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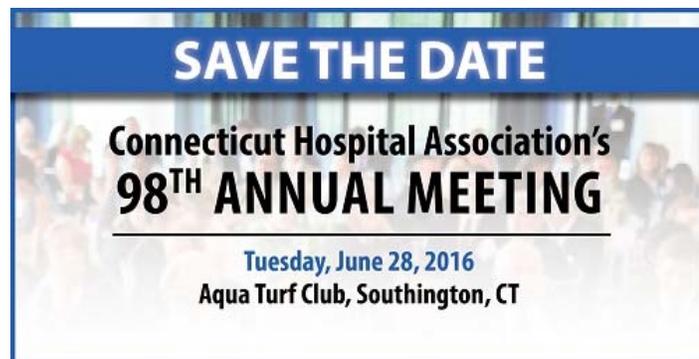
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CHA 98th Annual Meeting



Legislative Session Begins Next Week With State Already in the Red



The 2016 Legislative Session will begin February 3 and is expected to present challenges for lawmakers as they attempt to grapple with a growing state budget deficit.

The legislature's fiscal office has predicted a shortfall of \$500 million in 2016-17 and a larger deficit – of more than \$1.7 billion – in 2017-18. There is also concern about the size of the state budget deficit for the current fiscal year, which some analysts have pegged as high as \$72 million.

Although Governor Dannel Malloy has made public statements recently indicating he does not intend to propose any tax increases, there is no information yet about what spending cuts the Governor will recommend when he unveils his budget next week, and if and how those cuts might impact Connecticut hospitals.

Last September, Governor Malloy proposed \$240 million in cuts to hospitals, which was partially reversed by lawmakers during a December Special Session when they reduced the original \$240 million rescission to \$90 million. Connecticut hospitals currently pay \$556 million a year through the state's provider tax; only \$165 million is returned to hospitals.

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) has formulated a 2016 Legislative Agenda that includes protecting the financial stability of Connecticut's hospitals through the following measures:

- Eliminate the hospital tax through a five-year phase-out.
- Seek to reduce the regulatory burden on hospitals, including streamlining the Certificate of Need process and providing hospitals with the regulatory flexibility to clinically integrate care and implement the goals of healthcare reform.
- Support measures that would provide hospitals with a property tax exemption or preserve existing non-taxable status.
- Stabilize Connecticut's medical malpractice liability environment.

The 2016 Legislation Session is scheduled to end May 4.

Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program Celebrates 5th Anniversary

On January 26, advocates and supporters of the state's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program (SAFE Program) celebrated the fifth anniversary of providing coordinated, compassionate, and patient-centered care in assisting victims of sexual assault.

Created by Public Act 09-3, the SAFE program authorized the Office of Victim Services (OVS) to establish a program to train and make available within participating hospital emergency departments Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) to adult and adolescent victims of sexual assaults. Available through an on-call system, the SAFEs respond in tandem with sexual assault victim advocates and provide timely, compassionate, patient-centered sexual assault forensic examination services to sexual assault victims 13 years or older who present to participating hospitals within 120 hours of an assault.

SAFEs work closely with sexual assault victim advocates, hospital staff, law enforcement, and state's attorneys to provide victims of sexual assault with comprehensive services and support. Over the last five years, more than 900 patients have been seen by a SAFE in Connecticut. The SAFE Program originally launched on a part-time basis in December 2010 before transitioning to a 24-hour on-call system for six acute care hospitals.

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) has long supported a statewide approach to caring for victims of sexual assault and supports the expansion of the program across the state.

Today, the program has expanded to eight hospitals, including Hartford Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Windham Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Manchester Memorial Hospital, MidState Medical Center, and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Preparations are under way for an expansion in southwestern Connecticut.

"SAFEs are the specialists we call in when a victim of sexual assault arrives for care. Their expertise, based in best practice, combines both art and science in the care they provide to each individual person. This care has a profound impact on a patient's ability to heal and return to a normal life," said Patti LaMonica, RN, MSN, Executive Director of Emergency Medicine and Prehospital Service Line at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. "Heartfelt thanks go to each dedicated SAFE and to our Connecticut legislators who have supported this critical program."

"The successes of the SAFE Program have put Connecticut on the map as a leader in using interdisciplinary cooperation to coordinate victim-centered, trauma-informed expert care to support victims and survivors of sexual assault," said Laura Cordes, Executive Director of the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence. "This is an example of how a coordinated response to survivors of sexual assault is not only beneficial and compassionate for the survivor, but also benefits participating healthcare facilities and improves the ability of the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable."

Linda J. Cimino, Director of the Connecticut Office of Victim Services (OVS), expressed deep appreciation for the work of the SAFEs and sexual assault victim advocates.

"The dedication of these highly trained individuals is beyond compare," she said. "I am pleased to be here to honor the SAFEs and advocates who have helped to make this program such a success."

The Connecticut Health Council Launches "Did You Know" Campaign



The Connecticut Health Council has launched a multi-faceted "Did You Know" marketing campaign that is designed to raise awareness about the importance of healthcare as an economic and employment force in Connecticut. Several facts about Connecticut hospitals' economic impact are included in the campaign.

The campaign includes posters, which are currently on display at the state Legislative Office Building, traditional print and broadcast media content, social media alerts, and thought leadership.

The posters carry messages like: "Did You Know? Connecticut hospitals provide jobs to 55,000 full-time employees and spend \$4.2 billion on goods and services."

The Connecticut Health Council invites you to distribute this content through your own channels to raise awareness about the significant contributions of Connecticut's health sector. A link to the campaign, and PDFs of the posters, can be found [here](#).

Malloy Administration Appoints Two New Commissioners



Governor Dannel Malloy appointed two new commissioners this week, choosing former Hamden Mayor Scott Jackson to lead the state Department of Labor, and moving Dennis Murphy, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Labor, to oversee temporarily the troubled Department of Motor Vehicles.

Mr. Jackson succeeds Sharon Palmer, a former high-ranking union official who retired this month. Mr. Murphy follows Andres Ayala Jr., who resigned last week at DMV.

Mr. Jackson served as Hamden's mayor before he took a job with the Malloy administration last year as the Governor's Undersecretary for Intergovernmental Policy at the Office of Policy and Management. He also served as Chairman of the Governor's Sandy Hook Advisory Commission.

This is the second time Mr. Murphy, who will serve as Acting Commissioner of DMV, has been a trouble-shooter for Governor Malloy. He previously served as Chief of Staff for the Board of Regents during a difficult leadership switch.

Now Mr. Murphy will succeed Mr. Ayala, a former state senator from Bridgeport who resigned from his post at the helm of DMV after a year marked by repeated problems, including the failure of a new computer system.

Kurt Westby, a former union leader, will succeed Mr. Murphy as Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Labor, the Malloy administration announced. Mr. Westby was the state director of 32BJ, an affiliate of Service Employees International Union. His appointment must be confirmed by the legislature.

Special Election to be Held on February 2

Stratford voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, to elect a state representative to replace Rep. Terry Backer (D-Stratford), who died on Dec. 14, 2015 after a long battle with cancer.

Voters will choose between Democrat Joseph Gresko and Republican Susan Barksdale. Mr. Gresko is a member of the Stratford Town Council who also serves as a legislative aide in the House Democratic Caucus. Ms. Barksdale is a Stratford town employee and former member of the Stratford Board of Education.

Former Representative Backer was first elected to the 121st House district in 1992.

Polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm. The winner is expected to be sworn into office as soon as the votes are certified by the Secretary of the State.

Legislators Announce Final Session

Over the past few weeks, a handful of legislators have come forward to announce they will either retire or seek higher office. The announcements were made as the General Assembly prepared for the start of the 2016 Legislative Session, February 3. Those legislators announcing they will not seek reelection to their current offices include:

- **Representative Cecilia Buck-Taylor (R-New Milford).** First elected in 2012, Representative Buck-Taylor represents the town of New Milford. She is a member of the Human Services, Judiciary, and Executive and Legislative Nominations Committees.

- **Representative Selim Noujaim (R-Waterbury).** Elected in a February 2002 Special Election, Representative Noujaim represents part of the city of Waterbury and currently serves on the Insurance and Real Estate and Commerce Committees.
- **Representative Craig Miner (R-Litchfield).** Elected in 2000, Representative Miner serves as Deputy Minority Leader and as a member of the Appropriations, Environment, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Safety Committees. He represents the towns of Bethlehem, Litchfield, Morris, Warren, and Woodbury. Rep. Minor has announced his intention to run for the Senate Seat being vacated by Senator Clark Chapin.
- **Representative Ed Jutila (D-East Lyme).** Elected in 2004, Representative Jutila represents the towns of East Lyme and Salem. He is the Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee and serves as a member of the Transportation Committee.
- **Senator Clark Chapin (R-New Milford).** Elected to the Senate in 2012, Senator Chapin previously served 12 years in the Connecticut House of Representatives. Senator Chapin currently serves as the Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, and serves on the Environment Committee. He represents the towns of Brookfield, Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, and Winchester.

It is expected that additional lawmakers will make their reelection intentions known during the upcoming legislative session.

Education Updates

Financial Skills for Managers

Friday, February 5, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare is back by member request to present the program.

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

Cross Cultural Diversity & Inclusiveness Training - Four-Hour Session for Clinical Providers

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

CHA—in partnership with the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity at Saint Francis, Hispanic Health Council, and Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives—is offering the Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training – Four-Hour Session for Clinical Providers at the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI) in Hartford on February 16. The program was developed in direct response to member requests for an education program to help hospitals achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care – part of the CHA Health Equity Collaborative initiative and the AHA #123 Equity Pledge to Act to Eliminate Healthcare Disparities.

This program has been modified from the original 10-hour, two-module training series to this four-hour session, and is designed for clinical staff. A full description of the program along with driving directions and a registration form can be found in the program brochure.

Please note: Early registration is advised. Class size is limited to facilitate discussion and active engagement of learners. While the majority of openings for this program are allocated to Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center employees, a few slots are available to other CHA member hospitals on a first-come-basis.

This program is being held at the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI) in Hartford.

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

CHA Regulatory Series—Wage and Hour Law Review

Monday, February 22, 2016

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 will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

Clostridium Difficile (C.diff) and Antibiotic Stewardship

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Conference attendees will hear a patient story from the daughter of a patient who died from a *C.diff* infection. Dr. Leonard A. Mermel, FACP, FIDSA, FSHEA, Professor of Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Medical Director, Epidemiology & Infection Control Department, Rhode Island Hospital—who developed *C.diff* standards with CMS—will discuss the science of *C.diff* and current standards. Kerry LaPlante, PharmD, FCCP, Professor of Pharmacy, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI; Adjunct Professor of

Medicine, Brown University, Providence, RI; and Director of the Rhode Island Infectious Diseases Research Program, will discuss the microbiome and the impact of antibiotics on guts. Additionally, Ann Spenard, Vice President of Consulting Services, Qualidigm, will discuss the project to prevent *C.diff* in our partner facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and other organizations across the continuum of care. For the closing session, Steve Tremain, MD, will help attendees formulate a plan for implementing this new knowledge.

The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HEN 2.0 educational series in in collaboration with Qualidigm, the Connecticut Center for Patient Safety, and the Connecticut Partnership for Patient Safety.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

