Joint Commission President to be Keynote Speaker at CHA Patient Safety Summit

Please join us for the eleventh annual Patient Safety Summit on Friday, March 8, 2013. The Summit will mark the first anniversary of the start of CHA’s statewide initiative to eliminate all cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety. The Summit will feature keynote speaker Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, President of The Joint Commission. In this role, Dr. Chassin oversees the activities of the nation’s predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in healthcare. The Joint Commission is endorsing the use of high reliability science in hospitals.

Dr. Chassin is also president of the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare. Established in 2009 under Dr. Chassin’s leadership, the Center works to address healthcare’s most critical safety and quality problems including healthcare-associated infection (HAI), hand-off communications, wrong site surgery, and preventing avoidable heart failure hospitalizations. In keeping with its objective to transform healthcare into a high reliability industry, The Joint Commission is sharing proven effective solutions with the more than 20,000 healthcare organizations and programs it accredits and certifies.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details. The program is co-sponsored with Qualidigm.

Hospitals Prepare for Appropriations Committee Hearing: CHA Provides Testimony on Healthcare Issues

On Friday, February 22, CHA and hospitals will testify in opposition to the more than $550 million in cuts to hospital funding proposed by the Governor in his state budget. Governor Malloy's two-year $43.8 billion state budget proposal closes an estimated $1.2 billion deficit in part by cutting $207 million to hospitals in FY 2014 and $341.5 million in FY 2015. The proposed cuts would shred the state's healthcare safety net and devastate hospitals—affecting patients, employees, the economy, and every community in the state.

On Friday, January 15, CHA provided testimony to the Appropriations Committee on the mental health aspects of the budget, HB 6350, An Act Concerning The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2015, And Other Provisions Relating To Revenue. In the testimony, CHA expressed strong opposition to the significant reductions to hospital funding in the next biennium, but voiced support for the provisions in the budget that provide needed new and expanded services for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The proposed budget calls for: (1) the establishment of health homes, which would better coordinate behavioral and physical healthcare for those in the care of DMHAS, and (2) support services for 100 units of supportive housing.

On Wednesday, February 20, CHA provided testimony to the Public Health Committee in qualified opposition to HB 5977, An Act Requiring Prompt Disclosure Of Children's Medical Test Results To Parents, and testimony in opposition to HB 5978, An Act Prohibiting Patient Interviews In Common Areas Of Health Care Facilities. As drafted, HB 5977 conflicts with federal rules including safety-based lab result reporting priorities on occasions when children have had lab tests. As drafted, HB 5978 would prohibit healthcare facilities, including hospitals, from “allowing patients to be interviewed by staff members in common areas, such as the facility’s waiting room.” While CHA appreciates the goal of protecting patient privacy, the bill is unclear as to what actual practices will be prohibited, and the bill is inconsistent with federal HIPAA guidance that is specifically designed to balance patient privacy with quality of care and patient safety.

CHA also provided testimony in opposition to SB 64, An Act Concerning Notice To Patients Of The Cost To Copy Or Transfer Medical Records. This bill would mandate prior notice to patients of the fees charged for copying or transferring medical records. CHA opposes the bill because it would have
unintended consequences that could interfere with patient rights and the timely release of records.

On Thursday, February 21, CHA provided testimony before the Committee on Children in support of HB 6331, An Act Concerning Sixteen-Year-Old Blood Donors, a bill that would allow sixteen-year-olds to donate blood at volunteer blood donation programs, provided they produce written authorization from a parent or guardian prior to donation.

Also last week, CHA provided testimony before the General Law Committee on HB 5906, An Act Concerning Prescriptions For Controlled Substances And Use Of The Connecticut Prescription Monitoring And Reporting System. CHA expressed support for the goal of HB 5906, which is to better monitor the prescribing of controlled substances, and to ultimately reduce overuse by patients and unnecessary prescribing practices by practitioners. However, CHA’s testimony informed members of the General Law Committee that as drafted, the bill could potentially interfere with the quality of healthcare delivery and patient access to needed medications.

Connecticut Hospitals Highlight Policy Makers

CHA is profiling newly elected members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation and key leaders in healthcare in the Connecticut General Assembly. These elected officials will play a new and/or important role in the decisions being made in Washington and Hartford. CHA has profiled U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty, U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy, State Rep. Brendan Sharkey, House of Representatives Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz, State Representative Susan Johnson, and State Representative Prasad Srinivasan. This week, we profile Rep. Phil Miller.

Public Health Committee Vice Chair Philip Miller: Representing the Communities of Essex, Deep River, Chester, and Haddam in the 36th House District

Connecticut State Representative Philip Miller (D-36) is currently serving in his second term in the Connecticut House of Representatives. Upon being sworn into office on January 9, 2013, Rep. Miller assumed the role of Vice Chair of the Public Health Committee. At that time he was also appointed Assistant Majority Whip by House leadership. He is also a member of the Environment and Human Services Committees.

Prior to being elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives, Rep. Miller served as First Selectman of Essex from 2003 to 2011. Before holding public office, Rep. Miller was director of the Bushy Hill Nature Center in Ivoryton, where he founded and developed a natural history day camp that was recognized by Child Magazine as one of the nation’s top ten youth programs. Rep. Miller is the former chair of the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission, and he also chaired the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials. Currently, Rep. Miller is self-employed as a naturalist and writer in addition to being a legislator.

For his local community and state service, Rep. Miller has been recognized by the American Legion, the Water Partnership, the Essex Land Trust, The League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, Gilead Community Services, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Rep. Miller is a graduate of Assumption College and lives in the Ivoryton section of Essex.

CHA congratulates Rep. Miller on his appointment to the Public Health Committee, and looks forward to working with him on issues of importance to hospitals and the patients they serve.

2013 Healthcare Executive Summit: Addressing Unprecedented Change

On Tuesday, February 26, CHA will hold the 2013 Healthcare Executive Summit. The Summit will focus on the unprecedented strategic and operational change underway in hospitals, other healthcare organizations, businesses, and various institutions throughout the nation—triggered by health reform.

Rob Reilly, Chief Marketing Officer, GE Healthcare, who is returning to CHA at member request following his thought-provoking presentation at the CEO Forum last November, will present a provocative look at emerging new healthcare models—and GE’s unique perspective on the threats and opportunities it faces to provide health benefits to its 600,000 employees, while managing almost $3 billion in health-related costs.

We are pleased to announce that also joining us for the Summit is Susan Keane Baker, author and nationally recognized speaker, who will present HCAHPS and Willingness to Recommend: What Senior Leadership Can Do Next. Ms. Baker will focus on specific actions senior leaders can implement to move the dial on HCAHPS rankings, including best practices of hospitals with a willingness to recommend of 90 percent or more.
Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

View the brochure here. Register here.

**CHA Annual Meeting Awards - Requesting Submissions**

CHA is pleased to open the call for nominations for three prestigious awards that will be given at its 95th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

The 2013 **John D. Thompson Award**: A Commemorative Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data, now in its 19th 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). All CHA acute care and other hospital members are encouraged to apply.

The 2013 **Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award**, now in its 21st 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).

Now in its 12th year, CHA’s **Healthcare Heroes Awards** celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. CHA is seeking nominations from both direct patient care and non-clinical areas of CHA member facilities. Though all Healthcare Hero entries are welcome, because of Connecticut hospitals’ focus on improving quality and safety, judges will be paying particular attention to those nominees who have made a difference in this area. Ten healthcare heroes, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded a $100 cash prize. Additionally, one Healthcare Hero team will be recognized.

The deadline for all entries is March 18, 2013.

**Education Updates**

**2013 Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling**
Thursday, February 28, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please join us for the seventh annual Smart Moves Forum. Kelly Smith Papa, RN, MSN, of the Alzheimer’s Resource Center of Connecticut, our keynote speaker, will discuss managing the challenges of safe patient handling for patients/residents with dementia. This year’s Forum will also include other helpful sessions related to safe patient handling challenges and successful safe patient handling programs.

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

View Brochure | Event Registration

**Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training**
Monday, March 11, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, 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. Diversity Collaborative team members are encouraged to attend as a way to help achieve the team goals in their organization. The second session date is Monday, March 18th.

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

Conflict Prevention and Management
Thursday, March 21, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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 details.

Coaching Skills to Improve Performance
Friday, March 22, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What does it take for a manager to be an effective coach? Is there a difference between managing and coaching employees for improved performance? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging growth, providing constructive criticism, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process.

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