



Thursday, February 18, 2016

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**Hospitals Turn Out in Force to Denounce Budget Proposal**



Connecticut hospitals spoke in unison last week as they urged lawmakers to reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$90 million in hospital funding from the budget next year.

Hospital advocates from across the state provided impassioned testimony before the Appropriations Committee on February 11 about the state Department of Social Services (DSS) budget adjustment proposal, arguing that hospitals have been cut and taxed so significantly over the last five years that they cannot weather another \$90 million cut. Critical investments in staffing, infrastructure, programs, and services are already being cut or reduced, they said.

Moreover, hospitals have only received a small portion of the funds appropriated in the current state budget.

Stephen Frayne, Senior Vice President of Health Policy, CHA, described how hospitals have so far received only a third of the funds due to them from the state, and said that DSS has informed CHA that if it doesn't receive the enhanced federal match rate, the \$90 million cut will become \$140 million. Mr. Frayne also reported to the Committee that DSS conveyed to CHA that it is waiting for federal approval of the waiver to pay hospitals, but CMS has informed CHA that such a waiver has not yet been filed. Mr. Frayne asked legislators to urge the administration to pay hospitals what was appropriated in the budget.

Many hospital executives said the current fiscal environment is unstable and unsustainable, and argued that the state must find a way to invest in hospitals, for the good of the state and its residents.

R. Christopher Hartley, Senior Vice President, Trinity Health-New England, said Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center will lose an additional \$10.25 million under the budget proposal and Johnson Memorial Medical Center stands to lose nearly \$1.4 million. Mr. Hartley said these hospitals will pay approximately \$42.9 million in taxes as part of the \$556 million provider tax. He said the future of healthcare in Connecticut relies on state investment.

"Trinity Health-New England believes in a vibrant future for the healthcare industry in this state," he said, "but that future can only be achieved if state leaders invest in that future rather than tear down the existing healthcare infrastructure on which that future must be built."

Stuart E. Rosenberg, President, Johnson Memorial Hospital, discussed the value of the hospital to its community, describing both the great care and jobs it provides. By maximizing federal reimbursement as outlined in the recent analysis by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut, Mr. Rosenberg said the state would grow jobs and revenue quickly, and maintain it – as well as strengthen our healthcare system – for years to come.

"The creation of additional hospital jobs will also promote Connecticut's goal of creating jobs that pay a living wage to its citizens," he said. "For example, at Johnson Memorial Hospital alone, 33% of the current employees qualify as mid to high wage earners, categories of jobs the current Connecticut economic recovery has failed to increase in large numbers since 2010."

Ron Kersey, Coordinator of Emergency Medical Services at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, spoke of the hospital's response to the recent increase in heroin overdoses in the New London area. To respond not only to the recent surge in drug overdoses, but also to the wide range of emergencies, Mr. Kersey testified that, "we must be adequately staffed and adequately equipped to care adequately for our patients. To do that, we must be adequately funded."

Robert Smanik, President & CEO, Day Kimball Healthcare, and Andrew Mackenzie, MD, FACOG, Chair of OB/GYN services, Medical Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine, and Medical Director of Maternal Child Health at Day Kimball Healthcare, spoke of the how the cuts to hospitals have put critical obstetric care services for thousands of residents in an entire corner of the state of Connecticut at risk. Mr. Smanik told legislators that the cuts are "proving debilitating." Dr. MacKenzie stated, "Quite simply, these cuts are forcing vital medical care out of a region and community that needs it most."

Catherine Rees, Director, Community Benefit, Middlesex Hospital, described hospitals as anchor institutions in their communities and urged legislators to vote no to hospital funding cuts. She said those most hurt by the cuts are "our most vulnerable and at-risk community members – those who struggle with mental health issues, substance abuse, complex medical conditions, frailty, homelessness and housing insufficiency, food insecurity, loneliness, and hopelessness."

In summarizing his testimony, Patrick Broderick, MD, President, Western Connecticut Medical Group, Western Connecticut Health Network, told legislators that his simple goal each day is to do good and to help strangers in need. He further remarked that the cuts imposed on hospitals – and further proposed cuts – will make helping those in need difficult by straining resources, services, and programs.

Patrick McCabe, Senior Vice President, Corporate Finance, Yale New Haven Health System, said, "Let's make a difference in how care is delivered, rather than continuing to cut the numbers in the poor reimbursement system we have. We urge you to stop the cuts."

Hartford Healthcare urged the Appropriations Committee to invest in hospitals, stating "we recognize that the state is facing a challenging budget, but the past four years of significant Medicaid cuts, combined with an increasing tax burden, is hurting our ability to provide top quality patient care and access to the services our patients need. These challenges also hurt our ability to provide good jobs and strengthen our local economies. We are asking you to consider a solution that helps hospitals as well as the state."

In his testimony, David Bittner, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Trinity Health–New England, said "The state hospital tax

has been siphoning the income of hospitals as the state taxes the hospital's net patient service revenue, without regard to the costs to generate that revenue."

Adam R. Silverman, MD, Vice President for Ambulatory Strategy and Development at Trinity Health–New England, described how the hospital tax is hurting patient care. "Enacting simple common sense innovations like partnering a behavioral health provider with a primary care physician, something that has been shown to improve outcomes, reduce costs, and improve quality of life for patients, has fallen victim to the tens of millions of dollars removed from hospitals by the Governor's hospital tax and Medicaid cuts," he said. "So not only will the Governor's proposed FY2017 budget prevent potential jobs from entering the economy, quality of care is adversely affected."

CHA thanks the hospitals and health systems that provided testimony, which has been posted on the Appropriations Committee [website](#): Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Day Kimball Healthcare, Griffin Hospital, Hartford HealthCare, The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Stamford Hospital, Western Connect Health Network, and Yale New Haven Health System.

### Hospitals to Oppose Mental Health Cuts



Later today, representatives from Connecticut hospitals will testify at an Appropriations Committee hearing against the proposed elimination of funding for Community Care Teams and other cuts to mental health and substance abuse services.

The hearing, which will cover the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, would reduce by \$15.8 million mental health and substance abuse grants, consolidate behavioral health boards and councils, and eliminate funding for hospital-based Community Care Teams,

which bring together healthcare and social services to help people with mental illness or addiction who frequently visit emergency rooms.

Carl Schiessl, Director of Regulatory Advocacy at the Connecticut Hospital Association, will testify, along with representatives from hospitals across the state. Mr. Schiessl will argue that, if funded, Community Care Teams would not only help hundreds of patients with complex medical and mental health conditions, but would also relieve some of the state's fiscal burden by removing thousands of emergency department visits from the Medicaid expense line item.

### Senator Maynard Won't Seek Reelection



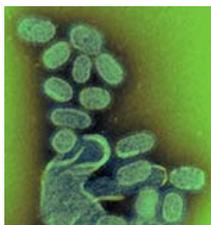
Sen. Andrew Maynard (D-Stonington), who suffered a traumatic brain injury in an accident at his home in 2014, announced on February 17 that he will not seek re-election.

Senator Maynard, 53, also sustained a concussion from a car accident in Waterford on January 14 and was hospitalized for four days. The accident occurred on his trip home from a meeting at the Capitol in Hartford. In a statement released by the Senate Democratic caucus, Senator Maynard said it has been "an honor" to serve the 18th District.

"I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes, and I am grateful to live in such a beautiful and supportive community. I have made the decision to not seek reelection. There is much work to do this legislative session, and I am committed to continuing to work to create jobs, grow the economy, and balance our budget," he said.

First elected in 2006, Sen. Maynard serves as the Chair of the Transportation Committee and as a member of the Internship; Program Review and Investigation Committees. He represents the towns of Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington, and Voluntown.

### Influenza Classified as Widespread in Connecticut



The state Department of Public Health is now classifying influenza as "widespread" in Connecticut, with cases multiplying rapidly.

According to DPH, there have been 491 confirmed cases of influenza and 184 hospitalizations in Connecticut so far this season. Influenza was reported in all eight Connecticut counties, but the majority of cases have occurred in Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties. One death has been reported.

The predominant influenza viruses identified this season are Type A, although the percentage of Type B influenza viruses in circulation has recently increased.

Vaccination is a best practice for patient and healthcare worker safety, and 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, all acute care hospitals in Connecticut have implemented a mandatory participation or mandatory vaccination program.

### Johnson Memorial Hospital Celebrates Unity Day With Trinity Health-New England



Johnson Memorial Hospital heralded its affiliation with Trinity Health-New England with a nod to its past and an embrace of its future during a celebration of Unity Day on February 11.

During the event, Mission and governance leaders from Trinity Health-New England, along with executives from Johnson Memorial Hospital, Johnson Health Care, and Home & Community Health Services, reminisced about the legacy and vision for the future of the 104-year-old 92-bed hospital.

Johnson Memorial Hospital is the fourth hospital to join Trinity Health-New England. The regional health ministry also includes Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, both in Hartford, and Sisters of Providence Health System and its affiliate Mercy Medical Center, in Springfield,

Mass. Trinity Health-New England is a member of Livonia, Michigan-based Trinity Health.

Last week's ceremony, held at Johnson's Community Medical Education Center, included the lighting of a three wick unity candle and music performed by the Stafford Springs High School Madrigal Choir.

"Today we celebrate as Johnson Memorial Hospital, Johnson Health Care, and Home & Community Health Services are welcomed into the Trinity Health-New England family," said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and CEO, Trinity Health-New England. "Together with Johnson Memorial Medical Center, we will expand our mission of providing health and healing through excellence and compassionate care."

"As we look back at the legacy of care that Johnson has provided over the last century, we can admire all that we have achieved," said Stuart E. Rosenberg, President, Johnson Memorial Hospital. "Now, we are looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead as part of Trinity Health-New England to provide high quality, high value healthcare to the people of this community."

## Education Updates

### CHA Regulatory Series - Wage and Hour Law Review

Monday, February 22, 2016

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

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

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.

### C.diff and Antibiotic Stewardship

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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

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

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.

[Event Registration](#)

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.

[Event Registration](#)

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 your 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 Safety Coach Training

Thursday, March 3, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

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.

**HRO Fair and Just Accountability**

Thursday, March 3, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

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

Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

**Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training**

Session 1: Monday, March 14, 2016

Session 2: Monday, March 21, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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 & 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. Please see the brochure for more details.

**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?

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

**2016 CHA Patient Safety Summit**

Thursday, March 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

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

Please join us for CHA's 14th annual Patient Safety Summit, co-sponsored with Qualidigm. The 2016 Patient Safety Summit will focus on worker safety and worker engagement—the next step on our High Reliability journey. Additional details will be available over the next few weeks.

