Connecticut Hospitals Contribute $20.2 Billion to State’s Economy

Connecticut hospitals contributed $20.2 billion to the state and local economies in 2012, according to a report, *Connecticut Hospitals: Improving Health, Strengthening Connecticut’s Economy* released today by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA).

“Connecticut hospitals serve as the economic lifeblood of our communities,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO, CHA. “Hospitals provide great jobs to more than 55,000 caregivers and staff. But those direct employees aren’t the only ones whose jobs can be traced to Connecticut hospitals. Every job in a hospital produces another Connecticut job outside the hospital – 111,000 Connecticut jobs can be traced either directly or indirectly to hospitals. Hospital jobs produce Connecticut jobs.”

In addition to generating jobs, hospital spending generates additional economic activity in communities throughout our state. In 2012, hospitals generated $11 billion in annual local payroll, $8.1 billion in spending goods and services, and $1.1 billion in capital spending. (View an infographic here.)

Investing in healthcare is a good investment for the state. The current state budget surplus and 70/30 federal match rate offers Connecticut a great opportunity: a $30 million investment in hospitals in 2015 would provide an additional $100 million for patient care - to protect jobs, preserve services, and ensure quality care. This investment would generate $207 million in business activity and nearly 1,650 jobs.

Connecticut Hospitals Adopt Transparency Recommendation on Facility Fees

On January 27, 2013, the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Hospital Association unanimously adopted a recommendation that all Connecticut hospitals provide patients with information about facility fees in advance of their treatment.

“Connecticut hospitals support efforts to make pricing more transparent and meaningful for consumers, and when it comes to informing patients about facility fees, hospitals agreed they can and will do better,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO, CHA. “It is important for patients to understand their care and the cost of that care prior to receiving it.”

Last fall, Attorney General George Jepsen brought to light a concern that patients seeking care at physician offices that are part of a hospital might not know they are being treated at a hospital, that they would receive two bills for that care, and that the cost for the care would be higher because the hospital facility fee now covers a portion of the hospital’s ongoing operating expenses. The Attorney General solicited feedback directly from patients as he crafted legislation to provide meaningful notice and pricing transparency for consumers.

Connecticut hospitals agree that when seeking a physician, patients should not be surprised to learn after the fact that they are being treated at a hospital, or that they will receive two bills and the facility fee covers a portion of the hospital’s ongoing operating expense.

Connecticut hospitals are implementing changes without delay. By March 1, 2014, CHA has recommended that all Connecticut hospitals adopt changes to improve pricing transparency. At every off-campus hospital-based provider location, CHA has recommended that Connecticut hospitals provide written notice informing patients that they are receiving care at an outpatient department of the hospital, how many bills they are likely to receive, and an estimate of the typical charges.

Read the Policy on Facility Fees and Physician Services by clicking here.

Appropriations Committee to Hold Public Hearings on Dept. of Social Services Budget Proposals

After Governor Dannel Malloy released his proposed FY 2015 midterm state budget last week, the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee began holding meetings and public hearings on adjustments to the biennium budget. The Appropriations Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on matters related to the Department of Social Services on Friday, February 14, and hospitals from across the state will provide testimony.

CHA will urge Committee members to adopt a proposal to redesign the Medicaid program modeled after the Medicare Value-Based Purchasing
The hospital proposal aligns with the state’s health reform agenda; builds upon the existing Medicaid FFS payment system; focuses on programs to improve access to appropriate care, thereby reducing disparities and improving population health; uses quality metrics to track and reward change; and invests in hospitals that achieve the shared vision.

The Appropriations Committee will also hold meetings and hearings on the budget next week, at which time CHA will provide testimony in support of the Governor’s proposal to increase funding for services and programs in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

**CHA Annual Meeting Awards: Requesting Submissions**

CHA is pleased to open the call for entries for two prestigious awards that will be given at its 96th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. The presentation of the awards is an important part of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements.

The 2014 John D. Thompson Award: A Commemorative Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data, now in its 20th year, recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA’s education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF). The 2014 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award, now in its 22nd year, is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). (Please note that there is a three-year period of eligibility for previous Community Service Award winners, and a two-year period of eligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners.)

The deadline for all entries is March 14, 2014.

Click here for the 2014 John D. Thompson Award entry form.
Click here for the 2014 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award entry form.

**Education Updates**

**Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training**

**Wednesday, February 19 and Wednesday, February 26, 2014**
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council and Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA is pleased to offer Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training—a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program that forms the curriculum framework and addresses the five baseline elements of a standard cultural competency program approved by the CHA Board Committee on Human Resources—to help Diversity Collaborative members achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care.

The Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training curriculum is structured as a two-module program, each session five hours in duration—delivered once each week over a two week period on Wednesday, February 19 and Wednesday, February 26. Participants should plan to attend both sessions. 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.

Diversity Collaborative team members are encouraged to attend as a way to help achieve the team goals in their organization.

Continuing education credits will be awarded to those that attend both sessions. Please see the brochure for more details.

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

**HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session**

**Friday, February 21, 2014**
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

**2014 Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Please join us for the eighth annual Smart Moves Forum. Mary Willa Matz, MSPH, CPE, CSPHP, president of Patient Care Ergonomic Solutions, our keynote speaker, will discuss recently developed safe patient handling and mobility national standards. This year’s Forum will also include educational sessions related to safe patient handling challenges and building successful programs.

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

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)
Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare  
Thursday, February 27 and Thursday, March 6, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

As health reform changes accelerate and the challenge of lower reimbursement at both the federal and state levels unfold, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that both increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that eliminates road blocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by improving processes, and reducing errors and waiting times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Please note: this is a two-session program—held Thursday, February 27 and Thursday, March 6. Participants should plan to attend both sessions.

Continuing education credits will be awarded to those that attend both sessions. Please see the brochure for more details.

Caring for Patients with Dementia or Alzheimer's: Best Practices Across the Continuum of Care  
Friday, February 28, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us on Friday, February 28, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to explore best practices across the continuum of care. This program will focus on the differences associated with care for persons living with dementia and Alzheimer’s, and best practices for the transitions of care for these patients. Carolyn DeRocco, Senior Director of Education and Programs, Alzheimer's Association, will present the keynote address. A panel discussion will follow.

This program is part of a series on end-of-life care issues presented by Connecticut's Collaborations of Care partners: the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, the Connecticut State Medical Society, and LeadingAge Connecticut.

HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session  
Monday, March 3, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

HPI Level 3: Leadership Training Session  
Tuesday, March 4, 2014  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Leadership Training Sessions will provide the opportunity for Level 3 hospital leaders to get training directly from the HPI staff—each session will be taught by HPI Senior Consultant Steve Kreiser, CDR (USN Ret.), MBA, MSM. The morning portion of this session will cover staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools. The afternoon will focus on structured high reliability leadership methods to ensure sustainability to help leaders find and fix problems and reinforce accountability.

Cyber Resilience Workshop  
Thursday, March 6, 2014  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In partnership with the Department of Homeland Security and Carnegie Mellon, CHA is pleased to offer a workshop on Cyber Resilience. This workshop is designed to introduce cyber security stakeholders and practitioners to cyber resilience concepts and to build capability and capacity across key performance areas related to cyber security, IT operations, and business continuity within critical services. The workshop is geared toward executive and operations management within critical infrastructure (public and private) sectors, and will result in tangible, useful “take-away” information related to risk-based decision-making and security planning for critical IT services underpinning core operations.

2014 Patient Safety Summit  
Friday, March 7, 2014  
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please join us for CHA's twelfth annual Patient Safety Summit. The Summit is a continuation of CHA's successful statewide initiative to eliminate all-cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety.

Complete program information will be available shortly. In the meantime, please save the date for the 2014 Patient Safety Summit, which will feature nationally recognized experts who will provide strategies and tools for predicting and preventing technology-associated errors. The program will be held
at CHA in Wallingford.

View Brochure | Event Registration