph/standardsofcare.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.