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CHA Annual Meeting – Save the Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hospital Association’s 94th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[Congressional Action on Payroll Tax Cut and “Doc Fix”](#)

Just days after Connecticut hospital executives visited Washington, D.C. for the American Hospital Association’s Hospital Advocacy Day, Connecticut’s congressional delegation all voted in favor of the bill to extend the Social Security payroll tax holiday and emergency unemployment insurance benefits, along with the extension of the current Medicare physician payment rates. This package of initiatives has been hotly debated and a cause of legislative logjam in Congress since late last year.

The bill prevents a scheduled 27 percent reduction to Medicare physicians for the rest of the year. To accomplish this, it cuts Medicare payments to hospitals and other providers for “bad debt,” from the current 70 percent level to 65 percent, in fiscal year (FY) 2013. In 2021, it also cuts Medicaid “disproportionate share” payments to hospitals that serve many poor patients, and it would divert \$5 billion from the federal healthcare reform law’s \$15 billion prevention fund.

The agreement does *not* include the following proposals: reductions in payments for evaluation and management services provided in hospital outpatient departments; granting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) new authority to make additional across-the-board cuts to Medicare inpatient hospital rates through the use of retrospective coding adjustments for FY 2010 - 2012; and changes to significantly weaken the current law and prohibition on physician self-referral to new physician-owned hospitals.

During meetings with Congressmen John Larson, Joseph Courtney, and Chris Murphy, senior staff from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro’s office, and Senator Richard Blumenthal, hospital leaders urged the congressional delegation to support eliminating the planned cuts to physicians under Medicare, but not by reducing funding for hospital care. Each member of the congressional delegation requested that hospital leaders work with them as Congress continues to deal with debt reduction and budget issues, to ensure that hospitals and the healthcare system are made a priority, and to develop appropriate ways to coordinate care and strengthen the healthcare system.

Hospital leaders attending meetings and advocating on behalf of Connecticut hospitals were: Christopher Hartley, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Peter Karl, Eastern Connecticut Health Network; Adam Jeamel, Eastern Connecticut Health Network; Pam Koprowski, Stamford Hospital; Stephen Larcen, PhD, Windham Hospital and Natchaug Hospital; and Jim Iacobellis and Stephen Frayne, Connecticut Hospital Association. In earlier meetings, the hospitals’ message was carried to Connecticut’s congressional delegation by Marna Borgstrom and Kyle Ballou, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and Chris O’Connor and Martha Judd, Hospital of Saint Raphael.

[CHA Testifies on Bills Impacting Hospitals](#)

CHA provided testimony this week before three different legislative committees on bills impacting hospitals and the healthcare community. Of particular interest were initiatives focusing on budget reductions to grants provided to hospitals by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), a bill prohibiting certain medication disposal practices, and the expansion of a program aimed at retaining recent college graduates in the state.

On Tuesday, February 21, CHA provided testimony in support of [SB 78, An Act Concerning The Learn Here, Live Here Program](#). The

program provides incentives for recent college graduates of public institutions of higher education to remain in the state of Connecticut after college. SB 78 would expand this program to private institutions of higher education. CHA [requested](#) that the bill be amended to ensure that all hospital-based educational programs fall within purview of the legislation.

On Wednesday, February 22, CHA provided testimony in opposition to the cuts proposed in [HB 5014, An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures And Revenues For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013](#). In written [testimony](#), CHA opposed provisions in the DMHAS sections of bill that reduce grants to hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) for uncompensated care for behavioral health services. In total, the budget reduces these grants by \$2.9 million.

Also on Wednesday, CHA submitted [testimony](#), based on member input, opposing [SB 92, An Act Concerning the Disposal And Collection Of Unused Medication](#). Although supportive of the intent of the bill, which is to protect Connecticut's water supply, CHA's opposition is based on the bill being overly broad, and in certain aspects duplicative of and potentially conflicting with existing federal, state, and local requirements concerning wastewater discharge of medications. As written, the bill would sweep in under its purview discharge of certain items which are defined as medications that pose no environmental risk, including saline, dextrose, or electrolytes used in medical treatments and procedures.

CHA will continue to provide testimony on bills having an impact on Connecticut hospitals. To see all of CHA's testimony for the 2012 session, please [click here](#).

CT Hospitals Celebrate Patient Safety Awareness Week

Hospitals across the state are preparing for events to be held during Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 4-10, 2012.

Saint Mary's Hospital will hold its annual Patient Safety Fair on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. This year's theme is: [Patient Safety Fair: My Hospital, My Patient—A Sweet Deal](#). The fair, which is open to the public, will provide safety information from a wide variety of hospital departments, including infection prevention, clinical engineering, medical records, administration, and medical residents. It will also highlight how non-clinical areas, including medical records, security, clinical engineering, environmental services, transportation, administration, facility, information services, and nutrition, promote patient safety.

Patient Safety Awareness Week, sponsored by the National Patient Safety Foundation, is an annual education and awareness campaign for healthcare safety. The theme for the 2012 Patient Safety Awareness Week is *Be Aware for Safe Care*.

Education Updates

CHA's 2012 Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling February 28, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Nurses, administrators, occupational health professionals, physical therapists, nursing assistants, and many others are invited to attend CHA's 6th annual Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling. Participants will hear from national speakers about how to keep patients and employees safe by using technology and best practices. The forum will feature a keynote address by Esther Murray, RN, MSN, COHNS, CSPHP. Ms. Murray, assistant director of Prism Medical Clinical Services, provides support for healthcare clients across the continuum of care. For nearly a decade, she has assisted hospitals and nursing homes in implementing and sustaining highly successful Safe Patient Handling (SPH) programs.

Smart Moves: Connecticut's Campaign for Safe Patient Handling 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; promoting the use of evidence-based curricula; encouraging implementation of safe patient handling programs; and increasing the use of assistive equipment and patient-handling devices.

The program is presented through collaboration among CHA, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, LeadingAge Connecticut, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice.

Connecticut Hospital Association-CHA 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 (3.25 contact hours). This program has been approved by the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators for 3.25 CEUs for Nursing Home Administrators.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

CHA Regulatory Series—Wage and Hour Law Review March 12, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This practical and informative program, a perennial favorite of members, will clarify the laws and address real or hypothetical participant questions on regulatory interpretation to ensure wage and hour compliance. The 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.

To register, click [here](#).

Eliminating Preventable Harm Through FMEA
March 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) is a proven tool in today's proactive patient safety improvement initiatives. Beyond meeting Joint Commission standards, FMEA has turned out to be a very effective process improvement strategy. In this workshop, participants learn how to harness the power and benefits of FMEA for their organization by concentrating efforts on identifying and addressing potential high-risk processes, and avoiding common pitfalls.

To register, click [here](#).

Leaping From Staff to Management: The Next Steps
March 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well your problem-solving and decision-making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended the first program – "Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager – Now What?" – in June 2011 or January 2012, this follow-up course is ideal for all managers who want to continually improve their skills.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

