



Thursday, February 24, 2011

## CHA and Connecticut's Hospitals Get the Message Out: Proposed State Budget Hurts Hospitals and Communities

Since the release of the proposed 2012-2013 state budget on February 16, CHA and its member hospitals have been spreading the message that the proposed 5.5 percent hospital tax and the elimination of \$83 million in uncompensated care funding will significantly affect hospitals and the communities they serve. Hospitals across the state are contacting their legislators and discussing the impact of the proposed state budget on their hospitals, their communities, and their patients.

Recent media reports in which CHA members are quoted include:

- "[Hospitals: Malloy budget demands more than their fair share](#)," in the *CT Mirror*, 2/18/11, which quoted Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bristol Hospital; and Scott Orstad, Manager of Corporate Communications at Stamford Hospital.
- "[Showdown expected over Malloy's plans for hospitals](#)," in the *Journal Inquirer*, 2/19/11, in which Dennis McConville, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications at the Eastern Connecticut Hospital Network (Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital) noted that "the tax will make it even more difficult to manage our mission."
- "[Bristol chief appeals to legislators](#)," in the 2/22/11 *Bristol Press*, Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bristol Hospital also spoke out against the proposed tax, saying, "This is a very delicate time. It's not the time to be taxing a hospital."

For more information about CHA's advocacy regarding the state budget proposals that affect hospitals, contact James Iacobellis, CHA's Vice President, Government Relations, at [iacobellis@chime.org](mailto:iacobellis@chime.org).

## Public Health Committee Holds Public Hearing; CHA Provides Testimony on Four Legislative Proposals

On Wednesday, February 23, the Public Health Committee held a public hearing on a number of bills of interest to hospitals. CHA provided testimony on four bills.

CHA provided [testimony](#) in strong support of [SB 969](#), *An Act Providing For An Independent Review Of Any Finding Of Deficiency By The Department Of Public Health Relating To A Hospital's Compliance With Applicable Public Health Statutes And Regulations*, a CHA-sponsored bill. CHA supported the idea of engaging an impartial reviewer during the DPH oversight process, with the expected outcome of this new process to be improved care, better cooperation between hospitals and DPH, and more efficient use of resources.

CHA testified in [support](#) of the goals of [SB 970](#), *An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Response In Health Care Settings*, but had significant concerns about several aspects of the bill. Specifically, CHA expressed concerns that, as written, the bill is overly prescriptive and does not allow for hospitals to develop their workplace violence plans to be tailored to the unique characteristics of each facility. In addition to CHA's testimony, Charles Herrick, MD, from Danbury Hospital provided [testimony](#) supporting the goals of the bill, but detailed some concerns over certain aspects of the bill as drafted.

Testimony was provided on [HB 5324](#), *An Act Prohibiting A Health Care Provider From Including A Copy Of A Person's Driver's License In The Person's Health Care Records*. CHA's [testimony](#) highlighted three significant concerns regarding the implementation of HB 5324 and suggested that the Committee amend the bill by adding some clarifying language. CHA also testified in [opposition](#) to Proposed [HB 5289](#), *An Act Prohibiting Medical Procedures That May Potentially Block A Person's Air Passages*.

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The Public Health Committee will have until April 1, 2011, to take action on these and other bills.

## CHA Hosts 2011 Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling

On Tuesday, February 22, CHA hosted its fifth annual Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling. The forum is presented through a collaborative initiative of CHA, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice. Each year, caregivers and leaders from different healthcare settings come together to share best practices and learn about new developments and equipment for safe patient handling.

This year's program drew nearly 70 healthcare workers, and the program kicked off with Jim Murphy, RN, BSN, COHN-S, ASSE, Safe Lifting Program Manager, Mid-America, Hill-Rom, presenting *Managing Safe Patient Handling for Stroke Patients and Other Special Needs Considerations* to start the day's activities.

Although keynote speaker James Collins, PhD, MSME, couldn't attend the forum due to an unexpected snowstorm in Pittsburgh, he was still able to present via Web-Ex. Dr. Collins, Captain in the US Public Health Service and Associate Director for Science, NIOSH Division of Safety Research, discussed his research on best practices for safe patient handling. He indicated that injuries among healthcare workers are substantially reduced by implementing patient-lifting equipment programs and employee training into the organization's policies. He also shared his findings for reducing slips, trips, and falls among healthcare workers.

Attendees also had the opportunity to view and discuss colleagues' posters highlighting their work on safe patient handling initiatives, as well as learn about the latest safe patient handling equipment exhibited by the program sponsors.

The goals of the statewide initiative on safe patient handling are to improve the health and safety of nurses and other healthcare workers, increase patient safety, and reduce healthcare costs. For more information on the collaborative initiative, please contact Elizabeth Beaudin, PhD, RN, CHA's Director of Nursing and Workforce Initiatives, at [Beaudin@chime.org](mailto:Beaudin@chime.org).



*From left to right: Jim Murphy presents to approximately 70 healthcare workers; and attendees discuss patient handling initiatives during the poster session.*

## Special Elections Held; Republicans Pick Up One Senate and One House Seat

On Tuesday, February 22, Special Elections were held in nine General Assembly seats to replace members who vacated their seats after being elected in November but prior to being sworn into office on January 5, 2011. All vacated seats had been held by Democratic lawmakers.

Those elected include:

- **Democrat Joe Verrengia**, 20th House District (part of West Hartford)
- **Democrat Bobby Sanchez**, 25th House District (New Britain)
- **Democrat Phil Miller**, 36th House District (Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Haddam)
- **Democrat James Albis**, 99th House District (part of East Haven)
- **Republican Noreen Kokoruda**, 101st House District (Madison and part of Guilford)
- **Democrat Rev. Charlie Stallworth**, 126th District (Bridgeport)
- **Democrat Theresa Gerratana**, 6th Senate District (Berlin, New Britain, and part of Farmington)
- **Republican Len Suzio**, 13th Senate District (Meriden, Middlefield, Cheshire and Middletown)
- **Democrat State Representative Carlo Leone**, 27th Senate District (parts of Darien and Stamford)

As a result of Tuesday's election, Democrats will hold a 22-to-14 advantage in the Senate and a 98-to-52 margin in the House,

with one vacancy. Within the next week, it is expected that the newly-elected members of the General Assembly will be sworn into office and assigned to legislative committees.

CHA congratulates all newly-elected members and looks forward to working with them on legislative and budgetary matters of interest to the hospital community in Connecticut.

## Save the Date: 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*, in which 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.

## 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.

### ***Leaping From Staff to Management, The Next Steps, Tuesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.***

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

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Nurse Manager Leadership Academy 2011 Announces Dates in March and 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)

Click [here](#) for the brochure.