



Medicaid Redesign Proposal Supported by Connecticut Hospitals Advances



On Tuesday, March 19, the Human Services Committee met and released with a Joint favorable (JF) Report, [SB 407](#), *An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative*. SB 407 would modernize and update the way in which care is provided and hospitals are reimbursed in the state's Medicaid program by modeling the quality of care and associated reimbursement to hospitals on the Medicare Value-Based Purchasing program.

SB 407 was referred to the Appropriations Committee for further action.

Public Health, Finance, and Planning and Development Committees Receive Hospital Testimony



Darlene Stromstad, President and CEO, Waterbury Hospital, with the hospital's 4,000 page CON application, demonstrating the comprehensiveness of the current oversight process.

On March 17, CHA provided testimony in [support](#) of [HB 5545](#), *An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Study Of The State's Tax Structure*. Heard before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, HB 5545 would allow for a comprehensive study of the state's tax structure. CHA suggested that any comprehensive study include a review and analysis of the hospital tax.

Also on March 17, CHA provided testimony to the Public Health Committee in [support](#) of [HB 5528](#), *An Act Concerning Essential Public Health Services*, a bill that would modernize the state's public health law to reflect the ten essential services that are nationally recognized as a framework to guide the work of public health agencies. Lastly, CHA provided testimony in [support](#) of [SB 437](#), *An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors*. SB 437 would provide statutory recognition of genetic counselors.

On March 19, the Public Health Committee held a public hearing at which hospitals and CHA testified in opposition to [SB 460](#), *An Act Concerning Hospital Conversions And Other Matters Affecting Hospitals*, and [HB 5571](#), *An Act Concerning Certificate Of Need Requirements, Hospital Conversions And Medical Foundations*.

These two bills would severely interfere with hospital operations and would have an extremely negative impact on the way hospitals provide care, irrespective of their current or future tax status. All hospitals will be impacted should these bills pass into law.

SB 460 would make numerous changes to the Certificate of Need (CON) and conversion process—irrespective of whether a hospital intends to merge, affiliate, or convert with another not-for-profit or for-profit hospital. HB 5571 would require a CON for the termination of reproductive services, would require the Attorney General to consider certain assets of a not-for-profit hospital in making a determination on a hospital conversion, and would change the definition of provider for purposes of provisions concerning medical foundations. Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA, [testified](#) that SB 460 as drafted creates an overly burdensome regulatory environment that will prevent hospitals and healthcare systems from creating strategic partnerships that allow them to adapt and grow in this new and rapidly changing healthcare environment.

Those providing oral testimony included Kurt Barwis, President and CEO, Bristol Hospital; Dennis McConville, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, Eastern Connecticut Health Network; Darlene Stromstad, President and CEO, Waterbury Hospital; William Aselyne, General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Legal Services, Yale New Haven Health System; and Trip Pilgrim, Senior Vice President, Tenet Healthcare Corporation.

Hospital-submitted testimony posted on the Public Health Committee's [website](#) at the time of publication includes testimony from Bristol Hospital, Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford HealthCare, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Saint Mary's Hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Stamford Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, Western Connecticut Health System, and Yale New Haven Health System.

Also on March 19, CHA [expressed](#) concern about the language and goals of [SB 438](#), *An Act Concerning Certification Of Stroke Centers*, a bill that seeks to standardize and create a Department of Public Health (DPH) governed system of stroke care. Testimony was also provided that supports the concept, but expressed concerns with [SB 459](#), *An Act Concerning Medical Assistants*. SB 459 would allow medical assistants to administer certain medications under the supervision of a physician.

On March 21, Connecticut hospitals will provide testimony in opposition to [HB 5583](#), *An Act Concerning The Payment Of Real Property Taxes By Certain Institutions Of Higher Learning And Hospital Facilities*, Speaker Brendan Sharkey's bill that would make certain private institutions of higher education and hospitals liable for the payment of real property taxes and provide a mechanism for the state to provide grants to reimburse institutions and hospitals for such payments.



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Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA

NBC Holds Third Healthcare Roundtable



On March 13, NBC Connecticut brought together top decision makers from the healthcare, government, foundation, business, and insurance sectors for a collaborative roundtable discussion on the impact of health reform on Connecticut three months after the start of open enrollment. Marie Spivey, EdD, RN, Vice President, Health Equity, CHA, represented the Association.

The discussion, the third in a series, is part of NBC Connecticut's commitment to providing residents with critical information to enable them to make the best healthcare decisions. The roundtable covered issues including preventive care, health education for newly covered individuals, and care coordination across the continuum. NBC Connecticut will be ramping up coverage as the enrollment deadline nears.

The roundtable was not taped, but continues to inform coverage by NBC Connecticut like [this story](#) about the upcoming healthcare enrollment deadline.

New Survey: Use of Temporary Physicians Rising



Hospitals are increasingly relying on temporary doctors to fill gaps, according to a recent survey by Staff Care. The national temporary physician staffing firm and company of AMN Healthcare works with CHA's Shared Services Program.

According to the 2014 Survey of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends, 90% of hospital and medical group administrators used locum tenens physicians in 2013, up from 73% in 2012. Primary care physicians are in the greatest demand, followed by behavioral health professionals and hospitalists. The survey found that demand is also rapidly accelerating for locum tenens nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

The survey cites factors causing the increase including a national physician shortage that is expected to be exacerbated by an aging population, increased access to health insurance as a result of health reform, the imminent retirement of older physicians, and an evolution in physician practice styles in which physicians are working fewer hours.

Connecticut Hospital Association members can obtain a free copy of the Staff Care's 2014 Survey of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends report by contacting Ben Ervin at (972) 505-7285 or by email at benjamin.ervin@staffcare.com.

Nominations Open for Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award®



The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and caregivers, is seeking nominations for its 2014 Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award®.

This prestigious award, given annually since 1999, recognizes caregivers and teams of caregivers who demonstrate extraordinary compassion for patients and families. Nominees must be paid caregivers who work in a New England healthcare organization and have direct patient contact. Nominations may be made by patients or family members or by healthcare professionals who work with the nominee.

The Schwartz Center encourages the nomination of candidates from a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, physician practices, long-term care facilities, community health centers, outpatient clinics, and hospice and home care organizations.

Eligible employees may include physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, and chaplains – as well as interdisciplinary teams of caregivers.

More information on how to nominate a caregiver is available on the Schwartz Center's website, www.TheSchwartzCenter.org.

The nomination deadline is Friday, May 9, 2014.

Education Updates

HPI 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. See the brochure for details.

[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](#)