



Thursday, March 13, 2014

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On March 11, Connecticut hospitals provided compelling and unified testimony urging the Human Services Committee to modernize and update the way in which care is provided and hospitals are reimbursed in the state's Medicaid program. The CHA-proposed bill, [SB 407](#), *An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative*, modeled on the Medicare Value-Based Purchasing program, would incorporate those quality-focused concepts into the Medicaid hospital payment system. Read the CHA testimony [here](#).

Matthew Cassavechia, Director of Emergency Medical Services at the Western CT Health Network, provided oral [testimony](#) highlighting how WCHN is serving the needs of its communities, and he encouraged legislators to support the bill because it would improve the quality of care by redesigning the Medicaid program with an enhanced focus on patients.

Donna Benzinger, Executive Director, Primary Care Service Line, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, provided oral [testimony](#) focusing on how the measure will enable implementation of best practices for healthcare delivery to Medicaid patients through a collaborative process between hospitals and the state.

Other hospital-submitted testimony posted on the [Human Services website](#) at the time of publication include Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Griffin Hospital, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Waterbury Hospital, and Yale New Haven Health System. Also providing testimony in her role as Chairwoman of the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees was Susan Davis, RN, EdD.

Those providing qualified support of SB 407 included Department of Social Services Commissioner Roderick Bremby, Ellen Andrews, PhD, Executive Director, Connecticut Health Policy Project, and Attorney Sheldon Toubman, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.

On March 13, the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee held a public hearing on [SB 368](#), *An Act Phasing Out The Hospitals Tax*. CHA [testified](#) in support of the measure, which would phase out the hospital tax over the course of five years.

Hospital representatives providing oral testimony included: Ebony Forand, RN, BSN, Administrative Manager, Johnson Memorial Hospital; Tim Bolton, Staff Chaplain, St. Vincent's Medical Center; Frank Corvino, President and CEO, Greenwich Hospital, testifying for Yale New Haven Health System; Kristine Lisi, MD, Medical Director, St. Vincent's Health Center, clinic of St. Vincent's Medical Center; Bill Hoey, LCSW, Vice President, Mission & Ethics, St. Vincent's Medical Center; Daniel J. Diver, MD, Director of Cardiovascular Service Line, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; and Victor Santos, Network Support Specialist, Milford Hospital.

Other hospitals that submitted testimony that was published at the time of publication included Griffin Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, and Western Connecticut Health Network.

CHA wishes to thank all those who submitted written or oral testimony on these issues of critical importance.





National Patient Safety Foundation President Headlines CHA Patient Safety Summit

More than 150 clinicians and administrators from hospitals across the state attended the 12th Annual CHA Patient Safety Summit on March 7, 2014.

The Summit featured nationally renowned experts in the field of patient safety. Based on her extensive experience, keynote speaker Tejal Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS, President of the National Patient Safety Foundation, discussed the growing focus on patient safety across the care continuum, the importance of education in conjunction with advances in information technology, and the need for increased transparency in reporting adverse events.

“Patient safety is more important than ever,” she said. “What clinicians really want is to know that if they report something, it will make a difference, it will improve things, and it will help ensure patient safety.”

Christina Michalek, Medication Safety Specialist at the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, discussed strategies for predicting and preventing errors related to healthcare technologies.

Rosemary Kennedy, PhD, RN, MBA, FAAN, President and CEO of eCare Informatics and former Vice President of the National Quality Forum, discussed how engaging patients through meaningful use of technology is fundamental to the transformation in healthcare.

Rebecca Arnold LeBuhn, MA, Co-founder and Chair of the Board of the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) and Member, American Board of Radiology Foundation, discussed the National Strategy for Safe, Appropriate and Patient-centered Imaging being developed by the American Board of Radiology Foundation and the 100k Children initiative, which is an effort to track the adoption of child-sized imaging dose levels by hospitals and imaging centers across the country.

Jason Adelman, MD, MS, Patient Safety Officer at Montefiore Medical Center, highlighted the value of a Just Culture in reviewing medical errors and discussed the current literature on methods for efficiently measuring wrong-patient orders.

The program is a continuation of CHA's successful statewide initiative to eliminate all-cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety.





CT Hospital Operating Income Down \$175 Million in 2013



Financial filings reported to the state of Connecticut for 2013 show that hospital operating income is down by \$175 million. This loss of operational income – funds used to purchase equipment and technology and maintain facilities and services in the future – is due to the \$103 million rescission enacted in December 2012 and the \$101 million tax on hospital patients that began in July 2013. In addition to state cuts and the hospital tax, hospitals are feeling the impact of cuts to Medicare payments and the federal sequestration – a 2% cut to Medicare funding.

Hospitals need a minimum 4% operating margin to remain viable and have sufficient resources to attract highly skilled healthcare personnel and maintain, replace, and acquire medical equipment and advanced technology. The average hospital operating margin in 2013 was 3.27%.

Non-operating revenue has remained steady - typical examples of non-operating revenue are dividends and interest earned on investments and the change in value of the investments.

Hospitals have done extraordinary things to minimize the impact of the tax on hospital patients. But it is very challenging. In the last year, Connecticut hospitals eliminated more than 1,400 jobs, reduced staff salaries and benefits, reduced some services, and postponed investments in technology and infrastructure.

Starting in July 2014, the tax on hospital patients will more than double – to \$235 million a year. The tax means providing care with even fewer resources, affecting access and services for all patients. Moreover, at a time when hospitals are trying to reduce the cost of care, this tax adds \$49 to the cost of care for people with commercial insurance in FY 2014, and adds \$114 to the cost of care in FY 2015 and every year thereafter.

Connecticut hospitals are asking legislators to phase out the hospital tax over five years. Phasing out the tax will protect patient care, save jobs, and reduce the cost of healthcare for the people of Connecticut. Ask your legislators to support phasing out the hospital tax by visiting the [CHA Action Center](#).

Collaborations of Care Partners Issue Statements on Proposed Legislation

The Collaborations of Care Partners, an alliance of Connecticut healthcare organizations and Medicaid providers from across the care continuum, have issued two joint statements about proposed legislation.

The first [statement](#) called for the legislature to take quick action to resolve the Medicaid eligibility crisis. Hospitals, physicians, home care agencies, and nursing homes are providing care without funding or reimbursement while patients wait for their Medicaid eligibility determination.

The second joint [statement](#) was issued in support of [HB 5500](#), *An Act Concerning Provider Audits Under The Medicaid Program*. The statement called for audit practices that are fair, balanced, efficient, and cost effective and that do not place unnecessary burdens on law-abiding providers. The members of our respective associations understand and accept the need to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the program through state oversight and audits, but we encourage efforts to ensure that the oversight and audit processes used by state government is fair and balanced, and designed so as not to add unnecessary expense to the healthcare field.

The Collaborations of Care Partners continue to look for ways to work together and to collectively weigh in on issues of mutual interest.

Hospital Jobs Produce Connecticut Jobs



The Connecticut Hospital Association is pleased to release a new video, [Hospital Jobs Produce Connecticut Jobs](#). The video highlights the great jobs provided by Connecticut hospitals. Connecticut hospitals employ more than 55,000 people, and each hospital job generates another job outside the hospital. That's 111,000 Connecticut jobs. The video is part of CHA's Care We Can Count On campaign.

Care We Can Count On was created to share stories about the excellent care provided by Connecticut hospitals. Radio ads can be heard on stations across the state, digital ads are running on various news sites, and a website, [www.CareWeCanCountOn.org](#), features information about how hospitals benefit their communities and the economy.

CHA wishes to thank the nurses, doctors, patients, and hospital volunteers who have contributed their voices to this campaign. We encourage you to follow CHA and receive the latest hospital news on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

CHA Annual Awards Applications Due March 17



Western Connecticut Health Network, 2013 John D. Thompson Award recipients

The deadline for two prestigious awards that will be given at CHA's 96th Annual Meeting is March 17, 2014. The presentation of the awards is an important part of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements.

The 2014 John D. Thompson Award: A Commemorative Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data, now in its 20th year, recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA's education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF).

The 2014 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award, now in its 22nd year, is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). (Please note that there is a three-year period of ineligibility for previous Community Service Award winners, and a two-year period of ineligibility for previous John D. Thompson Award winners.)

The deadline for all entries is March 17, 2014.

[Click here](#) for the 2014 John D. Thompson Award entry form.

[Click here](#) for the 2014 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award entry form.

Education Updates

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition

Friday, March 21, 2014

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

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 to a greater degree than one used in the past. Managing the demands of your organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. You 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.

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, returns at member request to present this full-day, highly interactive, management development program, the first in a two-part series specifically designed for new managers. The second program "Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next" will be held on Monday, April 28, 2014.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

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

HRO Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session

Friday, March 28, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics

Thursday, April 3, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security Rule, and Breach Rules, and will outline new rules and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, much of which was published after the HITECH rules September 2013 implementation date. Recent enforcement actions and data breach situations will be reviewed. The program information includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a review of business associates rules, and practical tips and solutions for remaining compliant with HIPAA as the transition from paper to EHR accelerates.

Target Audience: The program is designed for compliance professionals, privacy and security officers, chief information officers, risk managers, in-house counsel, and others with responsibilities for HIPAA compliance.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

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

2014 Corporate Compliance Conference

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Connecticut healthcare professionals, like their colleagues nationwide are being asked to expand their knowledge and skills to respond to unprecedented challenges triggered by healthcare reform—including the ever-changing regulatory compliance landscape.

Please join us for CHA's annual Corporate Compliance Conference, which will address several critical topics including the CMS 2-midnight presumption, documentation issues, and revenue cycle strategies. Additionally, there will be presentations covering physician-owned distributorships, the focus on transparency of industry physician financial relationships or the CMS Physician Payment Sunshine Act, and compliance strategies for both provider and patient health information exchange (HIE) portals. In addition to compliance, legal, and risk professionals, we also invite physicians, HIM, and other healthcare professionals to join us for a comprehensive conference.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

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

HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session

Friday, May 2, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

