Monday, January 13, hospital leaders met with the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Beth Bye (D-West Hartford) and Representative Toni Walker (D-New Haven). Legislators requested this meeting with hospitals as they prepare for the 2014 Legislative Session, which begins on February 7, 2014.

Hospital leaders shared information about how they care for people in Connecticut communities and on the important issues facing hospitals, specifically some key areas relevant to the 2014 session, including Medicaid redesign and the hospital tax.

They discussed how hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. In 2012, they provided more than $200 million in free services for those who could not afford to pay. As cornerstones of their communities, Connecticut hospitals provide great jobs to more than 50,000 people. Hospital jobs and spending generate additional jobs and spending in communities throughout our state. In total, Connecticut hospitals contribute nearly $20 billion to the state and local economies, generate nearly 110,000 jobs in our communities, and serve as a magnet for other business and commerce.

Hospitals described the ways in which Connecticut hospitals are deeply invested in the health of their communities. In 2012, Connecticut hospitals spent $1.2 billion on community benefit initiatives, and provided more than 12.3 million community benefit services to individuals and families.

Hospitals discussed how their goals align with healthcare reform and the ways in which they make quality and patient safety their top priority. They also discussed financial challenges faced by hospitals and how they continue to work with the Administration to shape Medicaid system reform. Sen. Bye and Rep. Walker expressed that they are eager to work with hospitals to ensure patients continue benefiting from having access to the highest quality and safest care.

Hospital Leaders Participate in High Reliability Leadership Training

Nearly 250 hospital leaders participated in high reliability leadership training on January 15 and 16. The program focused on methods and practices for instilling safety as a core value.

Hospital leaders are building a culture of collegial teamwork where sound practice habits are adopted, resulting in a culture of safety. The leadership program focused on how to set the tone of safety as a core value, find and fix barriers to effective performance, and build and reinforce accountability.

Connecticut hospitals have a relentless focus on safety. For the last three years, they have been working with CHA and Healthcare Performance Improvement (HPI) on a statewide initiative to become high reliability organizations – organizations that operate successfully in high-risk industries. This first-in-the nation program is not only changing the way we think about safety, it is saving lives.

Every day, hospital teams across the state are beginning their days with safety huddles, ensuring that safety is reinforced as the most important focus—the foundation on which all hospital work is done.

Since 2010, thousands of people in hospitals across the state have been trained in high reliability practices.

Job Creation and Economic Development Top Democratic Legislative Priorities

On January 14, Democratic legislators held a press conference in Hartford to announce their jobs and business priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session. These priorities include workforce development, growing new markets, and helping small businesses succeed.

During his remarks, Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr. (D-Brooklyn) called for a bipartisan approach to passing legislation that would grow jobs and the economy. House Speaker Brendan Sharkey (D-Hamden) said it was their intent to focus on helping families and the economy. The
proposals discussed during the press conference included recapitalizing Connecticut’s STEP Up program; implementing new school-to-job programs; creating a quasi-public port authority agency; offering early permits for developing businesses, new construction projects, and renovations; continuing the angel investor tax credit; establishing social benefit corporations; protecting businesses from patent trolls; and expanding business enterprise zones.

In the weeks leading up to the 2014 Legislative Session, members of both caucuses will hold press conferences to announce and highlight their legislative priorities.

Special Election To Be Held On February 25 For The 10th Senate District Seat Vacated By Former Sen. Toni Harp

On January 10, Governor Dannel Malloy announced that a special election will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 to fill the state senate seat vacated by former Senator Toni Harp (D-New Haven). Former Senator Harp resigned her position on January 7 after being sworn in as mayor of New Haven.

Under state law, following a vacancy in the General Assembly, the governor is required to issue a Writ of Special Election, and a special election must be held 46 days after its issuance.

In the heavily Democratic district, candidates making public statements indicating their intentions to run for the senate seat include New Haven State Representatives Gary Holder-Winfield (D) and Juan Candelaria (D) and former New Haven Alderman Darnell Goldson.

The 10th Senate District covers portions of New Haven and West Haven.

Stuart Marcus, MD, Appointed CEO and President of St. Vincent’s Health Services

Stuart G. Marcus, MD, has been appointed CEO and President of St. Vincent’s Health Services (SVHS). SVHS, a $500 million healthcare system, is a member of Ascension Health, the nation’s largest Catholic and largest not-for-profit healthcare system. SVHS includes St. Vincent’s Medical Center, St. Vincent’s College, St. Vincent’s Special Needs Services, and St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation.

Dr. Marcus has also been named a Ministry Market Leader by Ascension Health for its Connecticut and New York Regions, which include three additional hospitals: St. Mary’s Healthcare in Amsterdam, NY, Lourdes Memorial Hospital in Binghamton, NY, and Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Lewiston, NY. He most recently served as President of St. Vincent’s Medical Center and Executive Vice President of St. Vincent’s Health Services.

He succeeds Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN, who is transitioning full time to her role in Pensacola, Florida as President and CEO of the Sacred Heart Health System, also a member of Ascension Health. Dr. Davis will continue in her service as Ministry Market Leader for Florida and Alabama. She will remain a member of the SVHS board of directors.

“I know that St. Vincent’s will be in the best possible hands with someone as well qualified and passionate about the delivery of safe and compassionate health care as Dr. Stuart Marcus,” said Dr. Davis. “With his many years of clinical experience as a cancer surgeon and as the guiding force behind the creation of our cancer center and oncology program, he has always demonstrated exceptional leadership and integrity.”

Dr. Marcus, who joined St. Vincent’s in 2006, was named President of St. Vincent’s Medical Center in 2012. Prior to that, Dr. Marcus served as Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer and Chairman of Oncology at St. Vincent’s. In his new role, he will provide strategic and operational leadership for St. Vincent’s Health Services while promoting strategic alignment among Ascension’s New York and Connecticut health ministries.

“I am humbled by the tremendous responsibility of leading St. Vincent’s and continuing the mission of our founders, the Daughters of Charity, in providing high quality, compassionate care to all with special attention to the poor and underserved,” Dr. Marcus said. “St. Vincent’s has received widespread recognition as a national leader in patient safety and is now poised to lead the transformation of healthcare in our region. The future will build upon the safety, quality, and platform of excellence that Susan Davis has led here over the past 10 years. We also look forward to the benefits that our partnership with The Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University will bring to the greater Bridgeport community.”

Highest Hospital Revenue Generated by Primary Care

According to Merritt Hawkins’ 2013 Physician Inpatient/Outpatient Revenue Survey, the average annual hospital revenue generated by primary care physicians exceeds that of revenue generated by specialty physicians for the first time in its five-year survey history. Merritt Hawkins is a leading physician search firm that works with CHA’s Shared Services Program.

The survey, which tracks revenue driven by 18 different specialties, provides benchmark data estimating the amount of net inpatient and outpatient revenue generated annually on behalf of their affiliated hospitals through patient referrals, admissions, procedures, treatments, and tests.

Revenue generated by primary care physicians was more than $1.5 million, while the average annual net revenue generated by all 18 specialties examined in the 2013 survey was $1,448,458, a decrease of 9 percent since 2010.
Education Updates

Demonstrating the Financial Impact of Quality Initiatives
Monday, January 27, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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.

The presenter will be William J. Ward, Jr., director of the MHS Degree Program in Health Finance and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he teaches accounting and finance. Mr. Ward is a former senior healthcare executive with more than 25 years of experience in healthcare finance and operations.

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

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2014 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update
Friday, February 7, 2014
8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

National expert Diana Scott, VHA, will join us to present CHA’s annual full-day program outlining the 2014 Joint Commission Standards, specific changes in the standards, and National Patient Safety Goals. She will highlight 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), as part of the program. His presentation will include a review of the new developments in patient safety and quality solutions emerging from The Center for Transforming Healthcare, as well as the most frequent Joint Commission Requirements for Improvement in Connecticut hospitals in 2013.

Target audience: All hospital and medical staff leaders and coordinators involved in Joint Commission survey preparation, including: patient care and physician executives, staff nurses, pharmacists, quality improvement professionals, infection prevention specialists, human resources professionals, utilization/case managers, social workers, risk managers, corporate compliance officers, and in-house counsel.

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

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