CHA Presents Testimony to Legislative Committees

CHA presented testimony on a number of hospital and healthcare-related bills this week at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. On Monday, March 2, CHA testified in opposition to HB 6558, An Act Concerning The Imposition Of Service Fees By Municipalities and HB 6560, An Act Concerning Municipal Authority To Set Fees And Increase Fines. Both bills would allow municipalities to impose service fees for police and fire protection and trash removal on hospitals and certain tax-exempt properties. Also on Monday, CHA provided testimony before a joint hearing of the Insurance and Real Estate, Human Services, and Public Health Committees on various proposals that, when combined, are being considered a “healthcare reform package”. These bills, which impacted hospitals, included: HB 5172, An Act Establishing The Connecticut Healthy Steps Program; SB 988, An Act Concerning Medicaid Funding For Saga And Charter Oak; and SB 1045, An Act Concerning Responsibility For Hospital “Never” Events.

On Tuesday, March 3, CHA presented testimony to the Labor and Public Employees Committee strongly opposing the passage of HB 6534, An Act Concerning Labor Union Authorization Card Checks, which would require employers to recognize a union if it can demonstrate majority support through the card check process. Also on Tuesday, CHA testified before the Human Services Committee on SB 843, An Act Implementing The Governor’s Budget Recommendations Concerning Social Services.

In other committee action this week, the Labor and Public Employees Committee voted to release with a favorable report, SB 365, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings. The bill was referred to the House for further action.

On Friday, March 6, CHA will provide testimony to members of the Public Health Committee in support of HB 6391, An Act Concerning Revisions To The HIV Testing Consent Law.

CHA to Host Patient Safety Summit on Friday, March 13, 2009

There’s one week left to register for the 2009 Patient Safety Summit, another first-class program with an array of nationally acclaimed speakers. The Summit, co-sponsored by Qualidigm and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will examine the complex and multi-faceted aspects of quality improvement and patient safety. Nationally recognized experts will focus on the business case for quality, the impact of overutilization on the healthcare delivery system, engaging patients and families as partners in patient safety, and the power of apology when something goes wrong.
Featured speakers include: Brent James, MD, MStat, Executive Director, Institute for Health Care Delivery Research, Vice President, Medical Research and Continuing Medical Education, Intermountain Health Care; Shannon Brownlee, Author, *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer*, Schwartz Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation; Susan E. Sheridan, MIM, MBA, Co-Founder and President, Consumers Advancing Patient Safety; and Doug Wojcieszak, Founder and Spokesperson, Sorry Works! Coalition.

The Connecticut Hospital Association 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 (5.5 contact hours). This program has also been awarded 5.5 CMEs for physicians, 3.5 hours of Category II continuing education credits from the American College of Healthcare Executives, and 5.25 CE credits from the National Association for Healthcare Quality.

Registration and breakfast are from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.; the program is from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Click here to register. For more information, contact Christine Froias, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at 203-294-7257 or froias@chime.org.

**Dodd to Hold Forum on Healthcare Reform**

On Saturday, March 7, U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd will hold his third in a series of state-wide, town hall-style events to solicit citizen input on changes to the healthcare system. Joined by Congressman Joseph Courtney, Senator Dodd, a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, will lead a conversation on healthcare quality and delivery system reform. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London at Leamy Hall. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Click here or call (860) 258-6940 for more information.

**CHA to Offer “Go-Green” Forum on Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

CHA’s first forum designed to help Connecticut healthcare leaders learn about “Go-Green” initiatives and practices will kick-off on St. Patrick’s Day. National and regional experts in the field and Connecticut hospital leaders will offer their perspectives on a wide range of topics and practical applications members can bring back to their organizations. As part of its focus on healthful work environment initiatives, the CHA Board Committee on Human Resources is encouraging hospitals to educate themselves and join together for the purpose of sharing successes, best practices, and information on hospital Go-Green-specific programs and activities that are under way or being planned in Connecticut and across the nation.

Janet Brown, Director, Sustainable Operations, Practice Greenhealth, will be the keynote presenter.

Registration and breakfast are from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.; the program is from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Click here to register. For more information, contact Christine Froias, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at 203-294-7257 or froias@chime.org.

**Nurse Manager Leadership Academy**

In response to member requests, CHA is pleased to again offer the Nurse Manager Leadership Academy, a five-part series modeled after the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) program, specifically designed to meet the development
needs of new and aspiring nurse managers. Designed and implemented with the first cohort of 38 nurse managers in the spring of 2008, the program was enthusiastically received. Five comprehensive and successive learning modules build 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. Jo Manion, Ph.D., R.N., a nationally recognized speaker and author, will be back to present the two April sessions.

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Monday, March 23:  Creating the Leader in Yourself - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7:  Leading the People (part one) - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 8:  Leading the People (part two) - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 21:  Managing the Business (part one) - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 28:  Managing the Business (part two) - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Click here to register. For more information, contact Christine Froias, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at 203-294-7257 or froias@chime.org.