Connecticut hospitals and health systems generated $27.7 billion in economic activity in 2017, and invested $1.7 billion in community benefit initiatives, according to the 2019 Economic Impact Report and 2019 Community Benefit Report, released by the Connecticut Hospital Association this week.

Connecticut hospitals and health systems are economic cornerstones in the communities they serve and drive growth in the health, medical, and research fields, as well as in many other sectors. They provide great jobs to 103,000 people. And nearly every hospital job produces another job outside the hospital. In total, Connecticut hospitals and health systems generate 204,000 jobs in our state. In 2017, Connecticut hospitals and health systems generated $15.3 billion in annual local payroll, $10.8 billion in spending on goods and services, and $1.6 billion in capital spending.

“Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, both in the hospital setting and in our communities,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “In addition to improving lives, they also strengthen the state’s economy. Vibrant hospitals and health systems require support and collaboration from government and many other sectors, and it is important to work together to build a better, healthier future for Connecticut.”

Hospitals also collaborate with community partners to deliver outreach and support programs that address critical health needs for expectant mothers, patients with asthma, cancer, substance use, behavioral health disorders, and heart disease, in settings that are close to home. Their staff participate in community-based care for patients, organize free medical screenings, and connect patients to services to help with food, housing, and transportation. In 2017, Connecticut hospitals provided more than 12 million community benefit services to individuals and families – an investment of $1.7 billion; that’s 15 percent of total hospital revenue.

Peter R. Cordeau Named President of Norwalk Hospital

Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN) President and CEO John M. Murphy, MD, announced the appointment of Peter R. Cordeau, MBA, BSN, RN, to the role of President of Norwalk Hospital. In his new role, Mr. Cordeau will oversee all administrative and clinical functions at Norwalk Hospital.

Mr. Cordeau brings a wealth of clinical and administrative experience to Norwalk Hospital. His 30-year career includes hospital administration, operations, nursing leadership, and service line management. Mr. Cordeau’s initial areas of focus at Norwalk Hospital will be building a strong and unified leadership team, overseeing hospital operations, and strengthening employee and physician engagement and the patient experience.

Mr. Cordeau comes to Norwalk Hospital from Sharon Hospital. He joined Sharon Hospital in 2013 as Chief Nursing Officer. He was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2014, and then Chief Executive Officer in 2016. Mr. Cordeau successfully led the merger of Sharon Hospital with Health Quest in 2017. WCHN is awaiting approval from the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy to affiliate with Health Quest hospitals including Sharon Hospital, making this particular appointment foundational to the pending relationship.

“Mr. Cordeau’s broad experience and expertise in healthcare, especially in administration, operations, and nursing, make him uniquely qualified to be president of Norwalk Hospital. Mr. Cordeau will help to facilitate the smoothest possible transition as Health Quest and WCHN come together to form a new organization, so that we can continue to provide the best care to our patients,” said Dr. Murphy.

As Health Quest and WCHN come together, Mr. Cordeau will implement strategies that align operational and clinical services and integrate safe, high quality, and efficient care processes for our patients.

“I am very excited to join Norwalk Hospital. I am looking forward to collaborating with clinical, administrative, and community leaders to further
the good health of greater Norwalk," said Mr. Cordeau.

In 2017, under Mr. Cordeau's leadership, Sharon Hospital was recognized with an “A” patient safety grade by The Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit organization committed to driving quality, safety, and transparency in the United States healthcare system. Sharon Hospital was also named a Joint Commission Top Hospital in 2015 and was positively incentivized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) under its value-based purchasing program for three years in a row (2014, 2015, and 2016).

As President of Sharon Hospital, Mr. Cordeau is a highly visible leader in the community. He sponsors, volunteers, and speaks at community events. He also serves on the Northwest Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mr. Cordeau received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Hartford in West Hartford.

Narcan Kits Available to Emergency Departments

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is offering hospital Emergency Departments (ED) free Narcan® kits for distribution to ED patients who have survived an opioid overdose, those patients deemed at risk for an opioid overdose, and/or to their loved ones, through a federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.

DMHAS will purchase up to 3,000 Narcan kits over each of the next two years using grant funds. Kits will be distributed to EDs in quantities of 100 two-dose kits per order. Additional kits may be ordered by EDs until grant funds are exhausted. ED directors may order Narcan kits by following instructions set forth in DHMAS' guidance.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) included this funding as a component of a SOR grant to DMHAS. CHA partnered with DMHAS on the grant submission, and worked with DMHAS and the Drug Control Division of the Department of Consumer Protection on the distribution process, with advice from hospital Emergency Department Directors and Pharmacy Directors.

According to the Department of Public Health, there were 1,000 ED visits for “Suspected Drug Overdose Syndrome” in November 2018, the most recently available data.

Gov. Lamont Sets Special Election Date for Five General Assembly Seats

Governor Ned Lamont has announced that special elections to fill vacancies for five seats in the Connecticut General Assembly will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

The vacancies are in the following districts:

• 3rd District - State Senate, comprising the entirety of East Hartford, East Windsor, and South Windsor, and portions of Ellington

• 5th District - State Senate, comprising the entirety of Burlington and West Hartford, as well as portions of Bloomfield and Farmington

• 6th District - State Senate, comprising the entirety of Berlin and New Britain, as well as portions of Farmington

• 39th District - State House of Representatives, comprising portions of New London

• 99th District - State House of Representatives, comprising portions of East Haven

The vacancies occurred because five members of the General Assembly who won re-election during the November election were not sworn into office last week. State Senators Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Tim Larson (D-East Hartford), Terry Gerratana, (D-New Britain), as well as Representatives Chris Soto (D-New London) and James Albis (D-East Haven), accepted positions in the Lamont Administration. Sen. Bye was appointed Commissioner of Early Childhood. Sen. Larson will serve as the Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education. Sen. Gerratana will be an Adviser in the Office of Health Strategy. Rep. Albis will be a Senior Adviser at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and Rep. Soto will be the Legislative Affairs Director with Gov. Lamont's Administration.

Special elections for all legislative seats vacated in January necessitate the call for a Special Election. Under state law, the Governor is required to issue a Writ of Special Election within 10 days of a vacancy in the General Assembly, and a Special Election must be held 46 days after its issuance.

CHA To Hold Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update

CHA’s annual The Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Event Registration

The full-day program will feature national safety expert Diana Scott, Senior Accreditation Director at Vizient, who will outline The Joint Commission’s new standards and national patient safety goals for 2019, and challenges from 2018 with strategies for compliance. Ms. Scott will also review CMS focus areas, as well as best practices for a successful survey.

CHA is also pleased to have Mark Crafton, Executive Director of State and External Relations, The Joint Commission, join the program. His presentation will include an overview of the changes implemented by the Commission.

Attendees will also receive information on compliance data and on challenging accreditation standards in Connecticut hospitals.

Education Updates

Lean Principles: Project Charter Preparation and Planning
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Lean principles and methodology are valuable in improving healthcare, but evidence shows that learning about the principles and methodology is simply not enough. To get the desired results, the principles must be applied. This program—a follow-up to CHA’s
two-part *Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare*—provides an overview of the methodology and tools needed for planning process improvement initiatives.

This is a “how to make it happen” session, and will explain (and provide examples of) the elements of an effective project charter, a pre-requisite to any successful improvement initiative. When properly prepared, the charter focuses the team on the business case, problems, objectives, and outcomes, and is a major factor in preventing project scope creep.

Participants are asked to bring with them a process improvement opportunity currently under consideration at their facility, enabling them to create a draft charter as part of their actionable plan toward their process improvement initiative.

Clinical leaders, operational managers, continuous improvement coordinators, and other change agents will benefit from learning this methodology to plan team-oriented improvement initiatives.

**HIIN: It Takes a Village: Improving Sepsis Care in Connecticut**

*Monday, February 25, 2019*

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

[Event Registration](#)

CHA will host a full day conference dedicated to the urgent need to improve sepsis care across the continuum of care in Connecticut. The conference will open with Ciaran Staunton, who, along with his wife Orlaith, founded The Rory Staunton Foundation in 2012 after the tragic death of his 12-year-old son from sepsis. The Rory Staunton Foundation has impacted sepsis care both nationally and internationally. Hear the Staunton’s compelling story and message regarding the importance of raising public awareness of sepsis through education and awareness programs to promote faster diagnosis and effective treatment of sepsis.

Keynote speaker Mitchell Levy, MD, is one of the founding members and an executive leader of the *Surviving Sepsis* campaign, a global initiative to improve the care of patients with severe sepsis. Dr. Levy is known internationally for his research and commitment to improving sepsis care. He will share his expertise and the latest recommendations on the care of patients with sepsis.

The program will also feature local and national speakers who will share their best practice recommendations for sepsis care across the continuum.

*The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.*