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**Hospital Leaders Focus on Safety Culture**

On January 17, more than 100 hospital leaders from hospitals in CHA's High Reliability Safety Culture Collaborative participated in the second in a series of leadership training sessions designed to help hospital leaders develop and sustain a top-down culture of safety.

Hospital leaders engaged in group activities and lively discussions about the tools and techniques to avoid errors. Leaders included hospital CEOs, doctors, and nurses, as well as representatives from departments including patient relations, health information, finance, materials management, quality and patient safety, pharmacy, social work, and more.

Most of the participants have been formally building a culture of safety in their hospitals since the statewide program to eliminate all cause preventable harm in Connecticut, the first of its kind in the nation, launched last March.

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.



**Saint Francis Center for Health Equity Opens**

On January 14, Saint Francis Care opened its new Center for Health Equity at the Urban League of Greater Hartford. The Center will develop and deliver innovative health equity programs with and for communities served by Saint Francis Care.

"Together we can be change agents and shape the future of how we can deliver care," Christopher Dadlez, President and CEO, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, told more than 200 people who were gathered for the celebration.

Marcus McKinney, DMin, LPC, Vice President, Community Health Equity and Policy, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, said that healthcare

disparities affect everyone and destroy community morale. He said it is critical that all people have the same level of healthcare, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, gender identity, and income.

“Our mission is to ensure you have access and outcomes in health that equal what you would receive anywhere in the world,” he said. “We plan to be your front door to hope.”

The Center will serve the community by working collaboratively with grassroots neighborhood organizations, caregivers, health professionals, researchers, foundations, state agencies, and others to eliminate health disparities in the community.

The Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Institute, which has conducted more than 3,000 events and health screenings and saved nearly 30 lives since its inception in 2010, will be housed in the Center for Health Equity. Mr. Robinson called the journey to create the Center for Health Equity a “leap of faith,” saying that “because we are here today, we can be a proactive source to eliminate healthcare disparities... We believe in our work because it is a fight for love and justice for all.”



*Curtis D. Robinson cuts the ribbon.*



*Home of the new Center for Health Equity*



*Marcus McKinney, DMin, LPC, Vice President, Community Health Equity and Policy, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center*

## Saint Francis Care and Ascension Health Care Network Sign Letter of Intent



On January 16, Saint Francis Care, Inc., and Ascension Health Care Network signed an exclusive Letter of Intent, opening the way for Saint Francis Care to join Ascension Health Care Network, with the vision of building a statewide, clinically integrated healthcare delivery system. Ascension Health Care Network is an affiliate of Ascension Health Alliance, the largest Catholic health system in the nation.



“We are very pleased that we and Ascension Health Care Network are pursuing the opportunity to join together,” said Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “This step follows a thorough examination of how best to ensure that the people we serve in our communities continue to receive a lifetime of the very best care possible.”

“This is an important step in advancing the mission of both Ascension Health Care Network and Saint Francis Care,” said Leo P. Brideau, President and CEO of Ascension Health Care Network. “We share a common goal of providing high-quality, efficient care that responds to people’s physical, emotional, and spiritual needs while aggressively advocating for the well-being of our patients and their families, and ensuring healthcare is available to those who are poor and vulnerable. We believe this relationship has the potential to improve healthcare at both the state and regional level.”

If an agreement is finalized, Saint Francis Care will become part of Ascension Health Care Network, an organization dedicated to strengthening Catholic healthcare in the United States and committed to providing care for the underserved in our communities. Ascension Health Care Network is a for-profit, taxable organization.

## Hospitals Highlight Connecticut Policy Makers



CHA is profiling newly elected members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation and key leaders in healthcare in the Connecticut General Assembly. These elected officials will play a new and/or important role in the decisions being made in Washington and Hartford. Last week, CHA profiled [U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty](#). This week, we profile U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy.

## U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy: Representing Connecticut in the U.S. Senate



U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy (D) was first elected to the U.S. Senate on November 6, 2012, and was sworn into office on January 3, 2013. Sen. Murphy begins his six-year term as the junior senator from Connecticut, replacing U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman, who did not run for reelection.

Sen. Murphy previously served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Connecticut's 5th House District. Prior to his service in the House, Sen. Murphy practiced law with the firm Ruben/Horan, P.C. He served as the State Representative from the 81st District in the General Assembly for four years, and then served as a State Senator from the 16th District for four years, during which time he chaired the Public Health Committee.

As a member of the U.S. Senate, Sen. Murphy will serve on the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee; the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and the Joint Economic Committee. The HELP Committee's jurisdiction encompasses most of the agencies, institutes, and programs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Administration on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

While a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Sen. Murphy worked closely with hospitals in the 5th Congressional District and with the Connecticut hospital community in an attempt to block proposals to cut funding for Medicare and Medicaid. He has supported increasing funding to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). During his second term in Congress, Sen. Murphy was appointed to the House Energy & Commerce Committee, a committee that was involved in drafting the federal healthcare reform law.

As a state legislator, Sen. Murphy worked with hospitals to author legislation that improved hospitals' billing and collections practices for uninsured patients. In addition, he authored bills that expanded low-cost prescription drug access for the uninsured, required insurance companies to cover Lyme Disease treatment, established new government powers to be utilized during a bioterrorism attack, and increased whistleblower protections for hospital employees. Working in conjunction with hospitals, Sen. Murphy also authored legislation to clarify licensing requirements for outpatient surgical facilities to create a reasonable adverse event and infection reporting system for hospitals, thus improving patient safety.

Sen. Murphy was raised in Wethersfield, graduated from Williams College, and earned his law degree for the University of Connecticut School of Law. He lives in Cheshire with his wife Catherine and two children.

Sen. Murphy joins U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D) and Reps. John Larson (D-1), Joe Courtney (D-2), Rosa DeLauro (D-3), Jim Himes (D-4), and Elizabeth Esty (D-5) as a member of Connecticut's legislative delegation in Washington. CHA congratulates Sen. Murphy and his colleagues on their elections, and looks forward to working with him and the other members of the Connecticut's delegation on issues of importance to Connecticut hospitals.

## Governor Malloy Names New Chief Legal Counsel



On January 15, Gov. Dannel Malloy named Luke Bronin to serve as General Counsel in the Office of the Governor. Mr. Bronin will replace Andrew McDonald, who was nominated by Malloy for an open seat on the State Supreme Court.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Bronin served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He has also served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, as an international affairs fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, and as Chief of Staff to the President of The Hartford Financial Services Group's property and casualty operations. Additionally, Mr. Bronin served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, including a deployment to Afghanistan, where he was a member of the military's anti-corruption task force. He worked as a volunteer during Gov. Malloy's first run for governor in 2006.

Mr. Bronin earned his Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, a diploma in Legal Studies and a Master of Science in economic and social history from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Yale College. He is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association.

## Education Updates

### 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](#).

