Radiation Dose Management Focus of CHA Program

On January 7, representatives from CHA hospitals participated in a day-long vendor fair on radiation dose management. The program was related to CHA's new radiation dose management (RDM) initiative in which healthcare providers across the continuum are collaborating to minimize radiation exposure to patients.

GE, Sectra, Communify Health, and Bayer presented to the group after showcasing their software programs in the morning. Each of the companies spoke about the value of CHA's RDM initiative. The RDM work – the first statewide effort in the nation – involves clinicians from multiple specialties and administrators from hospitals across the state.

The approach is multi-pronged and focuses on systematic changes to improve patient safety and deliver care more efficiently through effective radiation dose management. Initially focused on tracking radiation dose in CT scanners and installing software to report and track dose, the project will move on to provider and patient education, adoption of Choosing Wisely recommendations, and evaluation of current protocols.

Like Connecticut's High Reliability Collaborative, CHA’s radiation dose management work is using established science to improve patient safety.

Former State Representative Elizabeth Ritter Nominated to Head Department on Aging

On Wednesday, January 14, Governor Dannel Malloy announced that he is nominating former Democratic State Representative Elizabeth “Betsy” Ritter of Waterford to serve as Commissioner of the State Department on Aging (SDA).

Commissioner-designee Ritter served five terms in the House of Representatives representing residents of Waterford and Montville. During that time, she served in a leadership capacity as Deputy Speaker of the House, and also served four years as co-chair of the Public Health Committee.

Prior to becoming a state representative, Commissioner-designee Ritter served for a number years on the municipal level for the Town of Waterford, and also worked for ten years in hospital accounting and financial management.

As a state agency, SDA is charged with empowering older adults to live full, independent lives, and providing leadership on aging issues on behalf of older adults, families, caregivers, and advocates.

Dates Set for Special Elections

On Friday, January 9, Governor Dannel Malloy filed the necessary paperwork setting the dates of three special elections to be held for two House of Representative seats and one State Senate seat. The Special Elections will be held on February 24, 2015 for the seats left vacant by State Rep. Auden Grogins (D-Bridgeport), State Rep. David Scribner (R-Brookfield), and State Sen. Andres Ayala (D-Bridgeport). Rep. Grogins was nominated by Gov. Malloy to the Superior Court bench. Rep. Scribner was nominated by the Governor to a position in the Consumer Protection Department, and Sen. Ayala was nominated to be the next Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Johnson Memorial Medical Center Announces Approval of Asset Purchase Agreement with Saint Francis Care

On January 14, 2015, Johnson Memorial Medical Center (“JMMC”) announced the approval of an Asset Purchase Agreement with Saint Francis Care.

After discussions among JMMC’s Board of Directors, lenders, governmental agencies, and multiple advisors, a pre-planned and voluntary reorganization under a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing was collectively determined as the most efficient and expedient process to proceed with the business transaction under the terms negotiated, which includes a debt restructuring.

This will clear the path for JMMC’s continued financial strength and stability. The terms of the transaction will allow JMMC to emerge from this process with less debt, and the deepened relationship with Saint Francis Care will help to achieve the goal of becoming a stronger, more financially sound...
hospital, well-positioned for the future. Patient care will not be interrupted and JMMC will continue to deliver high quality care to the community.

“Throughout our working affiliation, JMMC and Saint Francis Care have been on the path of creating a long-term partnership,” said Stuart E. Rosenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer at JMMC. “One of the achieved goals from our partnership with Saint Francis has been the ability to continue our mission as we have for the last 102 years, providing quality healthcare in the community. Johnson Memorial Medical Center will be a key member of an integrated system of care.”

JMMC and Saint Francis Care signed an Affiliation Agreement in July 2012, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship that has provided the community with a sustainable, high-quality healthcare resource. As a result, JMMC has recently experienced improved operations by all measures of financial performance.

“Our current affiliation agreement provides the framework necessary to ensure the continued delivery of quality care to the local community and sustain a major economic resource for the region,” said Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Care. “Recently we have watched JMMC stabilize and strengthen its operations. Both parties are enthusiastic about the next steps ahead.”

Under terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement, JMMC would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Saint Francis Care as part of a clinically integrated healthcare delivery system.

Any finalized agreement will be contingent upon regulatory approvals, including by the Office of Health Care Access, and Office of the Attorney General of the State of Connecticut. A Certificate of Need will be filed, as required, to initiate the review process.

Education Updates

2015 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update
Thursday, January 22, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

National expert Diana Scott, VHA, will join us to present CHA’s annual full-day program outlining The Joint Commission’s new standards and national patient safety goals for 2015, and challenges from 2014 with strategies for compliance. Ms. Scott will also review survey process changes incorporating the new patient safety systems chapter, second generation tracers for nutrition services, ambulatory clinics, and surgical services, 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, join us for the program. Their presentations will cover the CMS-required survey process changes, significant developments in hospital options for the submission of core measure data to The Joint Commission, and compliance data on challenging accreditation standards in Connecticut hospitals.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

HRO Creating Sustainability for High Reliability Organizations
Tuesday, January 27, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration

This session is for leaders in the organizations that have trained staff in high reliability behaviors and practices and are looking for techniques to improve the likelihood that high reliability does not become a “flavor of the month.”

HRO Safety Coach Training
Tuesday, January 27, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Safety Coaches are peer mentors who help remind employees about the safety practices and behaviors that your organization has adopted.

HRO Leadership Method Training for Hospitals
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

This Leadership session is for new Level 3 hospitals and any new hires in previously trained Level 3 hospitals. Leadership sessions teach the science of safety and behaviors and practices of High Reliability organizations.

HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Program
Tuesday, February 3, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Tuesday, February 4, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Cause analysis teaches staff how to evaluate events, patterns of events, and causes of events and then helps staff ascertain how to implement solutions. The sessions are for quality staff, safety staff, risk management staff, and other staff that respond to events.

HRO Rounding to Influence
Monday, February 9, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Rounding to Influence is for leaders who want to learn how to be more effective up on the units, when they are coaching staff and reinforcing behaviors.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
Session 1: Wednesday, February 11, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Session 2: Wednesday, February 18, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Event Registration
As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that eliminates roadblocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waiting times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

This two-session program will explain the value of applying Lean principles and methodology to improve healthcare—by providing examples of specific benefits that accrue when the people that actually do the work look at the details of processes and fix things where the work is done. Starting with a basic definition of Lean concepts and management methods, participants will learn how to define value for the patient (the customer) and eliminate common wastes in healthcare. Because one of the essential tools in applying Lean thinking is Value Stream Mapping (VSM), participants will learn how to use this technique through an interactive mapping exercise, which will have immediate "back home" application for understanding process flow and its impact on making measurable improvements.

Participants must attend both sessions, which will be presented following registration and a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics**
Thursday, February 12, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Event Registration

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules, with an emphasis on recent enforcement actions by the Office for Civil Rights and an overview of the newly announced government audit targeting HIPAA compliance. 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 as the transition from paper to EHR accelerates. We will also cover emerging issues in privacy liability, including costs associated with breach events and a new Connecticut Supreme Court case that is likely to increase liability and risk for HIPAA covered entities.

**Demonstrating the Financial Impact of Quality Initiatives**
Thursday, February 19, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Healthcare leaders in all disciplines recognize the need to identify, analyze, and demonstrate the financial benefit of quality initiatives. However, those involved in such initiatives, clinicians and non-financial managers, often find it difficult to articulate the positive financial outcomes that accrue to quality improvements. This program will help clinicians and non-financial managers involved in quality improvement initiatives understand the intersection between quality and cost, and how to "connect the dots" from quality improvement to financial benefit.

Presenter: William J. Ward, Jr. is the director of the MHS Degree Program in Health Finance and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, for which he teaches accounting and finance, and a principal with Healthcare Management Resources, Inc., a Baltimore-area consulting firm.