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Save the Date: CHA's 100th Annual Meeting**Faces of Connecticut Hospitals Campaign Expands to Website**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has expanded its Faces of Connecticut Hospitals social media campaign to its website, www.CareWeCanCountOn.org, to share stories about patients and caregivers.

The Faces of Connecticut Hospitals campaign, which began last fall on CHA's social media sites, chronicles the stories of the dedicated professionals who work in Connecticut hospitals and the patients whose lives they have saved.

"We want to take every opportunity to spread the word about the important work of Connecticut hospitals and the deep commitment to care demonstrated by their nurses, doctors, and other staff members," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Connecticut hospitals are first and foremost about people – the people who work there and the people for whom they care."

Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of their ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are dynamic, complex organizations that are continually working to find innovative ways to better serve patients and communities. They are building integrated delivery networks with physicians, services, and technology to make sure patients receive high quality, coordinated, cost-effective, patient focused care.

Two Democratic Lawmakers Announce Their Retirements

Two Democratic state lawmakers have announced they will not seek re-election in November.

State Representative Daniel Rovero (D-Killingly), who serves on the Aging, General Law, and Public Safety and Security Committees, announced earlier this month that he will retire from politics when his current term ends.

A fiscally conservative Democrat, Rep. Rovero won election to the 51st House District seat in 2010, replacing Democrat Shawn Johnson. In addition to his service in Hartford, Rep. Rovero was a small business owner, a Director at Day Kimball Hospital, and the former Mayor of Putnam. He also served on the Killingly Charter Revision Commission, as Chairperson of the Northeast Council of Governments, and as member of the Northeast Regional Committee on Aging.

The 51st House District seat comprises the towns of Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson.

Additionally, state Rep. Kelly Juleson-Scopino (D-Manchester), who was first elected in 2014, has declared she will not seek re-election to the 12th House District in November.

A champion of women's and children's issues, Rep. Juleson-Scopino serves as a member of the Aging, Children's, and Public Health Committees.

Rep. Juleson-Scopino cited the demands of raising her young daughter as the reason for not seeking reelection. The 12th House District seat comprises a portion of the city of Manchester.



Rep. Juleson-Scopino is the third Democratic House member to announce her intention to step down from office, joining Linda Gentile (D- Ansonia) and Rep. Rovero.

Additional members of the General Assembly will make announcements in the coming weeks about their plans for seeking office.

National Donor Day Observed on February 14



National Donor Day, celebrated annually on Valentine's Day, is a time to focus on all types of donations – organ, eye, tissue, blood, platelets, and marrow – but the need for donations is constant.

There are more than 116,000 Americans waiting for vital lifesaving organ transplants, while many others are in need of cornea, tissue, bone marrow, blood, and platelet donations. That's why observance days like National Donor Day and National Donate Life Month, which occurs each April, are vital tools in the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the issue.

Connecticut hospitals are a key part of this effort and, working with Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) in Connecticut, hold activities and programs highlighting the importance of becoming a donor. CHA supports these efforts by raising the Donate Life flag on its campus in Wallingford each April and by partnering with New

England Donor Services and Donate Life Connecticut on a number of educational and advocacy issues during the course of the year, helping to spread awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donations.

Severe Flu Continues in Connecticut



With a severe flu season still under way and emergency department visits and flu-associated deaths on the rise, officials continue to urge residents who have not yet received a flu shot to obtain one.

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) reported on February 15 that flu activity remains high and widespread, with a total of 1,638 patients hospitalized with confirmed cases of flu between August 27, 2017 and February 10, 2018. The number of people who have died from the flu rose to 77, DPH reports, while statewide emergency department visits attributed to flu have increased to 14.3 percent.

Of the 77 deaths attributed to the flu, 62 were among patients over the age of 65, 9 were 50-64 years of age, 4 were 25-49 years of age, and 1 was between 5-17 years of age. A total of 4,915 influenza positive laboratory tests have been reported so far this season.

Nationally, the flu hospitalization rate per 100,000 people hit 59.9 after 18 weeks, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The H3N2 strain predominant this flu season has been associated in past years with more hospitalizations and deaths in older adults and young children. If the current flu trends continue, the CDC said, the 2017-2018 flu season could exceed the 710,000 hospitalizations and the 56,000 deaths that occurred during the 2014-15 flu season.

Officials are advising the public that the flu vaccine and good hand hygiene are important barriers to flu transmission. If people do get the flu, however, the symptoms can be less severe if they have had the vaccine. There are also anti-viral medications that can mitigate symptoms if taken within the first 48 hours

In 2011, the CHA Board adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory influenza vaccination for hospital personnel as part of CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety. To date, the vast majority of acute care CHA member hospitals in Connecticut have implemented a mandatory participation or mandatory vaccination program.

Education Updates

The Basics of Budgeting

Monday, February 26, 2018

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

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but have little or no formal business financial training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary knowledge or tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results, particularly in an environment of chronic federal and state underfunding. This management development program, part one of a two-part series, provides managers with an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, as well as salary and supply budgets, and information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Bill Ward, a dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, returns at member request to present the program.

Part two of this program is planned for April 24, 2018.

Healthcare Financial Management - an Overview

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

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 financial results. Bill Ward will present the program.

Please note: this program was previously called Financial Skills for Managers and is targeted to those with limited exposure to financial management concepts.

Issue-Based Forum: Patient Access Rights and Release of Information

Thursday, March 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA members are invited to attend an issue-based forum with a focus on assisting hospitals with achieving understanding and compliance related to patient access rights and release of information, including an emphasis on the nuances specific to substance use treatment records. There is no cost associated with this event, which is intended for a broad hospital audience.

CPQC Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Conference

Thursday, March 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

CHA will host the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC) conference on March 22. Presenters will discuss strategies for working with mothers in recovery from substance use disorder, and ways to create an environment that enables clinicians to work with mothers and babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Responding to the Opioid Epidemic

Thursday, March 22, 2018

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

A conference to address responses to the opioid epidemic will take place at CHA on March 22. The conference will include presentations on the history of the opioid epidemic in our state, the science of addiction, and practical hospital strategies for managing this patient population.

