



Thursday, February 17, 2011

## Governor Releases FY 2012-2013 “Shared Sacrifice” Biennium Budget; Hospital Tax Imposed and Uncompensated Care and Urban DSH Pools Eliminated

Governor Dannel P. Malloy [released](#) his Fiscal Year 2012-2013 state budget yesterday during a noontime address to a Joint Session of the General Assembly. In [his address](#), Governor Malloy stressed that his budget focuses on four pillars: jobs, preserving the safety net, protecting local services, and promoting transparency and responsible budgeting.

Of most concern to hospitals are two budget provisions that:

- **Impose a hospital provider tax** at a rate of 5.5 percent from July 1, 2011 until September 30, 2011, and 5.71 percent thereafter. The imposition of the tax annually raises approximately \$267 million. The state will receive a 50 percent match on the amount redistributed. The redistribution will be based on the uncompensated care pool distribution formula.
- **Eliminate the Uncompensated Care and Urban DSH Pools**, for a savings of \$83 million in both FY 12 and FY 13.



“We fully appreciate the difficult job facing Governor Dannel Malloy as he attempts to balance needs and resources,” said Jennifer Jackson, CHA President and CEO, in response to the release of the 2012-13 state budget proposal. “Hospitals in Connecticut are all too familiar with making tough choices while sustaining access to high quality healthcare services for our communities. While we recognize that the state is facing an unprecedented budget deficit, reducing funding and imposing taxes on hospitals will severely weaken Connecticut’s healthcare safety net—and will have a lasting detrimental impact on the quality of life and health of all Connecticut citizens.”

CHA and its members will actively object to the provider tax and the reduction of uncompensated care pools as budget discussions continue over the next three months.

As promised, Governor Malloy’s first budget proposal, characterized as “shared sacrifice,” provides for a series of state employee wage and benefits concessions, consolidations of state agencies, cuts to state-funded programs, and a realignment of the state tax code. The estimated [\\$40 billion biennial budget](#) contains:

- \$1.5 billion in tax increases;
- \$1 billion in yet to be defined union concessions; and
- \$760 million in spending reductions.

Click [here](#) for more details.

The budget will now be referred to the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee for review and action. The Appropriations Committee will meet on Friday, March 4 in a hearing with the Department of Social Services.

Click [here](#) to read CHA’s complete statement in opposition to the provisions of the Governor’s budget that negatively impact hospitals. Click [here](#) to view a video of Governor Malloy’s budget address to the General Assembly.

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## Governor Malloy To Hold Series of Town Hall Meetings Across Connecticut

Hospitals and healthcare professionals will have an opportunity to ask Connecticut's governor questions about his budget decisions face-to-face. Over the next seven weeks, Governor Dannel P. Malloy will hold a series of 17 town hall-style meetings across the state. These meetings will allow the Governor to discuss the state's pressing economic and budgetary issues, including those facing hospitals and healthcare, with state residents, while listening to their thoughts and suggestions.

For more information, including a list of towns and times for the visits, click [here](#).

## Task Force Reports Findings On Transfer of Medicaid Patients to Long Term Care Facilities

Last year, a Task Force to Study the Transfer of Medicaid Patients to Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities was established during the 2010 legislative session to study the period of time Medicaid recipients remain in acute care hospitals before being transferred to a long-term care facility. The issue was raised by the Hospital of St. Raphael, and resulted in [legislation](#) to form the Task Force, which was required to report its findings to the General Assembly. The task force was co-chaired by John Tarutis, Director of the Sister Anne Virginie Grimes Center, Hospital of St. Raphael, and it issued its findings last week.

The task force began to look at the issue of delayed hospital discharge by reviewing a data sample collected from acute care hospitals by the Department of Social Services. They [recommended solutions](#) in four areas that create barriers to moving patients from acute care settings to LTC settings: issues of acuity and high cost, payment source, the probate system, and adequate housing alternatives. One of the task force recommendations is to create a pilot program, which was requested in the original legislation.

Hospital representatives on the task force included Sheldon Bustow, Director of New Business Development, Hospital for Special Care; Kathleen Ferrara-Tesla, Director of Clinical Resource Management, Danbury Hospital; and Bonnie Gauthier, President and CEO, Hebrew Health Care.

Click [here](#) to review the full report from the Task Force, including its recommendations.

## CHA's Readmissions Collaborative Hears from The Joint Commission About Core and Advanced Certification programs

On Wednesday, February 16, CHA's Reducing Readmission Collaborative heard from MJ Hampel, MPH, MBA, Senior Associate Director for the Disease-Specific Care Certification program of The Joint Commission. Ms. Hampel joined the readmission collaborative teams by conference call to share the latest news on the Core and Advanced certification requirements.

For more information about CHA's Reducing Readmission Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety at [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org).

## CHA's 2011 Smart Moves Forum on Patient Safety Handling To Be Held February 22

CHA's 2011 Smart Moves Forum is slated for next Tuesday, February 22, in Wallingford, and will feature national experts in patient safety handling. James Collins, PhD, MSME, will open the program with "National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Research Addressing Safe Patient Handling and Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention Among Healthcare Workers." Dr. Collins has 26 years experience as an engineer and an epidemiologist conducting laboratory and field research with the CDC/NIOSH. Jim Murphy, RN, BSN, COHN-S, ASSE, has been an RN for nearly 30 years. Mr. Murphy will speak on "Managing Safe Patient Handling for Stroke Patients and Other Special Needs Considerations." His clinical background includes pediatrics, NICU, Army Nurse Corp, EMT/Firefighter as well as more than 20 years as an emergency department nurse.

Smart Moves is a statewide initiative on safe patient handling that aims to improve the health and safety of nurses and other healthcare workers, increase patient safety, and reduce healthcare costs. The campaign focuses on increasing awareness and education regarding safe patient handling; promotes the use of evidence-based curricula; encourages implementation of safe patient handling programs; and increases the use of assistive equipment and patient handling devices.

The summit is presented through a collaboration of CHA, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the Connecticut Association for Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice.

The Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (2.75 contact hours). This program has been approved by the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators for 2.75 CEUs for Nursing Home Administrators.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

## Education Updates

### Coaching Skills to Improve Performance, Monday, February 28, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Effective managers from all walks of life have discovered that the same skills successful coaches use to create winning athletic teams are applicable in an organizational setting as well. In fact, the ability to have effective coaching conversations with colleagues and employees is a critical skill for leaders today. So what are the characteristics of a successful coach—and how do coaching skills help to develop a culture of excellence, reliability, and accountability? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging and mentoring growth, active listening, providing constructive feedback, asking insightful questions, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process. In this highly interactive program, participants will learn how coaching is different from other developmental strategies, understand the coaching process, and practice coaching tools and techniques.

The program's speaker, Joan Evans, MBA, has presented several successful programs in CHA's leadership and management development series, and is a national speaker and author on a variety of leadership topics. She currently serves as Chief Learning Officer for the Moses Cone Health System in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

### CHA's Patient Safety Summit, Friday, March 11, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The ninth annual Patient Safety Summit, sponsored by CHA, Qualidigm, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will present innovative ideas and practical, patient-centered initiatives to spark discussion and commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of safe patient care. Summit presentations will include: a strategy to achieve Patient-Driven Leadership; the role of patient advocates as partners in improving the healthcare system; and the impact of early intervention and education on improving patient outcomes.

Brian Wong, MD, MPH, Quality and Patient Safety Expert and CEO of The Bedside Trust, will provide the keynote address on *Patient Driven Leadership*, where he will discuss how the Trusted Colleague Practice (TCP) produces leadership behavior to allow healthcare leaders to eliminate preventable harm, creating a "cultural operating system." Reinforcing the Patient Driven Leadership model, Dr. Wong will also present an afternoon session on *Essential Decisions of a Patient Driven Leader: Every Interaction Matters*. In addition, Helen Haskell, Patient Advocate, Consumers Advancing Patient Safety (CAPS), will tell her family's story, and George Blike, MD, Anesthesiologist, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, will present on *Detection, Intervention, Prevention: Improving Patient Outcomes*.

Click [here](#) for the brochure. Click [here](#) to register.

### Nurse Manager Leadership Academy 2011 Announces Dates in March-April

The 2011 dates have been announced for CHA's popular Nurse Manager Leadership Academy, a five-part series modeled after the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Nurse Manager Leadership Collaborative Learning Domain Framework ©2004 NMLC AONE and specifically designed to meet the development needs of new and aspiring nurse managers.

Developed and implemented with the first cohort of nurse managers in the spring of 2008, and repeated in 2009 and 2010, the program has five comprehensive and successive learning modules built upon each other to focus on the link between clinical background and the leadership, business, and interpersonal skills needed in the role of the nurse manager. We are excited to have Jo Manion, PhD, RN, a nationally recognized speaker and author, returning to present two sessions on March 30 and 31.

**Wednesday, March 23:** Creating the Leader in Yourself, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Wednesday, March 30:** Leading the People (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Thursday, March 31:** Leading the People (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Wednesday, April 13:** Managing the Business (part one), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

**Monday, April 25:** Managing the Business (part two), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Click [here](#) to register)

Full program information will soon be available.