



Thursday, January 6, 2011

## 2011 Legislative Session Convenes

On Wednesday, January 5, 2011, Dannel Patrick Malloy (*pictured below*) was sworn in as Connecticut's 88<sup>th</sup> Governor, marking the first time a Democrat has held the position of Governor since William O'Neill left office in 1991. In addition to Governor Malloy, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and other constitutional officers were sworn in for four-year terms. Members of the Connecticut General Assembly were sworn in for two-year terms.



Mostly ceremonial in nature, Opening Day of the 2011 Legislative Session included the swearing-in of legislators at 10:00 a.m., followed by the adoption of the Joint Rules, under which legislative committees and the legislature as a whole will operate during the next two years. Governor Dan Malloy was sworn into office at 2:00 p.m. at the William A. O'Neill State Armory. During brief [remarks](#) at the State Armory, Governor Malloy expressed optimism for the state's future, but returned to his previously stated theme of shared sacrifice as a way to bring about fiscal solvency. He followed these remarks with a 3:30 p.m. address to a Joint Session of the General Assembly, in which the new Governor laid out the broad themes and goals of his administration. In this [address](#), the Governor echoed his

earlier remarks, striking a balance between a brighter future and hard choices that need to be made in addressing the anticipated multi-billion dollar state budget deficit. The details of Governor Malloy's budget proposal will be made public on February 16.

As promised, after the election Governor Malloy's first official act was to sign three Executive Orders, most notably the executive order calling for the state to begin to transition into Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Also as part of the Opening Day festivities, Senator Donald Williams (D-Brooklyn) was sworn in as President Pro Tempore and Representative Chris Donovan (D-Meriden) was sworn in as Speaker of the House. Legislative Committee membership was announced with committees scheduled to meet within the next week to organize and begin their work for the current session.

Legislative leaders for the 2011-2012 session include:

- Senate President Pro Tempore: Senator Donald Williams (D-Brooklyn)
- Senate Majority Leader: Senator Martin Looney (D-New Haven)
- Senate Republican Leader: Senator John McKinney (R-Southport)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Representative Christopher Donovan (D-Meriden)
- House Majority Leader: Representative Brendan Sharkey (D-Hamden)
- House Republican Leader: Representative Lawrence Cafero, Jr. (R-Norwalk)

Click [here](#) for a list of 2011-2012 House and Senate Committee Chair appointments for the committees that have cognizance over hospital and healthcare-related issues.

Also on Wednesday, members of Connecticut's congressional delegation took the oath of office in Washington DC, with Richard Blumenthal being sworn in as the state's junior US Senator. Senator Blumenthal, the only newly-elected Democrat in the US Senate during the last election cycle, takes the Senate seat previously held by Christopher Dodd. Returning to the US House of Representatives and also sworn into office were: John Larson (D-1), Joe Courtney (D-2), Rosa DeLauro (D-3), Jim Himes (D-4), and Chris Murphy (D-5).

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## CHA Vice President Jeannette DeJesús Tapped As Special Healthcare Advisor

In his last full day as “Governor-Elect,” Dan Malloy made several appointments, including naming CHA Vice President Jeannette DeJesús to a cabinet-level position, as both the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and Special Advisor to the Governor on Healthcare Reform. Then-Governor-Elect Malloy lauded Ms. DeJesús’s experience and called her the administration’s point person to lead Connecticut’s efforts to implement federal healthcare reform. She will succeed Cristine Vogel, who led health reform implementation efforts as a special advisor to Governor M. Jodi Rell.

As Vice President, Strategic Alliances, Ms. DeJesús was leading CHA’s priority of advancing policy and developing strategies to address community health issues in Connecticut. Jennifer Jackson, CHA’s President and CEO, said, “Jeannette has been instrumental in planning CHA’s work in engaging communities and improving community health. While we will miss her at CHA, we are pleased that her talents, expertise, and commitment to healthcare have been recognized by the new Governor. We look forward to working with her in her new role, which will be critical to advancing our goals for improving the healthcare system in Connecticut.”

Governor Malloy also announced the appointment of State Representative Deb Heinrich (D-Madison) to a newly-created cabinet-level position within his administration, to advocate specifically on behalf of nonprofit providers. Representative Heinrich will serve as the head of the Community Nonprofit Human Services Cabinet, a position that will function at the same level as commissioner of a state agency.

Representative Heinrich is a three-term legislator who resigned her member-elect status and was not sworn in to a new term as a member of the General Assembly. In addition, the Governor named two state government veterans, Mike Christ and James DeSantos, as the new legislative liaisons for the Governor’s Office. Mr. Christ was a former State Representative from East Hartford and most recently served as legal counsel to the House Democratic Caucus. Mr. DeSantos is currently a government relations associate at Sullivan & LeShane with experience as an aide for both the House Democratic and Senate Democratic Caucuses.

## CHA to Host 2011 Executive Summit on Healthcare Reform on January 26



International health strategy consultant, lecturer, and author James E. Orlikoff will provide the keynote address at CHA’s 2011 Healthcare Executive Summit on health reform implications for hospitals, physicians, and boards. Jamie Orlikoff has been involved in leadership, quality, and health strategy issues for more than 30 years and currently is National Advisor on Governance and Leadership to the American Hospital Association and Health Forum, and Senior Consultant to the Center for Healthcare Governance. The Summit will also include presentations on Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and clinical integration—including the legal implications of ACOs, and a session on physician-led approaches to managing medical staff quality and financial performance.

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

## Deadline Extended for Joining CHA’s New Patient Safety Program To Reduce Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections

Beginning in 2011, CHA will kick off an expansion of the national *Stop BSI* patient safety program called “*On the CUSP: Stop CAUTI*,” aimed at reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). CAUTIs are the most prevalent healthcare-associated infection and one of eight hospital-acquired conditions penalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid because they are largely preventable events. The program is open to all CHA PSO-participating hospitals.

This program will complement an organization’s current strategies aimed at eliminating these infections, and will provide additional patient safety improvement training with experts in the field. With the support of the Health Research & Educational Trust of the American Hospital Association, Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group, and the Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, the program will assist in:

- Implementing the evidence-based *Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program* (CUSP) on participating units;
- Reducing the CAUTI rate in participating units by an average of 25 percent;
- Improving *Hospital Survey on Patient Safety* (HSOPS) scores;
- Learning from faculty from the Keystone Center and Johns Hopkins on how to apply the CUSP program to improve safety at the point of care in hospital units; and

- Learning how to apply CAUTI reduction tools from expert consultants.

The program will begin with a set of calls designed to fully familiarize the teams with the initiative, and will continue for 18 months, with subsequent cohorts joining at set intervals. For more information, please contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety, at [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org) by **January 15, 2011**.

## Education Updates

### **OPPS Final Rule, Wednesday, January 12, 8:30 a.m. - noon**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2011, defining what CMS will be implementing for OPSS in 2011. The Final Rule documents CMS's final decisions regarding its proposed changes, including composite Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs), drug administration, visits, partial hospitalization, implantable biologicals, physician supervision (more changes), pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation, reduced payments for therapy services, and new codes for 2011. In addition, the Final Rule continues to address quality reporting of outpatient services.

*This program is approved for **3.0 hours of Category II credit** through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).*

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

### **The Care of Psychiatric Patients in Emergency Settings, Tuesday, January 11, 2011, either 9:00 a.m. - noon, or 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m**

Urgent mental health presentations in Emergency Departments nationally have risen dramatically and are a significant percentage of all ED visits. Patients with psychiatric conditions benefit greatly from a well organized and collaborative care environment. Co-sponsored with The William W. Backus Hospital, this conference—offered in one of two sessions—will review the prevalence of psychiatric emergencies, the varied models of delivering urgent psychiatric interventions, and the major goals of emergency psychiatric care. The keynote speaker, Scott Zeller, MD, is the Chief of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Alameda County Medical Center in Oakland, CA, President of the American Association of Emergency Psychiatry, and co-editor of *Emergency Psychiatry: Principles and Practice*.

*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 (2.5 contact hours). The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 2.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.*

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

### **Getting to the Heart of Conflict—Skills for Healthy Conflict Management, Tuesday, January 18, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work. What is not so clear, is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. Joan Evans, MBA, Chief Learning Officer for the Moses Cone Health System in North Carolina, will return to CHA to present this full-day, highly interactive program, frequently requested by supervisors and managers attending prior management development programs.

*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 (5.25 contact hours). The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 5.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. This activity was approved by the National Association for Healthcare Quality for 5.25 CPHQ CE credits. This program is approved for 5.0 hours of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). This program has been approved for 5.25 (general) recertification credit hours toward PHR, SPHR and GPHR recertification through the HR Certification Institute.*

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