



Thursday,
January 12, 2012

SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hospital Association's
94th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2012
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

More information to come.

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CHA Diversity Collaborative Team Kickoff

On Wednesday, nearly 100 representatives from hospitals across the state met for a team kickoff meeting of the **CHA Diversity Collaborative: *From Intent to Impact***. Collaborative teams will be implementing critical initiatives to improve diversity and strengthen hospital cultural competency. The meeting focused on the three key objectives of the multi-year, statewide initiative:

- Increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management;
- Improve cultural competence in the delivery of care; and
- Increase supplier diversity.

Through the collaborative, hospital teams will work together to identify improvement strategies and interventions, and share best practices. Hospital teams reviewed planned interventions, measures, and data collection to track performance. Hospital teams will engage in ongoing educational programs consisting of a comprehensive program of webinars, educational sessions, and conference calls. An initial learning session on the practice areas of valuing, creating, leveraging, and managing diversity was led by Brenda and Carlton Oneal of Light Speed, leadership consultants with an expertise in diversity.

Eliminating disparities, increasing diversity, and achieving health equity are top priorities of the CHA Board of Trustees. The Diversity Collaborative was developed by a special CHA Board subcommittee and is overseen by the Committee on Human Resources of the CHA Board. The program launched in October 2011, with a successful Symposium hosted by CHA Board Chairman Chris Dadlez, CEO of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

We invite you to read more about the [Diversity Collaborative](#) and watch a [video](#) about the October Symposium.



Two Storm Panel Releases Report

On Monday, January 9, Governor Malloy's Two Storm Panel issued its final [report](#) in response to its task to assess the state's preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of Tropical Storm Irene and the October 29, 2011 Nor'easter snowstorm. The report acknowledges the critical role hospitals play in their communities during prolonged and large-scale disasters, with several recommendations focused on the healthcare provider community.

In total, the report includes 82 recommendations on a variety of topics. Those of interest to hospitals can be viewed [here](#).

The Two Storm Panel first met on September 28, 2011, and held eight public hearings where it received testimony from more than 100 expert witnesses, including testimony from Connecticut hospitals.

As a follow-up to the release of the Two Storm Panel report, on Wednesday, January 11, Governor Malloy held a news conference to outline his [proposals](#) to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery efforts from future storms and natural disasters.

The Governor's initiatives include legislative proposals in addition to changes to administrative procedures. The initiatives also include a focus on improving operations in performance, management and communications, preparedness and training, and infrastructure. With regard to items with a potential impact to hospitals, the Governor proposed to:

- Require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security hold a real-time exercise that all five DEMHS regions will participate in before September;
- Explore amending the Good Samaritan Law or Title 28 to allow community providers to provide sheltering services to the general public in a declared state of emergency; and
- Convert many of the DEMHS task forces that were used successfully in the two storms into work groups under the DEMHS Advisory Council, including the State Mass Care work group that is working to address the Two Storm panel's recommendations on sheltering.

Connecticut Legislators Announce Support for Amicus Brief Supporting the PPACA

Today the co-chairs of the Legislature's Public Health Committee – State Representative Betsy Ritter (D-Quaker Hill) and State Senator Terry Gerratana (D-New Britain) – together with Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan (D-Meriden) and several other state lawmakers, held a press conference to announce that they are backing a brief filed by the US Supreme Court supporting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Nearly 50 Connecticut lawmakers have joined more than 450 lawmakers across the country to support the constitutionality of the PPACA.

[Read the amicus brief.](#)

Connecticut Hospital Community Health and Community Benefit Initiatives Highlighted Nationally

This week, the American Hospital Association (AHA) released the seventh edition of [Community Connections: Ideas and Innovations for Hospital Leaders](#), a case example book series that highlights the ways in which hospitals are working to meet their community's social and basic needs, promote community health and wellness, improve access and coverage, and enhance the quality of life for the people they serve. The seventh edition features two Connecticut hospital programs – New Milford Hospital's Plow to Plate® Program and MidState Medical Center's Geriatric Outreach Program. In collaboration with food service vendors, farmers, hospital staff, and community leaders, the Plow to Plate Program is designed to improve nutritional help by developing a sustainable food system. The Geriatric Outreach Program, conducted in partnership with other area senior centers, provides accessible health monitoring services to seniors via regularly scheduled clinics and other initiatives. Both of these programs are making a demonstrable difference in the health of their communities. The AHA's [Community Connections website](#) provides case examples of how hospitals are meeting community needs. A number of Connecticut hospital community health programs have been highlighted in this online resource since it began publishing in 2006.

CHA hospitals' community benefit work will also be highlighted at a session during the 2012 Association of Community Health Improvement (ACHI) National Conference, *Elevating Community Health Practice*, which will be held on March 14-16 in Denver, Colorado. A team of CHA and Connecticut hospital representatives will provide an overview of the first voluntary statewide community benefit initiative during the session *Building Connecticut's Community Benefit Partnership: One State's Vision*. This session will focus on how the association and its member hospitals built a comprehensive statewide initiative that has increased awareness of hospitals' contributions to their communities as well as helped hospitals inventory, quantify, and publicly report on their community benefit programs. For more information about this conference and program, click [here](#).

Special Election: Democrats Retain Connecticut House of Representatives Seat

On Tuesday, January 10, voters from New Britain and Newington elected Rick Lopes (D-New Britain) as their new representative to the Connecticut House of Representatives. Representative-elect Lopes beat Republican challenger Peter Steele, and petitioning candidate Tom Bozek. Results show Lopes received nearly 800 votes, while Republican Peter Steele tallied nearly 600, and petitioning candidate Thomas Bozek received more than 400 votes. The results are considered preliminary until certified by the Secretary of State's office.

A project manager at the state's Department of Administrative Services, Mr. Lopes previously served as a New Britain alderman and legislative aide to former Senator Don DeFronzo (D-New Britain).

The 24th District House seat was left vacant as a result of the resignation of Tim O'Brien (D-New Britain) on November 15, a week after O'Brien was elected mayor of New Britain. This was the second special election in less than a year for some New Britain voters, after former state Senator Donald DeFronzo vacated his senate seat to take a job with the Malloy Administration as the commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services.

There are 151 members of the Connecticut House of Representatives. With these election results, there are currently 99 Democrats and 52 Republicans.

Representative-elect Lopes will be sworn into office prior to the start of the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins on February 8, 2012.

CHA congratulates Representative-elect Lopes and looks forward to working with him on legislative and budgetary matters of interest to the hospital community.

Health Spending Growth Slow in 2010

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported this week in the [National Health Expenditure](#) report that US spending on healthcare remained slow in 2010, growing only 3.9% to \$2.6 trillion. The 2010 rate of spending surpassed the 2009 record low of 3.8% growth by only a fraction.

The report noted that, in 2010, consumers continued to postpone medical care, as demonstrated by a decline in median inpatient admissions and slowing growth in emergency department visits, outpatient visits and outpatient surgeries.

Education Updates

Webinar: The Value of Strategic Planning for ICD-10 Readiness January 18, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Scuba divers, when undertaking a risky dive, are told, "plan your dive" and "dive your plan." Undertaking the ICD-10 transition is just as risky for your institution; therefore, you should "plan your transition" and "transition with a plan."

This session will share lessons you can learn from other providers who have developed a transition plan and what the key points should be for your own organization's strategic plan for ICD-10 readiness. Even if you already have developed a transition plan, participation in this webinar will be a good double-check to ensure your plan's thoroughness.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Coaching Skills to Improve Performance January 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Effective managers from all walks of life have discovered that the skills similar to what successful coaches use to create winning athletic teams are applicable in an organizational setting as well. In fact, the ability to have effective coaching conversations with colleagues and employees is a critical skill for leaders today. So what are the characteristics of a successful coach—and how do coaching skills help to develop a culture of excellence, reliability, and accountability? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging and mentoring growth, active listening, providing constructive feedback, asking insightful questions, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process. In this highly interactive program, participants will learn how coaching is different from other developmental strategies, understand the coaching process, and practice coaching tools and techniques.

This program, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, has been approved for 4.75 hours of ACHE Qualified Education credit toward advancement or recertification in the American College of Healthcare Executives and

by the National Association for Healthcare Quality for 5 CPHQ CE credits. Additionally, this program has met the HR Certification Institute's criteria to be pre-approved for recertification credit (5 credit hours).

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 contact hours).

**Member Briefing on the CHA Statewide Policy on Mandatory Influenza Vaccination
February 7, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Last month, the CHA Board of Trustees adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory flu vaccination of hospital staff as part of CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety. Several Connecticut hospitals have already made influenza vaccination mandatory, requiring all employees regardless of position to be vaccinated unless a valid medical reason contraindicating vaccination exists, in which case the employee must wear a mask.

A multidisciplinary panel of representatives from those hospitals will share information on how they developed and implemented their policies, including how they addressed medical staff considerations and human resources/union issues, and developed their communications and public relations strategy. The program will also include ample Q&A and discussion time.

Please plan to join us for this timely and practical session, which is offered exclusively to CHA provider members.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).