Hospitals to Testify Against Budget Cuts at State Capitol

Later today, representatives from Connecticut hospitals – including patients, doctors, nurses, and volunteers – will testify before the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly in opposition to the Department of Social Services budget bill, which cuts more than $90 million from hospitals in FY 17.

Also testifying against HB 5044, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017, is Stephen Frayne, Senior Vice President of Health Policy, CHA.

In addition, the budget would also reduce funding to the Small Hospital Pool by $3 million, cut funding by nearly $800,000 to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, eliminate funds for Community Care Teams, and reduce grants for other mental health and substance abuse services.

Hospitals oppose these cuts, which are compounded by a $556 million hospital provider tax that further hurts hospitals and patients. Under the current budget, the state is returning only $165 million of the provider tax, resulting in an unsustainable cost of $391 million each year to hospitals.

Hospitals have proposed a different solution: The Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut released a study that shows the state can generate 6,600 jobs and bring in close to $35 million a year, over and above the state’s investment, simply by returning to hospitals the taxes they pay to the state and maximizing federal funds.

The study shows that Connecticut's hospitals are not only a core service, but play a critical role in the state's economy. Investing in hospitals would benefit everyone – the state, patients, communities, and the healthcare system.

To share this message, CHA is continuing its advocacy campaign, with TV and digital ads, and w website, www.StopTheCutsNow.org. We encourage you to sign up to join our fight.

Book on Healthcare Collaboratives Features Article about Connecticut High Reliability

A new book about healthcare collaboratives authored by more than 35 professionals features an article by two quality and patient safety experts at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA).

The book, All In: Using Healthcare Collaboratives to Save Lives and Improve Care, was funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and features articles by some of the leaders in healthcare, including Donald Berwick, MD, President Emeritus and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Dennis Wagner, Director of the Quality Improvement and Innovation Group for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The article by CHA's Alison Hong, MD, Director of Quality and Patient Safety, and Mary Cooper, MD, JD, Chief Quality Officer and Vice President of Quality and Safety, focuses on Connecticut's High Reliability collaborative, which has trained more than 50,000 healthcare workers across the state in high reliability science. The goal of the collaborative is to eliminate all preventable harm to patients by creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety.

The article focuses on how Connecticut created a flexible model for hospitals that allowed them to participate in the collaborative "when it was optimal for them," said Dr. Hong, recognizing that hospitals have significant competing priorities.

"Dr. Cooper and I were thrilled to share the great work that Connecticut hospitals have done to improve patient safety," Dr. Hong said. "By sharing the model, we hope to inspire others to embark on a similar journey."

The book, which is co-edited by Patricia Teske, RN, Implementation Officer at Cynosure Health, and Bruce Spurlock, MD, Executive Director at Cynosure Health, is now available on Amazon.

Gov. Malloy Selects Dr. Raul Pino to Serve as Commissioner of Public Health

On February 11, Governor Dannel Malloy announced that he is appointing Raul Pino, MD, to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH). Dr. Pino has been serving in the role of Acting Commissioner since December, and prior, he served as Deputy Commissioner of the agency.

"We're doing big things in the Department of Public Health and today is a next step. Dr. Pino is very well respected in the health and human services fields and is known to many within Connecticut's public health community," Governor Malloy said. "He has the experience to guide our state and help ensure improved health and safety. I'm pleased to appoint him to the role and congratulate him on the position."

"It is with great honor that I have accepted the position, and I'm humbled to be leading the agency into the future. I want to thank both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor for this opportunity," Dr. Pino said. "Our
the state's public health agency is positioned well and ready to face new challenges."

Prior to serving as Deputy Commissioner of DPH, Dr. Pino served as Director of the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, where he managed the Department's budget and oversaw labor relations, public health preparedness, code enforcement, and the Department's management team. And prior to that, he served as an epidemiologist for DPH's STD Unit and worked at the Institute for Community Research, Hispanic Health Council, and Hartford Hospital. He is a member of the American Public Health Association and National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. He graduated from the University of Havana with a Doctorate in Medicine, and from the UConn School of Medicine with an MA in Public Health.

He is originally from Cuba, where he served in the Cuban Army. He later came to Connecticut as a political refugee, where he worked his way to attend graduate school.

Dr. Pino succeeds Dr. Jewel Mullen, who departed the agency at the end of last year to take a position with the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Stratford Special Election Allows Democrats to Retain House Seat

Stratford voters chose Joseph “Joe” Gresko as their new state representative from the 121st House District during a special election on February 2, 2016.

Rep. Gresko replaces Democrat Terry Backer, who died on December 14, 2015, after a long battle with brain cancer. Rep. Backer served 12 terms in the House and, at the time of his death, was one of Connecticut's leading environmental activists.

Election night totals had Rep. Gresko beating Republican Susan Barksdale 1,339 to 872. The results were immediately transmitted to Secretary of State Denise Merrill for certification. Rep. Gresko was sworn into office on February 4.

Rep. Gresko is a member of the Stratford Town Council. He also served as a legislative aide in the House Democratic Caucus.

With this election, the Democrats retain their 87-64 advantage in the House.

Connecticut Officials Plan Response to Zika Virus

Healthcare and environmental officials across Connecticut are preparing for the Zika virus, which has now been identified in 13 states and Washington DC, prompting warnings about traveling to heavily affected areas like Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Officials from the Governor’s office, the state Department of Public Health (DPH), the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the agricultural experiment station, which manages the state’s mosquito testing program, met this week to map out a plan to respond to the virus.

DPH has issued a statement advising pregnant women to postpone travel to hard-hit areas and, last month, requested that Connecticut healthcare providers report any suspected cases of the mosquito-borne infection.

There are no known cases of the Zika virus in Connecticut to date. The virus is thought to cause serious birth defects in infants if contracted by pregnant women, but a majority of people who contract it have no symptoms, which makes it hard to detect. Symptoms are usually mild and include rashes, headaches, and red eyes.

For the latest information on the Zika virus, click here. For a CDC Q&A for Healthcare Providers, click here.

Education Updates

Cross Cultural Diversity and 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 and 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 #123for 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.

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.

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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

HRO Leadership Method Training
Monday, February 29, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Leadership Method Training is for organizations that are new to high reliability or for new management employees in organizations that are already on the high reliability journey. Both hospital and ambulatory organization leadership practices will be addressed. The leadership session is designed to teach your hospital or ambulatory leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors. The sessions are structured for leaders at the manager level and above.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

HRO Train-the-Trainer
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

The model for sharing high reliability training with the rest of the staff is Train the Trainer. The training is scripted. It requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within the organization. Other hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of their training contingent. Train the Trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

HRO Fair and Just Accountability
Thursday, March 3, 2016
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

This session, for Human Resources executives and anyone else who manages people, will train staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event — to focus on the behavior rather than the outcome.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

HRO Safety Coach Training
Thursday, March 3, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training
Session One: Monday, March 14, 2016
Session Two: Monday, March 21, 2016
In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, the Saint Francis Center for Health Equity, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, 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 and addressing healthcare disparities.

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. With over 200 members completing the training, program evaluations have been consistently positive about the value of this training.

The program provides an opportunity for hospitals who have taken the AHA #123 Equity Pledge to Act to Eliminate Healthcare Disparities to meet the requirement for training staff in cultural competence.

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.

**Staff to Management: Starting the Transition**
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Making the transition from being a staff person one day to a supervisor/manager the next 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. You will discover that 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 will be awarded.

**Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee**
Thursday, March 17, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

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. How can we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?