Save The Date For CHA's Annual Meeting

Save The Date

Connecticut Hospital Association's
101ST ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 20, 2019
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT

CHA and Hospitals Testify in Opposition to State Budget

On Tuesday, March 5, CHA, hospitals, health systems, and patients from across the state provided unified opposition to Governor Ned Lamont's budget proposal during the Appropriations Committee public hearing on the Governor’s proposed FYs 2020-2021 state budget.

HB 7148, An Act Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, And Making Appropriations Therefor would increase the hospital tax and violate the agreement reached in 2017 between hospitals and the state.

“CHA opposes any change to the terms and conditions of the current agreement in place between hospitals and the state pertaining to supplemental payments,” said Carl Schiessl, CHA Senior Director, Regulatory Advocacy, at the hearing.

The budget proposes to abandon the agreement between hospitals and the state during its third and final year. If enacted into law, hospitals will experience a $516 million increase in the hospital tax, with a corresponding reduction in supplemental payments amounting to $43 million – to $453 million, CHA emphasized in testimony.

CHA opposes sections of HB 7148 that propose to:

- Reduce hospital inpatient payments resulting from the implementation of Version 36 of the 3M APR-DRG Grouper, for a reduction of approximately $60 million in FY 2020 and approximately $62 million in FY 2021 (The budget proposes to restore partially the $230 million reduction from the implementation of the Grouper.)
- Link hospital payments to readmission rates, for a reduction of $6.1 million in FY 2020 and $7.3 million in FY 2021
- Set a ceiling on the maximum price that the state employee health plan will pay for services (hospitals and providers) based on a percentage (not yet defined) above the Medicare payment rate
- Increase utilization management in the Medicaid program for a reduction of $1.4 million in FY 2020 and $9.8 million in FY 2021

“Connecticut hospitals implore this General Assembly to honor the state's commitment to hospitals by keeping our agreement in place. We urge you to reject any and all efforts to deviate from our 2017 hospital agreement,” Mr. Schiessl said.

Hospitals and health systems providing testimony included Bristol Hospital, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Day Kimball Healthcare, Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Hartford HealthCare, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, Stamford Health, Trinity Health Of New England, Waterbury Hospital, Western Connecticut Health Network, and Yale New Haven Health.
Special Election Slated for April 16

A Special Election has been called for Tuesday, April 16, 2019, to fill the 19th District House seat vacated by State Representative Derek Slap after he won the 5th District Senate seat last month in a Special Election. The 19th District includes portions of Avon, Farmington, and West Hartford.

Under state law, the Governor is required to issue a Writ of Special Election within 10 days of a vacancy in the General Assembly, and a special election must be held 46 days after its issuance.

The Democrats currently hold majorities of 22-14 in the Senate and 90-60 in the House.

CHA Program to Highlight the Physician Payments Sunshine Act

CHA will host a program to help physicians and physician leaders, compliance officers, medical staff office personnel, supply chain/materials management, and quality, legal, and risk professionals understand the Physician Payments Sunshine Act.

The Don’t Let the Sunshine Blind You! Be Prepared—Understanding the Physician Payments Sunshine Act and the Open Payments Program will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. To learn more and register, click here: View Brochure | Event Registration

The program will be led by Patrick Kenney, MD, Medical Director of Corporate Supply Chain at Yale New Haven Health, Clinical Vice Chair of the Yale Department of Urology, and Clinical Program Leader for Genitourinary Oncology at the Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Tanya White, System Compliance Operations Officer for Yale New Haven Health and the L+M Health Compliance and Privacy Officer.

The Physician Payments Sunshine Act, part of the Affordable Care Act, was established as a national disclosure program requiring medical product manufacturers to disclose to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) any payments or other transfers of value made to physicians or teaching hospitals.

CMS oversees the annual release of these data, which have been collected since 2013. A 45-day review and refute period begins on April 15, 2019, with the information being made public on June 30, 2019.

This program will:
- Provide tips and resources to help physicians and teaching hospitals review their Open Payments data
- Define Physician Preference Items and describe the impact on costs and relationships with the industry
- Discuss recent conflict of interest cases (COI) and what they mean for hospitals
- Recommend tools to help conduct investigations and implement effective COI management plans

Education Updates

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition
Monday, March 25, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

This program will provide guidance for staff transitioning to supervisor/manager. This significant step requires the ability to use diplomacy, negotiation, persuasion, and alliance-building skills. Managing the demands of an organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. Participants will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others and managing change.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee
Tuesday, March 26, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration
This full-day, interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory, will provide communication methods and tools for navigating the challenging maze of different personalities and communication styles to better manage conflict. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix lead to the possibility of conflict surfacing at work. The program will explore the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance.

**The Basics of Budgeting**  
Thursday, April 4, 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

*Basics of Budgeting* is a member-requested management development program, part one of a two-part series, to provide managers with an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, and salary and supply budgets, and information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present the program.

**Healthcare Financial Management—an Overview**  
Friday, April 5, 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution’s mission and financial results. Bill Ward will present the program. Please note: this program was previously called Financial Skills for Managers and is targeted to those with limited exposure to financial management concepts.

**De-escalation Training**  
Thursday, April 11, 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

CHA is approved by CPI to provide an abridged version of its Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® foundation course using a blend of online and classroom learning to its members. This program will provide attendees with CPI’s Blue Card™ confirmation. Included in this program is approximately two hours of online pre-work and a pre-test. Please note: the pre-work and pre-test must be completed prior to attending the classroom portion of the program at CHA.