



Thursday, March 1, 2018

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Update Archives

CHA Testifies on Hospital Related Bills

CHA provided testimony on a number of hospital-related bills this week.

On Tuesday, February 27, CHA provided testimony to the General Law Committee in opposition to:

- **SB 197, An Act Concerning Biological Products**, a bill that seeks to create steps to govern substitution of an “interchangeable biological product” in place of a specifically prescribed biological product. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).
- **HB 5241, An Act Establishing Fines For Violations Of The Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**, a bill that would increase fines for those prescribers who violate statutes related to the electronic prescription drug monitoring program. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).
- **SB 193, An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Consumer Protection Statutes**, a bill that would create a mechanism by which the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) may process a consumer complaint made against anyone in an area over which DCP has jurisdiction. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).

Also on Tuesday, CHA provided testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee in opposition to:

- **SB 17, An Act Promoting Fairness In Access To Information, Support And Justice For Sexual Assault Victims**, a bill that would make changes to Connecticut’s sexual assault evidence collection statutes by requiring that a barcode be affixed to the sexual assault evidence collection kit. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).

Lastly on Tuesday, CHA provided testimony to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee in opposition to:

- **SB 200, An Act Requiring Lyme Disease Testing In Certain Circumstances**, a bill that would mandate that all physicians and physician assistants, regardless of specialty or relationship with a patient, administer or order a blood test for Lyme disease for every patient with physical pain, if the patient has not already been diagnosed with Lyme disease. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).

On Wednesday, February 28, CHA provided testimony to the Public Health Committee in opposition to:

- **SB 166, An Act Adding Amniotic Fluid Embolism To The List Of Adverse Events A Hospital Is Required To Report To The Department Of Public Health**, a bill that would add amniotic fluid embolism to the list of adverse events hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities are required to report to the Department of Public Health. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).
- **SB 167, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Adverse Events By Hospitals And Outpatient Surgical Facilities**, a bill that would allow DPH to seek disciplinary action against a hospital or outpatient surgical facility for failure to report an adverse event. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).

CHA provided testimony in support of:

- **HB 5160, An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors**, a bill that would lower the legal age to donate blood from 17 to 16 years of age. CHA’s testimony can be found [here](#).

On Thursday, March 1, CHA provided testimony to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee on:

- **SB 210, An Act Concerning Surprise Medical Bills For Laboratory Services**, a bill that seeks to address an issue with billing conducted by labs not owned or affiliated with hospitals.

Democrat Wins Special Election in Stratford

On February 27, voters in the town of Stratford elected Democrat Phil Young as their next State Representative from the 120th House District. The Special Election was held to fill the vacancy created when former State Representative Laura Hoydick (R-Stratford) resigned in January after she was elected Mayor of Stratford in November 2017. A Republican stronghold, the district hasn’t sent a Democrat to Hartford since the late

Michael Turiano was elected 44 years ago.

Mr. Young, a former Town Council member in Stratford, beat Republican Bill Cabral, who represented the 7th District on Stratford’s Town Council from 1995 to 2001, with an unofficial vote of 1,614 to 1,562.

With this election, the Democrats increase their margin in the House by one vote and now hold an 80-71 majority.



Results are considered unofficial until certified by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. Once certified, it is expected that Representative-Elect Young will be sworn into office and will assume duties and committee assignments in the very near future.

State Launches Change the Script Campaign to Combat Opioid Crisis



Change the Script, a statewide public awareness campaign intended to provide communities, healthcare providers, and individuals with information on the prescription drug and opioid misuse and overdose crisis, was officially launched this week.

The marketing and education [campaign](#), which was announced jointly on February 26 by Governor Dannel Malloy and the Commissioners of the state Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Consumer Protection (DCP), and Public Health (DPH), grew out of the Governor's Connecticut REsponse (CORE) Initiative, a three-year strategy to prevent addiction and overdoses.

Ready-to-use *Change the Script* campaign materials are being distributed by the state to local health departments, local prevention councils, healthcare providers, and other community partners and stakeholders with information on three main topics: prevention, treatment, and recovery. These materials are intended to raise awareness of the risk of addiction to prescription opioids, highlight the proven methods of treating opioid use disorder, and highlight resources in the community to help people establish and sustain recovery.

"Opioid addiction and prescription drug misuse is a disease that is impacting nearly every community and people of every background," Governor Malloy said in a prepared statement. "It is a complex crisis that does not have one root cause, nor does it have simple solution, but we need to do everything in our power to treat and prevent it. Our work on this front will not be finished until our communities and our families are no longer struggling with the grave costs of this illness."

Change the Script was chosen as the theme of the campaign to speak to the need to change public perception and thinking about opioid use disorder and acknowledge it as a chronic disease. The campaign seeks to address the stigma associated with the disorder, which can prevent people from seeking help. *Change the Script* also focuses on the overprescribing of opioids occurring not just in Connecticut, but nationwide, and the need for proper storage and disposal of these drugs by consumers.

In addition to the educational materials being distributed by the state, *Change the Script* messages can be seen on billboards and buses throughout the state. The campaign will include television, radio, print, and online ads, as well as posters, brochures, and other printed materials. The campaign is being funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Connecticut hospitals have been engaged for years in efforts to reduce inappropriate opioid use while ensuring patients have appropriate pain medication. In 2015, Connecticut hospitals adopted voluntary opioid prescribing guidelines to help ED staff treat patients with chronic pain conditions. The guidelines are intended to reduce inappropriate use of opioids while preserving the vital role of hospital EDs in treating patients with emergent medical conditions.

Third Connecticut Child Dies as Severe Flu Season Continues



A third Connecticut child has reportedly died from suspected flu-related complications, providing another tragic reminder that this year's severe influenza season continues to take its toll on families across the state.

The child, a 6-year-old from Colchester, died on February 21, bringing the total number of deaths statewide to 105, according to the state Department of Public Health (DPH). According to national data released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 97 children have died so far this flu season.

Flu activity remains high and widespread across the state, according to DPH, with a total of 2,161 patients hospitalized with confirmed cases of flu between August 27, 2017 and February 24, 2018. Statewide ED visits attributed to flu are at 12 percent, DPH reported.

Of the 105 deaths linked to the flu, 85 were among patients over the age of 65, 11 were 50-54 years of age, five were 25 to 49 years of age, one was between 19 and 24 years of age, and three were between 5-17 years of age. A total of 7,177 positive influenza laboratory tests have been reported so far this season.

The ongoing hospitalizations and deaths are prompting state and federal officials to continue urging flu vaccinations and good hand hygiene to protect against the virus. The flu hospitalization rate rose last week to 74.5 per 100,000 people, according to the CDC, surpassing the rate at the end of the 2014-2015 flu season.

According to the CDC, the H3N2 strain predominant now has been associated in past years with more hospitalizations and deaths in older adults and young children. It accounts for the 97 flu-associated pediatric deaths reported nationally so far this season. The CDC reports there have been 21,279 flu hospitalizations in the 13 states that report data to the agency's surveillance network.

The CDC continues to recommend flu vaccination for everyone six months and older, as flu activity is likely to remain elevated for several more weeks. Additionally, if vaccinated people get the flu, symptoms can be less severe. There are also anti-viral medications that can mitigate symptoms if taken within the first 48 hours.

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, the vast majority of acute care CHA member hospitals in Connecticut have implemented a mandatory participation or mandatory vaccination program.

CHA Hosts Day of Substance Use Disorder Programs



CHA is hosting a day of programs on Thursday, March 22, 2018, that will focus on substance use disorders and their effects on mothers, babies, and the general population.

The day will begin with the *Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Conference*, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at which presenters will discuss strategies for working with mothers in recovery from substance use disorder and ways to create an environment that enables clinicians to work with mothers and babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Presenters at the conference will include Marilyn Sanders, MD, Attending Neonatologist, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, who will discuss working with mothers in recovery from substance use disorder. Dr. Sanders will focus her presentation on creating an atmosphere of safety and security in the hospital that enables mothers to be present for their babies.

The conference will also feature a presentation by Christopher Morosky, MD, Associate Professor, Clerkship Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UConn John Dempsey Hospital and UConn School of Medicine, and Jonathan Craig Allen, MD, Chief of Psychiatry, MidState Medical Center, who will conduct a panel discussion regarding the maternal side of the NAS initiative, with discussion on opioid prescribing to mothers.

Dr. Morosky and Dr. Sanders are the Co-Chairpersons of the CPQC, which works to promote high quality maternal and newborn care across the continuum.

To register online for the *CPQC NAS Conference*, [click here](#).

The afternoon conference, *Responding to the Opioid Epidemic*, will run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will include presentations on the history of the opioid epidemic in Connecticut, the science of addiction, and practical hospital strategies for managing this patient population.

Presenters will include Claudia Burchett, RN, BSN, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer of Southern Ohio Medical Center, who will discuss hospital strategies for responding to the opioid epidemic. Ms. Burchett is the Co-chairperson of the Ohio Hospital Association Opiate Response Initiative. Also on the program are Muhammad Munawar, MD, Chairman and Director of the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Behavioral Health Group, who will give a presentation on the science of addiction; C. Steven Wolf, MD, Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Quinnipiac University Frank H. Netter School of Medicine, who will be speaking about the history of the opioid epidemic in Connecticut and current options for access to treatment; and Jennifer Chadukiewicz, RCP, Recovery Coach Program Manager, CT Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), who will discuss the CCAR Emergency Department Recovery Coach program.

To register online for the *Responding to the Opioid Epidemic* program, [click here](#).

Education Updates

Issue-Based Forum: Patient Access Rights and Release of Information

Thursday, March 22, 2018

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

[Event Registration](#)

CHA members are invited to attend an issue-based forum with a focus on assisting hospitals with achieving understanding and compliance related to patient access rights and release of information, including an emphasis on the nuances specific to substance use treatment records. There is no cost associated with this event, which is intended for a broad hospital audience.

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition

Monday, March 26, 2018

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. Managing the demands of an organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. Conference participants will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills and the ability to manage change.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

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

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

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. This program will help identify how to recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare

Session 1: Monday, April 9, 2018

Session 2: Monday, April 16, 2018

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

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

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Please note: This is a two-session program, and participants should attend both sessions.

2018 CHA Patient Safety Summit

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

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

CHA's *16th Annual Patient Safety Summit*, co-sponsored with Qualidigm and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will focus on developing strategies and processes to change care statewide.

Representatives from Christiana Care Health System, recipient of the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Innovation of Patient Safety and Quality at the Local Level, will provide the keynote presentation, and Charisse Coulombe will discuss national improvement strategies.

In the afternoon, Tim McDonald, MD, JD, and Melinda Van Niel will talk about successful implementations of disclosure, apology, and early resolution programs.

