



Thursday, January 10, 2013

Hospital Leaders Develop Safety Culture

On January 10, nearly 100 people from hospitals participating in CHA's High Reliability Safety Culture Collaborative participated in the first in a series of leadership training sessions designed to help hospital leaders develop and sustain a top-down culture of safety.

Hospital leaders discussed strategies for elevating safety as a core value, adopting behavior expectations for error prevention, detection, and correction, and developing a leadership method for building and reinforcing accountability for performance expectations. Hospitals that institute a culture of safety see results in the form of decreased events of preventable harm and increased satisfaction and financial performance.

The statewide program to eliminate all cause preventable harm in Connecticut, the first of its kind in the nation, was formally launched on March 23, 2012, at the CHA's annual Patient Safety Summit.

CHA is working with Healthcare Performance Improvement (HPI), a national leader in using high reliability science, to improve safety. HPI brings its experience improving reliability in nuclear power, transportation, and manufacturing. HPI has worked with more than 400 hospitals and health systems across the country to achieve reductions in serious safety event rates of up to 90 percent.



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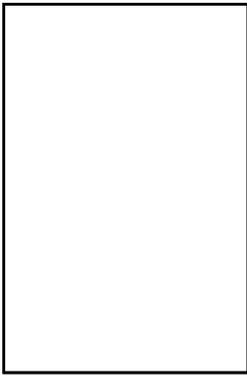
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Bridgeport Hospital CEO William Jennings Appointed to American College of Healthcare Executives' Council of Regents

William M. Jennings, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bridgeport Hospital and Executive Vice President of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), has been appointed to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The Council of Regents serves as



the vital link between ACHE and members by approving governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services, and activities within their respective areas. As a regent, Jennings will represent ACHE's membership in Connecticut.

"As a key member of the Yale New Haven Health System senior leadership team, Bill has done an exceptional job of advancing our strategic focus on patient care quality and safety," said Marna P. Borgstrom, President and CEO of YNHHS. "Bill is committed to developing and mentoring the next generation of healthcare executives, and his leadership at ACHE will help to advance that."

Mr. Jennings will take office at the Council of Regents meeting on March 9, 2013, during ACHE's 56th Congress on Healthcare Leadership.

2013 Legislative Session Convenes



Photo credit: wtnh.com

On Wednesday, January 9, 2013, the members of Connecticut's General Assembly, elected on November 6, 2012, were sworn in and officially began their two-year terms as members of the House of Representatives and the State Senate. In total, of the 187 members of the General Assembly, there are 27 new members in the House of Representatives and five new members in the State Senate.

Mostly ceremonial in nature, opening day of the 2013 Legislative Session included the swearing-in of legislators at 10:00 a.m., followed by the adoption of the House, Senate, and Joint Rules under which legislative committees and the legislature as a whole will operate during the next two years. Shortly after noon, Gov. Malloy addressed the General Assembly in a joint session. In his [State of the State Address](#), Gov. Malloy laid out the broad themes of his budgetary and legislative goals for the 2013 Legislative Session.

Gov. Malloy emotionally discussed the tragedy in Newtown and his commitment to protecting children from gun violence. He spoke about his dedication to improving education, meeting energy needs, and providing opportunities for economic development. The Governor spoke of tough budget decisions, saying that two years ago Connecticut faced the single largest per-capita deficit in the nation, but lawmakers came together and passed a balanced budget. "Even after revenues came in short," he said, "we know today that our budget as enacted fixed more than 90 percent of the problem. Last month, Democrats and Republicans came together to make sure we closed that final gap without raising taxes. I know that many of you cast hard votes to fix those problems. That's the kind of resolve and leadership that we're bringing back to Connecticut." Gov. Malloy later went on to say "We've all had to buckle down and make tough choices. We're going to make more of them in the weeks and months ahead."

The precise details of Gov. Malloy's budget proposal will be made public in mid-February.

Also as part of the opening day festivities, Sen. Donald Williams (D-Brooklyn) was sworn in as President Pro Tempore, and Rep. Brendan Sharkey (D-Hampden) was sworn in as Speaker of the House. Legislative Committee [leadership](#) was previously announced and made official with the members being sworn into office. In the coming weeks, legislative committees will meet to organize and begin to raise concepts and bills for consideration during the session.

Legislative leaders for the 2013-2014 Legislative Session include:

- Senate President Pro Tempore: Sen. Donald Williams (D-Brooklyn)
- Senate Majority Leader: Sen. Martin Looney (D-New Haven)
- Senate Republican Leader: Sen. John McKinney (R-Southport)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Rep. Brendan Sharkey (D-Hampden)
- House Majority Leader: Rep. Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin)
- House Republican Leader: Rep. Lawrence Cafero, Jr. (R-Norwalk)

Legislative Committee Assignments Made



New House and Senate committee assignments were recently announced and became effective when the General Assembly was sworn into office yesterday. As with the start of any legislative session, committee appointments are made by each chamber's caucus leaders. Due to a number of retirements and changes in the General Assembly membership, coupled with a new Speaker of the House, there are several changes to the leadership of the various legislative committees.

For the Democrats, Sen. Gayle Slossberg (D-Milford) will serve as co-chair of the Human Services Committee, newly elected Sen. Cathy Osten (D-Baltic) was named co-chair of the Labor & Public Employees Committee, and Sen. John Fonfara (D-Hartford) will co-chair the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee. Those senators returning as chairmen include Sen. Terry Gerrattana (D-New Britain) as co-chair of the Public Health Committee, Sen. Toni Harp (D-New Haven) as co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Joe Crisco (D-Woodbridge) as co-chair of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, and Sen. Eric Coleman (D-Bloomfield) as co-chair of the Judiciary Committee. A complete list of Senate Democratic committee assignments can be found [here](#).

For the Republicans, Sen. Jason Welch (R-Bristol) will continue to serve as ranking member of the Public Health Committee, Sen. Joe Markley (R-Southington) will continue to serve as ranking member of the Human Services Committee, and Sen. Kevin Kelly (R-Stratford) will continue to serve as the ranking member of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee. Senate Republican committee assignments can be found [here](#).

Many changes were made to House leadership posts. Of note, the Public Health Committee will be chaired by Rep. Susan Johnson (D-Windham), and Rep. Phil Miller (D-Ivoryton) will serve as vice chair. The Human Services Committee will be chaired by Rep. Cathy Abercrombie (D-Meriden), with Rep. Charles Stallworth (D-Bridgeport) serving as vice chair. Also of note, Rep. Toni Walker (D-New Haven) will continue to chair the Appropriations Committee, Rep. Patricia Widlitz (D-Guilford) will continue to chair the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee, Rep. Robert Megna (D-New Haven) will continue to chair the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, and Rep. Gerry Fox (D-Stamford) will continue to chair the Judiciary Committee. A complete list of House Democratic committee assignments can be found [here](#).

For the Republicans, Rep. Prasad Srinivasan (R-Glastonbury) was named ranking member of the Public Health Committee and Rep. Terrie Wood (R-Darien) was named as the House's ranking member of the Human Services Committee. A complete list of the House Republican committee assignments can be found [here](#).

Hospitals Highlight Connecticut Policy Makers



Over the course of the next several weeks, CHA will profile newly elected members of Connecticut's congressional delegation and key leaders in healthcare in the Connecticut General Assembly. The elected officials profiled in the coming weeks will play a new and or important role in the decisions being made in Washington and Hartford. The first profile in the series is with Connecticut's newest member of the congressional delegation, U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty.

U.S. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty: Representing Connecticut's 5th Congressional District



U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty (D-5) was first elected to the U.S. Congress on November 6, 2012, and was sworn into office on January 3, 2013. Rep. Esty represents Connecticut's 5th Congressional [District](#), comprising 41 [communities](#) in Litchfield, New Haven, Fairfield, and Hartford Counties. She holds the congressional seat vacated when Chris Murphy ran for the U.S. Senate.

An attorney, Rep. Esty previously served two terms on the Cheshire town council and served one term (2009-2010) in the Connecticut House of Representatives. In addition to being an active member of her church, Rep. Esty's community service includes involvement in her local Chamber of Commerce. She is involved with the League of Women Voters, Land Trust, the Cheshire Public Library, and the United Way.

In her professional capacity outside of elected office, Rep. Esty previously worked as an attorney in the Washington, D.C. firm of Sidley Austin LLP, served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Robert Keeton, District of Massachusetts, and taught law as an adjunct professor in the Justice, Law, and Society Program at American University.

As a member of Congress, Rep. Esty will serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. She has also been named as one of 13 U.S. House members to serve on a recently formed special task force designed to prevent gun violence.

Rep. Esty is a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School. She lives in Cheshire with her husband Dan. They have three children: Sarah, Thomas, and Jonathan.

Rep. Esty joins Reps. John Larson (D-1), Joe Courtney (D-2), Rosa DeLauro (D-3), Jim Himes (D-4), and U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D) and Chris Murphy (D) as a member of Connecticut's legislative delegation in Washington. CHA congratulates Rep. Esty and her colleagues on their elections, and looks forward to working with her and the other members of Connecticut's delegation on issues of importance to Connecticut hospitals.

Flu Activity on the Rise

Flu activity continues to rise across the country, and is widespread and increasing in Connecticut, according to the [Department of Public Health](#) (DPH). DPH says that the percentage of total Emergency Department visits attributed to the fever and flu has increased to its current high level of 10.4 percent. Several Connecticut hospitals have put visitor restrictions in place to limit exposure to the virus.

Nationwide, the proportion of Americans seeing their healthcare providers for the flu has doubled over the past four weeks to 5.6 percent, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

The primary flu strain circulating this year is the same as the 2003 strain, which killed more than 48,000 people – double the average number of yearly flu deaths. The CDC's latest flu activity mapping can be found [here](#).

Education Updates

CHA Regulatory Series – Wage and Hour Law Review

Monday, January 14, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This practical and informative program, a perennial favorite of members, will clarify the laws and address real or hypothetical participant questions on regulatory interpretation to ensure wage and hour compliance. The program will serve as a refresher for those generally familiar with wage and hour compliance issues, and as an introduction to key issues for those with new responsibilities in this area.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

View the brochure [here](#). Register [here](#).

Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training

Wednesday, January 23, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, CHA is again pleased to offer Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training (CC&DIT) – a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program to achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care. The CC&DIT curriculum was developed in direct response to member requests for help in providing diversity education and is structured as a two-module program, each session five hours in duration – delivered once each week over a two-week period. Training content is based on current research that emphasizes the idea that cultural competence is not achieved through a single training event, but is a lifelong commitment to learning and professional skills development. The second session date is Wednesday, January 30th.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

View the brochure [here](#). Register [here](#).

2013 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Updates

Friday, January 25, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

National expert Diana Scott, VHA, will join us to present a full-day program outlining the 2013 Joint Commission Standards, specific changes in the standards, and National Patient Safety Goals. She will highlight specific challenges in the goals, and discuss strategies and best practices to address them. CHA is also pleased to have Mark Crafton, Executive Director of State and External Relations at The Joint Commission (TJC), and Ann Scott Blouin, Executive Vice President of Customer Relations at TJC, open the program. The program will include a review of the new Intra Cycle Monitoring Process, the CMS CoP changes impacting TJC standards, and national patient safety goals with strategies for compliance.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

View the brochure [here](#). Register [here](#).