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Sepsis Task Force Launches

CHA, in partnership with Qualidgm, has launched a statewide Sepsis Task Force charged with developing training programs for healthcare providers in all settings using evidence-based tools and resources. The multidisciplinary Task Force held its first meeting on January 24, 2019.

Richard Goldstein, MD, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Yale New Haven Health Northeast Medical Group; Nancy Hernandez, RN, Sepsis Program Coordinator, Trinity Health Of New England; and Pat Srenaski, RN, Home Care Aide Supervisor, Hartford HealthCare at Home, lead the Task Force.



The goal of the group is to improve sepsis care in Connecticut by increasing public awareness, promoting early identification of sepsis, and assuring early and correct treatment. The Task Force comprises healthcare providers from across the continuum of care including home health, long-term care, acute care, physician offices, pharmacists, and others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection and occurs when an existing infection triggers a chain reaction throughout the body. Without timely treatment, sepsis can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and even death. Each year, 1 in 7 million adults in the U.S. develop sepsis, and nearly 270,000 people die from sepsis.

CHA Conference: Improving Sepsis Care in Connecticut

CHA will host a full-day conference dedicated to improving sepsis care across the continuum of care in Connecticut. The conference will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please register for the event by clicking [here](#).

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 their 12-year-old son from sepsis. The Rory Staunton Foundation has impacted sepsis care nationally and internationally. The Stauntons will share their compelling story and message regarding the importance of raising public awareness of sepsis through education and awareness programs to promote faster diagnosis and more effective sepsis treatment.

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

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

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



AHA Outlines National and State Healthcare Priorities

Last week, the American Hospital Association (AHA) introduced its [2019 Public Policy Advocacy Agenda](#), which seeks to improve the public policy environment for patients, communities, and the healthcare field. Working hand-in-hand with members and partners like CHA, AHA is implementing an advocacy strategy to fulfill the vision of its agenda. Specifically, AHA is urging Congress and the Administration to:

- Sustain the gains in health coverage
- Protect patient access to care
- Advance health system transformation
- Enhance quality and patient safety
- Promote regulatory relief
- Strengthen the healthcare workforce

Alongside AHA, CHA and its members collaborate with the Connecticut congressional delegation to address issues faced by hospitals and health systems at the state and national levels. As healthcare undergoes significant transformation in Connecticut, hospitals and health systems are focused on providing the leadership necessary to ensure the health and well-being of every resident. The four key aspirations for healthcare in Connecticut will be met when: individuals, communities, and the economy are healthy; quality and patient safety are paramount and patients are engaged in their care; providers, payers, community partners, and policy leaders are aligned; and healthcare financing is sustainable and linked to outcomes. To read CHA's 2019 Legislative Agenda, please click [here](#).



Sharon Hospital Announces Acting President

Denise George, President of Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY, and Senior Vice President of Health Quest, will assume the role of Acting President of Sharon Hospital, effective February 4, 2019.



"Sharon has a skilled and compassionate team of physicians and staff, and I look forward to working with them to



offer quality healthcare to patients throughout the region,” Ms. George said. “I also look forward to meeting the community we serve.”

Ms. George replaces Peter Cordeau, who was recently named President of Norwalk Hospital, part of Western Connecticut Health Network. Health Quest plans to integrate with Western Connecticut Health Network to create a new, innovative health system in spring 2019.

“We are grateful for Peter’s contributions and many years of service to Sharon Hospital and our system, and wish him well in his future endeavors,” said Kerry Eaton, Chief Operating Officer for Health Quest. “Peter’s new role at Western Connecticut Health Network is a testament to our philosophy of growing talent within our organization and creating opportunities for development.”

Ms. George is a veteran administrative leader with more than 30 years of healthcare experience. She began her career with Health Quest in 1999, serving as Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Dutchess Hospital. She was later promoted to hospital President in 2007.

Under her leadership, Northern Dutchess Hospital opened a transformational \$47 million patient pavilion in 2016, and was named a Best Regional Hospital by *U.S. News and World Report*.

An active search is under way for the next president of Sharon Hospital. Candidates will be interviewed by members of the hospital’s community Board of Directors, medical staff, and leaders throughout Health Quest.

In the interim, Ms. George will provide daily oversight of administrative and clinical functions.

Measles Reported in Connecticut



On Monday, January 28, 2019, the Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a statewide advisory that an adult case of measles has been identified in New Haven County.

In 2018, 349 individual cases of measles were confirmed in 26 states and Washington, DC, according to the CDC. This is the second-highest number of annual cases reported since measles was eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. (The highest was 667 cases, reported in 2014).

Measles can be prevented with the Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The CDC recommends children get two doses of MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12-15 months of age, and the second dose at 4-6 years of age. Teens and adults should also be up-to-date on their MMR vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

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 prerequisite 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.

This program is pending approval of ACHE Qualified Education credit toward advancement or recertification in the American College of Healthcare Executives.