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## Governor Malloy Announces State Budget Proposal



On February 8, Governor Malloy released his FY 2018-2019 budget. The \$40.6 billion two-year budget claims to address the expected \$1.5 billion deficit in FY 2018 and approximately \$1.3 billion deficit in 2019.

The budget calls for \$1.5 billion in labor concessions, imposes \$400 million in annual teacher pension costs on municipalities, and authorizes cities and towns to impose real property taxes on acute care and specialty hospitals. The budget also increases taxes by eliminating a popular property tax credit, reducing the earned income tax credit, and increasing the cigarette tax.

The budget, relative to hospitals and healthcare:

- Authorizes cities and towns to subject real property owned by acute care and specialty hospitals to local property taxes. Based on estimates from 2015 and 2016 Grand Lists, OPM projects this tax to amount to \$212.2 million statewide.
- Creates a new hospital supplemental pool in the amount of \$250 million to "address the potential loss."
- Eliminates the hospital supplemental payment separate line item.
- Eliminates the small hospital pool, for a cut of approximately \$11.8 million in each year of the biennium.
- Implements an annual cap on benefits under the Adult Dental Program.
- Removes rate increases for nursing homes.
- Reduces eligibility for HUSKY A Adults to 133%/138% of the federal poverty level.
- Reduces grants for mental health and substance use services.
- Reduces funding to reflect conversion of certain state-operated services to private operations.
- Reduces funding to the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven and relocates a 21-bed program from Hartford to Middletown.
- Creates a New Office of Health Strategy. The new office will combine the following existing agencies and offices: the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA), the SIM Management Office, and the position of the Health Information Technology Officer. Its mission will be to coordinate efforts to react to potential healthcare reform changes at the federal level.
- Transfers \$1 million of unobligated money in the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund to General Fund.
- Repeals the Impaired Healthcare professionals reporting mandate with revenue generated redirected to General Fund.
- Implements certain recommendations of the Certificate of Need (CON) Task Force (details will be available when the bill is released in the next two days.) But what we do know is that it adds two new positions at OHCA to support enhanced planning functions to increase access to healthcare services and to implement changes of the CON process.
- Requires the licensure of Urgent Care Centers. It adds two new positions to establish a new licensure program for urgent care centers.

Jennifer Jackson, CEO, Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), said the following in response to Governor Malloy's new proposed budget.

*We strongly oppose this new tax on hospitals.*

*Taxing local hospitals is a direct attack on the fabric of our communities. We've been down this road before, with a budget gimmick that already resulted in more than \$2 billion taxed and cut from hospitals. The hospital tax has increased costs for patients, caused the loss of thousands of healthcare jobs, extended wait times, and reduced access to care for those who need it most.*

*Our local hospitals are the cornerstones of our communities, providing tens of thousands of jobs and serving as a literal lifeline to the people we serve.*

*We will vigorously fight any new attempt to tax hospitals.*

The budget will now be referred to the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee for review and action, and the Committee will hold a series of public hearings over the next two weeks.

## Every Woman Symposium Focuses On Improving Birth Outcomes

On February 3, more than 100 caregivers and community members gathered at CHA for the *Every Woman Connecticut Symposium* to discuss ways in which the healthcare community can integrate efforts to improve birth outcomes.

The program, which is a project of the Connecticut Maternal and Child Health Coalition, examined a range of topics related to maternal health, including: optimal birth spacing; chronic conditions that can affect maternal health and future pregnancies; and One Key Question, a screening tool used to determine each woman's need for reproductive and pre/inter-conception healthcare.



Karen Rosene Montella, MD, Professor at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, told participants that the best way to reduce certain risks to pregnancy, such as high rates of chronic illnesses like diabetes, is to first address the social determinants of health that can lead to chronic disease. The importance of addressing social determinants of health was reinforced by other speakers, including Jennifer Culhane, PhD, MPH, Senior



Research Scientist Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who presented on the social causes that lead to premature births. Dr. Culhane said social disparities are the largest contributor to premature birth, but noted that medical factors still receive the vast majority of attention and funding.

Other speakers included: Margaret Miller, MD, Associate Professor, Alpert Medical School of Brown University Chief, and Women's Services, Lifespan Physician Group; Lucia Larson, MD, Associate Professor, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Director of Obstetric Medicine, Women's Medicine Collaborative; Greg Salguiero, MS, RD, LDN, Research and Lifestyle Medicine Manager, Women's Medicine Collaborative; and Teri Pearlstein, MD, Professor, Alpert Medical School of Brown University Director, Women's Behavioral Medicine, Women's Medicine Collaborative.

Every Woman Connecticut was sponsored by CHA, the state Department of Public Health, the March of Dimes, and the Connecticut Women's Consortium.

### Collaborations of Care Partners Meet with Connecticut Delegation to Share Concerns



On February 1, CHA – along with its Collaborations of Care Partners – traveled to Washington DC to meet with Connecticut's congressional delegation to share their concerns about a potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and possible changes to the Medicaid and Medicare programs that would have a profound effect on patients, providers, and communities.

During the visit, the group met with Senator Chris Murphy, a representative from the office of Senator Richard Blumenthal, and U.S. Representatives John Larson, Joe Courtney, Rosa DeLauro, Jim Himes, and Elizabeth Esty. The group outlined for the delegation their shared goal – that all Connecticut residents receive access to high quality and affordable healthcare – and priorities as Congress begins to deliberate potential changes to the country's healthcare system.

In particular, the Collaborations of Care Partners stated their opposition to a repeal of the ACA without a replacement that ensures access, coverage, and pathways to payment models to achieve better outcomes, higher quality, and reduced cost. The group also asked that the 22 million people currently receiving coverage under the ACA retain that coverage, and that Congress restore reimbursement reductions to hospitals and health systems that were originally included in the ACA if the program is repealed and not immediately replaced.

Other priorities communicated during the visit included a request that any Medicaid restructuring keep the federal-state partnership to ensure that beneficiaries continue to have access to high quality healthcare coverage, and providers are appropriately paid for the services they provide, and that the federal government adequately fund Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and other safety net programs. They also asked that no further reductions to hospitals, physicians, skilled nursing facilities, home care, and other safety net providers be considered.

Members of the state delegation expressed appreciation to the providers for coming together to communicate their concerns about the impact these changes could have on patients and providers, and vowed to support the state's healthcare sector in the coming months.

The Collaborations of Care Partners will be holding statewide forums with the congressional delegation in the coming months to discuss the local impact of changes to the ACA, Medicaid, and Medicare.

The Collaborations of Care Partners who attended the trip included Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA; Mathew Barrett, President and CEO, Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities (CAHCF); Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut; and Deborah Hoyt, President and CEO, Connecticut Association of Healthcare at Home. Not present on the trip, but a member of the Collaborations of Care Partners, was the Connecticut State Medical Society.

### CHA Provides Testimony on Hospital-Related Bills

On Tuesday, February 7, CHA provided testimony to the Insurance Committee in opposition to the following bills:

- **SB 23** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=23](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=23)), **An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Payments For Health Care Services**, is a proposed bill that would require payments for the healthcare services to be site-neutral. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20SB%2023%20-20AA%20Requiring%20Site-Neutral%20Payments%20For%20HC%20Services.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.
- **SB 426** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=426](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=426)), **An Act Protecting Patients From Inappropriate Billing Practices**, is a proposed bill that amends last year's surprise billing statute. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20SB%20426%20and%20HB%206436%20-20AA%20Protecting%20Patients%20Billing%20and%20AAC%20An%20Arbitration%20Process%20etc.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.
- **HB 6436** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=6436](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=6436)), **An Act Concerning An Arbitration Process For Surprise Bills And Bills For Emergency Services**, is a proposed bill that would require the establishment of an arbitration process by which a dispute over a bill for emergency services or a surprise bill for healthcare services may be resolved, and that requires standards to be used in the arbitration process. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20SB%20426%20and%20HB%206436%20-20AA%20Protecting%20Patients%20Billing%20and%20AAC%20An%20Arbitration%20Process%20etc.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.

Also on February 7, CHA provided testimony to the General Law Committee in opposition to the following bills:

- **HB 5077** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=5077](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=5077)), **An Act Concerning The Return Of Unused Prescription Drugs To Pharmacies**, is a proposed bill that would require pharmacies to accept and dispose of unused prescription drugs. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20HB%205077%20-20HB%205202%20HB%205733%20-20JLC.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.
- **HB 5202** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=5202](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=5202)), **An Act Prohibiting Pharmacists From Making Changes To Prescriptions Without Prescriber Consent**, is a proposed bill that would require prescriber consent prior to a pharmacist making any changes to a drug prescription. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20HB%205077%20-20HB%205202%20HB%205733%20-20JLC.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.
- **HB 5733** ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which\\_year=2017&bill\\_num=5733](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2017&bill_num=5733)), **An Act Requiring Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies To Package Opioids Dispensed In The State In Blister Packs**, is a proposed bill that would require pharmaceutical manufacturing companies to package all prescription opioids that are being dispensed in the state in blister packs. Click here (<http://www.cthosp.org/CHA/assets/File/advocacy/testimony/2017/FINAL%20HB%205077%20-20HB%205202%20HB%205733%20-20JLC.pdf>) for CHA's testimony.

Special Election Candidate Profile: 2nd Senate District

### Special Election Candidates Form: 2nd Senate District



Special Elections will take place on February 28, 2017, to fill two state Senate seats and one seat in the House of Representatives that were left vacant when three lawmakers declined to be sworn into office last month. With a close margin in the House and a tied Senate, the Special Elections will be of great interest to both political parties.

CHA is featuring candidate profiles for all three races in *CHA Update*. Today, CHA will profile the race in the 2nd State Senate district; profiles for the remaining race will be published on February 17, with a wrap-up of the race on February 24.

The Special Election to choose a successor for the 2nd State Senate seat left vacant by the resignation of longtime and well-respected State Senator Eric Coleman (D-Bloomfield) features two major party candidates: current Democratic State Representative Douglas McCrory (D-Hartford) and Republican Michael McDonald (R-Windsor). The 2nd Senate District covers the North End of Hartford and most of Bloomfield and Windsor.

First elected in 2004 as State Representative from the 7th House District, Rep. McCrory is a member of the of Appropriations, Higher Education, Education, and Legislative Management Committees. He holds the leadership title of Deputy Majority Leader, is a member of the Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, and serves as the Co-Chairman of the Appropriations-Judicial & Corrections Subcommittee. Outside of the General Assembly, Rep. McCrory is a Vice Principal for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and has been an educator for more than 20 years.

No campaign website for candidate McCrory could be found, but this is the link (<http://www.housedems.ct.gov/McCrory>) to his state office website.

Republican Michael McDonald was born, raised, and currently lives in Windsor with his family. A graduate of UCONN, Mr. McDonald is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Religion from Liberty University. Mr. McDonald has more than 20 years of experience in the security guard industry, having managed both domestic and international companies, and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Windsor Republican Town Committee. He has served four years on the Windsor Board of Education, and six years on the Windsor Town Council. Mr. McDonald is currently serving his 2nd term as a member of the Connecticut Republican State Central Committee.

Mr. McDonald's campaign website can be found here (<http://mikeforctsenate.com/>).

The 2nd and 32nd state Senate seats were left vacant when former Senators Coleman and Rob Kane (R- Watertown) resigned simultaneously minutes before the opening of the 2017 Legislative Session in a deal that maintained the balance of power in the evenly divided Senate. Mr. Coleman is seeking a judicial appointment; Mr. Kane was recently approved by the legislature to serve as the Republican State Auditor.

## Education Updates

### CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

View Brochure ([http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/Preceptor\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/Preceptor_Brochure.pdf)) | Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42781&id=617>)

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside.

CHA's Nurse Preceptorship Program features a curriculum developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing, and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, and evaluating competence. The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

### HIIN: Antibiotic Stewardship—Improving the Use of Antibiotics to Support Patient Safety Efforts

Monday, February 27, 2017

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42793&id=626>)

Antibiotics have transformed the practice of medicine, making once lethal infections readily treatable and making other medical advances, like cancer chemotherapy and organ transplants, possible. The prompt initiation of antibiotics to treat infections has been proven to reduce morbidity and save lives, with a recent example being the rapid administration of antibiotics in the management of sepsis. However, 20-50% of all antibiotics prescribed in U.S. acute care hospitals are either unnecessary or inappropriate. Like all medications, antibiotics can have serious side effects, including adverse drug reactions and *C. diff* infection.

Please join the program to discuss how to improve the use of antibiotics, support patient safety efforts, and address this national public health issue.

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

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

View Brochure (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/HIPAA-Brochure.pdf>) | Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42794&id=618>)

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules, with an emphasis on patient access rights and stepped up enforcement activities by the Office for Civil Rights. The program information includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a review of business associates rules, and practical tips and solutions for remaining compliant with HIPAA. Also covered are: emerging issues in cyber security, trends in state enforcement, devices and technology issues, social media considerations, and the growing risks for

HIPAA covered entities and business associates.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

#### **Staff to Management: Starting the Transition**

Monday, March 6, 2017

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

View Brochure (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/March%202017%20STDate.pdf>) | Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42800&id=624>)

Making the transition from being a staff person to a supervisor/manager is a significant step. Transitioning from individual contributor to being effective in a leadership role is far more challenging and complicated than ever before and requires the ability to use the tools of diplomacy, negotiation, persuasion, and alliance-building to a greater degree than one used in the past. Managing the demands of your organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. Those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others and managing change.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

#### **Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

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

View Brochure (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/March%202017%20STDate.pdf>) | Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42801&id=625>)

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work.

What is not so clear is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. This program will explore how to recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict, identify when conflict is healthy or destructive, explain how to reduce to defuse unnecessary conflict, and identify different styles of dealing with conflict.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

#### **2017 CHA Patient Safety Summit**

Thursday, March 16, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

View Brochure (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/uploads/March%202017%20STDate.pdf>) | Event Registration (<http://www.chime.org/eventcalendar/index.cfm?action=register&date=42810&id=623>)

Please join us for CHA's 15th Annual Patient Safety Summit, co-sponsored with Qualidigm and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives. The 2017 Patient Safety Summit will offer multiple sessions and perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of healthcare on a national and statewide level.

We are pleased to announce that Tiffany Christensen, a nationally recognized public speaker and the author of three books exploring advocacy, end-of-life planning, and partnership strategies in healthcare, will present. Ms. Christensen is a board member of the Beryl Institute, a global community of practice for improving the patient experience, and serves as faculty for the Patient Safety Officer Training at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

The Summit will also include presentations on healthcare progress over the last 15 years and provide a perspective on future challenges—specifically with regard to population health and health equity.