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**In This Issue:****Save the Date: CHA's 99th Annual Meeting****Improving the Health of Communities Through Healthy Foods****New Study Finds Connecticut Would Lose Jobs Under ACA Repeal****Governor Nominates Ted Doolittle as Connecticut Healthcare Advocate****Legislative Committee Assignments Announced****Education Updates****Save the Date: CHA's 99th Annual Meeting****Improving the Health of Communities Through Healthy Foods**

Update Archives



A group of hospital and community health workers gathered on January 9 at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) to discuss the ways in which they can improve the health of communities by improving access to healthy foods.

The program, *Connecticut Health Care: Strengthening our Communities through Food System Action*, covered a wide range of topics, including how hospitals and other healthcare organizations can devote community benefit resources to improve access to healthy foods and support the local food system. Participants also discussed the role of healthcare purchasing to support farmers and fishermen, how investing in local foods improves economic security and community health, and how community-hospital partnerships can address food insecurity.

In her introductory remarks, Liz Beaudin, RN, PhD, Senior Director, Population Health, CHA, talked briefly about the hospital association's focus on social determinants of health, noting that access to healthy food is essential to having a healthy population.

"This is a great way to look at one of the foundational ways we can improve health," Dr. Beaudin said.

Program speakers noted that those without access to fresh food are more likely to suffer from poor health. They emphasized the importance of hospitals playing a leadership role in addressing issues related to food insecurity by helping to reveal health trends through the community benefit report and by providing access to the types of foods that patients most need.

Organizations described their work to help improve the availability of healthy foods throughout the state, noting that solutions work best for the community when they are part of the fabric of the community.

The event was sponsored by Health Care Without Harm, CHA, the City of New Haven, and Hartford Food System.

**New Study Finds Connecticut Would Lose Jobs Under ACA Repeal**

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) federal premium tax credits and Medicaid expansion to low-income adults would lead to a \$140 billion cut to federal healthcare funding and 2.9 million job losses nationally in 2019 – including 36,000 in [Connecticut](#) – according to a [report](#) from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University and The Commonwealth Fund.

Forty percent of the 36,000 jobs lost in Connecticut under a repeal would be from the healthcare sector, according to the report's findings. Another 11 percent would be lost in construction and real estate, 9 percent in retail, 9 percent in finance and insurance, and 2 percent from the public sector. The final 29 percent of the job losses would come from an "other" category not specified in the report.

The report also found that, between 2019 and 2023, Connecticut stands to lose \$23.3 billion in gross state product, \$39.1 billion in business output, and \$747.5 million in state and local taxes under a repeal of the ACA.

While acknowledging the impact health reform repeal could have on individuals who would lose access to healthcare, the report said the "analysis demonstrates that the consequences could be broader and extend well beyond the healthcare system."

"If replacement policies are not in position, state economic losses will rise," the report concluded. "From 2019 to 2023, there will be a cumulative \$1.5 trillion loss in gross state products and a \$2.6 trillion reduction in business output (combined transactions at the production, wholesale and retail levels). State and local taxes also will fall during this period, dropping by \$48 billion."



The federal premium tax credits administered through the ACA help low- and moderate-income Americans purchase coverage in the health insurance marketplaces. The federal government also covers most of the cost of covering newly eligible adults for states that expand Medicaid eligibility.

## Governor Nominates Ted Doolittle as Connecticut Healthcare Advocate



Governor Dannel Malloy has nominated Ted Doolittle to serve as Connecticut's Healthcare Advocate, a job that entails advocating for patients' rights and educating consumers about their rights to healthcare and health insurance coverage.

Mr. Doolittle, an attorney who lives in West Hartford, currently serves as Division Director for the Enforcement Unit of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection's Occupational and Professional Division. In that role, he is responsible for investigating and resolving consumer complaints regarding a wide variety of occupations and professions licensed by the state.

Mr. Doolittle issued a statement following his nomination saying he is looking forward to "continuing my career in public service fighting for Connecticut individuals and families facing difficult healthcare issues."

"The coming year promises a continued high pace of change in the healthcare industry," Mr. Doolittle added, "and I look forward to leading the Office of the Healthcare Advocate team in relentless, consumer-focused collaboration with the state's health insurance carriers, healthcare providers, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders to ensure that these changes produce what the people of Connecticut deserve – increased healthcare quality, improved access to care, and lower costs."

The Governor's nomination is subject to confirmation by the legislature.

## Legislative Committee Assignments Announced

All four caucuses of the General Assembly have announced their leadership and committee assignments for the 2017 Legislative Session.

- A complete list of Senate Democratic leadership and committee assignments can be found [here](#).
- A complete list of Senate Republican leadership and committee assignments can be found [here](#).
- A complete list of House Democratic leadership and committee assignments can be found [here](#).
- A complete list of House Republican leadership assignments can be found [here](#) and committee assignments can be found [here](#).

The following appointments of interest to hospitals include:

### Public Health:

- Senate Co-Chairpersons: Terry Gerratana (D-New Britain); Heather Somers (R-Groton)
- Senate Vice-Chairpersons: Ted Kennedy (D-Branford); George Logan (R-Ansonia)
- House Chairperson: Jonathan Steinberg (D-Westport)
- House Vice-Chairperson: Kelly Luxenberg (D-Manchester)
- Ranking Member: Prasad Srinivasan (R-Glastonbury)

### Human Services:

- Senate Co-Chairpersons: Marilyn Moore (D-Bridgeport); Joe Markley (R-Southington)
- Senate Vice-Chairpersons: Beth Bye (D-West Hartford); Kevin Kelly (R-Stratford)
- House Chairperson: Cathy Abercrombie (D-Meriden)
- House Vice-Chairperson: Terry Adams (D-Stamford)
- Ranking Member: Jay Case (R-Winsted)

### Appropriations:

- Senate Co-Chairpersons: Cathy Osten (D-Sprague); Paul Formica (R-Niantic)
- Senate Vice-Chairpersons: Joan Hartley (D-Waterbury); Craig Miner (R-Litchfield)
- House Chairperson: Toni Walker (D-New Haven)
- House Vice-Chairpersons: Henry Genga (D-East Hartford); Ezequiel Santiago (D-Bridgeport); Chris Soto (D-New London)
- Ranking Member: Melissa Ziobron (R-East Haddam)

### Finance, Revenue and Bonding:

- Senate Co-Chairpersons: John Fonfara (D-Hartford); L. Scott Frantz (R-Greenwich)
- Senate Vice-Chairpersons: Carlo Leone (D-Stamford); Kevin Witkos (R-Canton)
- House Chairperson: Jason Rojas (D-East Hartford)
- House Vice-Chairperson: Josh Elliott (D-Hamden); Brandon McGee (D-Hartford)
- Ranking Member: Chris Davis (R-Ellington)

### Judiciary:

- Senate Co-Chairpersons: Paul Doyle (D-Wethersfield); John Kissel (R-Enfield)
- Senate Vice-Chairpersons: Gary Winfield (D-New Haven); Michael McLachlan (R-Danbury)

- House Chairperson: William Tong (D-Stamford)
- House Vice-Chairperson: Stephen Stafstrom (D-Bridgeport)
- Ranking Member: Rosa Rebimbas (R-Naugatuck)

Another change made by Speaker Joe Aresimowicz was to elevate second term incumbents Rep. Sean Scanlon (D-Guilford) and Rep. Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford) to serve as Chairpersons of the Insurance and Real Estate and Commerce Committees, respectively. Also, Rep. Robyn Porter (D-New Haven) was named House Chairperson of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, succeeding Rep. Peter Tercyak (D-New Britain), who was named Deputy Speaker.

## Education Updates

### 2017 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

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

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

National expert Diana Scott, Sr. Director, Vizient, will present CHA's annual full-day program outlining The Joint Commission's new standards and national patient safety goals for 2017 and challenges from 2016 with strategies for compliance. Ms. Scott will also review survey process changes, patient safety alerts and tips, and CMS focus areas, as well as best practices for a successful survey.

CHA is also pleased to have Mark Crafton, Executive Director of Communications and External Relations at The Joint Commission (TJC), and Ann Scott Blouin, Executive Vice President of Customer Relations at TJC, as part of the program. Their presentations will include an overview of the new process for surveyors to determine the severity of non-compliance with all accreditation and certification requirements, as well as a new report format that will more clearly illustrate priority issues impacting patient safety. Attendees will also receive information on compliance data for challenging accreditation standards in Connecticut hospitals. Finally, presenters will share information on new standards and National Patient Safety Goals, including topics under consideration for standards and National Patient Safety Goals development in 2018.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

### CHA Regulatory Series—Wage and Hour Law Review

Friday, January 20, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This 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. Participants are encouraged to bring real or hypothetical questions about regulatory interpretation to the session for an open discussion.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

### CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside.

CHA's Nurse Preceptorship Program has routinely received positive feedback. It features a curriculum developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing, and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, and evaluating competence. The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors who have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules, with an emphasis on patient access rights and stepped up enforcement activities by the Office for Civil Rights. The program information includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a review of business associates rules, and practical tips and solutions for remaining compliant with HIPAA. Also covered are: emerging issues in cyber security, trends in state enforcement, devices and technology issues, social media considerations, and the growing risks for HIPAA-covered entities and business associates.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

