



Thursday, March 31, 2011

## Connecticut Hospitals Contribute \$17.6 Billion to State and Local Economies

According to a [report](#) released by CHA on Monday, March 28, Connecticut hospitals contribute \$17.6 billion to the state and local economies. The report, ***Connecticut Hospitals: Improving Health, Strengthening Connecticut's Economy***, shows that hospitals in Connecticut are responsible for 97,000 jobs statewide, generating approximately \$9.5 billion in annual payroll. Through the purchase of many goods and services, hospitals generate approximately \$6.8 billion annually in economic activity, and Connecticut hospital capital spending generates a total of \$1.3 billion in the economy each year.

"Hospitals make major contributions to both the economic health and quality of life of communities throughout Connecticut," said Jennifer Jackson, CHA CEO. "Everyone knows that hospitals are always there when you need them, but few realize the tremendous contribution hospitals make to the state's economy and to the financial well-being of our local communities. The major economic role played by hospitals has taken on even more importance given the state's need for more jobs and strong economic development during these uncertain financial times."

Connecticut hospitals spend \$8.6 billion each year on staff salaries and the purchase of medical supplies and food, as well as facility construction. These dollars in turn create a "ripple effect" of another \$9 billion as they move through the larger economy, generating additional jobs and spending in our communities.

"In addition to their traditional care-giving role, Connecticut hospitals keep communities' economies going – serving as a magnet for other healthcare business and a stimulus for new businesses such as retail stores, banks, grocery stores, and restaurants," said Ms. Jackson. "Strong and stable hospitals are critical to our quality of life and the state's economic health," said Ms. Jackson. "Unfortunately the proposed state budget includes a hospital tax and a cut to hospital uncompensated care funding that would seriously hurt communities' patients, hospitals, and economies."

If the state cuts \$83 million in uncompensated care funds to hospitals, it also loses more than \$41 million in federal matching funds. "By making a cut of this magnitude, Connecticut would lose \$176 million in business activity, 1,417 jobs, and \$63 million in salary and wages – this cut is wrong for hospitals and wrong for Connecticut," said Ms. Jackson.

## CHA Kicks Off Campaign to Protect Connecticut's Hospitals

This week, CHA began an advocacy campaign to communicate the impact of the proposed state budget cuts in hospital uncompensated care funding and the imposition of the redistributive hospital tax. CHA has developed the *Protect My Hospital CT* campaign, a public awareness and engagement initiative that includes a number of elements: a [website](#), a [Facebook](#) page, and other tools and resources for hospital and community use.

Protect  
My Hospital CT

## Greenwich Hospital Packs the Auditorium for Governor's Town Hall Meeting

On Monday, March 28, Greenwich Hospital employees, trustees, and other supporters packed the Eastern Middle School Auditorium in Greenwich to voice strong opposition to Governor Dannel P. Malloy's FY 2012-2013 biennium budget, which proposes to levy a hospital tax and eliminate the uncompensated care and urban DSH pools. The town hall-style meeting was

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the Governor's 11<sup>th</sup> of 17 meetings scheduled across the state on his proposed budget.

With hundreds of supporters of Greenwich Hospital filling nearly half the auditorium, the Governor was questioned on the fairness of the hospital tax and whether he was willing to revisit his proposal. The first person to speak, Dickerman Hollister, MD, told the Governor that the proposed tax, coupled with the elimination of the pools, would result in the loss of jobs and cuts to critical services at Greenwich Hospital. Dr. Hollister reminded the Governor the discussion is about dollars, but the impact is on patients.



The questioning of the Governor relative to the hospital tax continued with Donna Gaudioso-Zeale, RN, and Daniel Mosely, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Greenwich, both of whom informed the Governor that services and access would be severely limited should the tax be imposed. The Governor informed audience members that his administration is very much aware that Greenwich Hospital would get hurt under the current proposal and has committed to working on trying to minimize the impact to Greenwich and other hospitals. After thanking the Governor for trying to address the state deficit, State Representatives Lile Gibbons (R-Greenwich) and Fred Camillo (R-Greenwich) both spoke in opposition to the hospital tax. The legislators were joined at the town hall meeting by State Senator Scott Frantz (R-Greenwich) and his wife, both of whom were wearing buttons, (pictured) noting "Hospital Tax Will Hurt Healthcare."

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the Governor continued his town hall meeting tour with stops in Manchester and Windham. During those stops, the Governor fielded questions and responded to statements regarding elements of his proposed budget, included questions and comments on SustiNet, tax equity, spending cuts and, state employee pay and benefit concessions. The town hall tour continues next week, with stops in Norwalk, New Britain and Danbury, ultimately ending on April 12 in Middletown. Click [here](#) for a list of the remaining town hall meetings and their locations.

## Donna Brazile To Address 93<sup>rd</sup> CHA Annual Meeting

Donna Brazile, political commentator, Democratic strategist, and author, will keynote the 93<sup>rd</sup> CHA Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 23, 2011, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.



An adjunct professor at Georgetown University, syndicated columnist, television political commentator, Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation at the Democratic National Committee, and former chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute, Ms. Brazile began her political career at the age of nine when she worked to elect a City Council candidate who had promised to build a playground in her neighborhood; the candidate won, the swing set was installed, and a lifelong passion for political progress was ignited. Four decades and innumerable state and local campaigns later, Ms. Brazile has worked on every presidential campaign from 1976 through 2000, when she served as campaign manager for former Vice President Al Gore, becoming the first African American woman to manage a presidential campaign.

Author of the best-selling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, Brazile is a columnist for *Ms. Magazine* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*, and an on-air contributor to CNN and ABC, where she regularly appears on *This Week with Christiane Amanpour*.

In addition to a business meeting and the keynote speech, CHA's Annual meeting also features the presentation of annual hospital awards, an important part of the meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements. The deadline for CHA's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting award nominations is Monday, April 18. To complete a nomination, please use these materials for the Connecticut's Hospital [Community Service Award](#), the John D. Thompson [Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data](#), and the 2010 [Healthcare Heroes awards](#). 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.

## DPH Releases Hospital-Specific CLABSI Reports Showing Positive Trends

Connecticut hospitals are showing positive trends in reducing healthcare-associated infections, according to data released by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) yesterday. DPH posted hospital-specific reports of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs), on its [website](#).

Since January 2008, hospitals in Connecticut have reported to DPH incidents of CLABSI, a specific type of healthcare-associated infection, which have previously been reported in the aggregate.

The DPH report reveals good news about Connecticut's hospitals: the state's hospitals in aggregate are in the category of "Better than expected," as compared to the national risk-adjusted Standard Infection Rate (SIR) used by the Centers for Disease Control to compare states, hospitals, and individual units to each other and to the national index. The DPH data offer a snapshot of hospital performance from October 2009 through September 2010.

Since 2009, Connecticut hospitals have been participating, through the CHA Patient Safety Organization, in a national project to eliminate CLABSI by implementing safety checklists, standardizing processes, identifying and mitigating defects, doing communication training, and improving the culture of safety.

"We are pleased that these data confirm that hospitals' ongoing focus on quality and patient safety are continuing to reduce infections among our patients," said Jennifer Jackson, CHA's CEO.

## Public Health and Judiciary Committees Release Bills

This week, the Public Health and Judiciary Committees held meetings and released bills of interest to Connecticut hospitals. Of particular interest, the Public Health Committee met, amended, and released with a Joint Favorable Substitute (JFS) report, [SB 970](#), *An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Response In Health Care Settings*. The bill was amended by the Committee to make many of the substantive changes recommended by CHA. CHA will continue to work with the chairs of the Public Health Committee and others interested in the bill as the bill proceeds through the process. Also, the Committee voted to release with a Joint Favorable (JF) report, [SB 1184](#), *An Act Concerning Health Care Facilities*, a bill strongly [opposed](#) by Connecticut hospitals. CHA will continue to work with proponents of the bill to ensure hospital concerns are addressed. The Committee also voted to release with a JFS report, [HB 6548](#), *An Act Concerning The Collection Of Data By The Office Of Health Care Access Division Of The Department Of Public Health*, a bill that attempts to clarify the law related to OHCA's ability to release patient data. The bill was amended to address CHA's concerns that the bill would have allowed for the public release of patient-sensitive data.

Also this week, the Judiciary Committee met and voted to amend and release with a JFS report [HB 6487](#), *An Act Concerning Certificate Of Merit*, a bill strongly [opposed](#) by Connecticut hospitals. CHA will continue to work with the Connecticut State Medical Society in opposition to the bill.

The Public Health Committee is scheduled to meet again on Friday, April 1, the Committee's reporting deadline.

## Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative Schedules Learning Session

CHA's Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative has scheduled a fourth learning session April 12, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The learning session is co-hosted by CHA and Qualidigm.

Eliot Lazar, MD, chief quality and patient safety officer from New York-Presbyterian Hospital, will be the keynote speaker, sharing details of the hospital's patient safety program and successful strategies that have helped them improve their hospital-wide medication reconciliation process. Other topics that will be covered by speakers include assessing hospitals' current heart failure program model; enhancing patient and family education; and incorporation of palliative care in symptom management. Clinician Patsy Twohill will share her experiences as a patient who underwent treatment for heart failure.

The learning session will also include a poster session for sharing good practices and ideas. To register online for this learning session, click [here](#). For more information on the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Safety, [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org).

## Education Updates

### ***Patient Falls Collaborative Learning Session, Tuesday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

Rita K. Noonan, PhD, Home & Recreation Team Leader, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, will be the keynote speaker for the Fourth Learning Session for the Patient Falls Collaborative, *Moving Fall Prevention Evidence into Practice: Coordinating Across the Continuum*. The Home and Recreation team, under Dr. Noonan's leadership, conducts epidemiologic, intervention, and programmatic research on a diverse array of injury topics, including the Center-level priority: older adult fall prevention.

The learning session, co-sponsored by CHA and Qualidigm, will also include a poster session for sharing effective practices and ideas. Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register. For more information on the Patient Falls Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA's Interim Vice President for Quality and Safety, [hong@chime.org](mailto:hong@chime.org).

### ***Ensuring Integrity: Electronic Health Records, Wednesday, April 6, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.***

As hospitals nationwide and in Connecticut accelerate efforts to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, they

realize that understanding and managing the complex and inherent risks of these systems is essential.

This program will examine the general legal and risk implications beyond HIPAA, of record system integrity, including the impact of system failures and software defects, processing errors, and version control, all of which can create significant user problems and potential regulatory and malpractice liability concerns for the organization. The program format for this half-day session will be part lecture and part panel discussion where defense counsel, investigators, and system analysts will share their experiences with real world consequences of the failure to maintain system integrity. There will also be time to answer participants' questions.

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to: describe the legal factors to consider in record integrity and version control (other than HIPAA); discuss the implications of record system integrity for malpractice, regulatory compliance, and direct care; and identify general steps to better assess the risks to their enterprise relating to security, information use, and record management planning.

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.

***CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program, Thursday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside.

Curriculum for the *Nurse Preceptorship Program* was developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that include topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, evaluating competence, delegating effectively, and more. The *Nurse Preceptorship Program* will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to RN preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Speakers for the program include: Janice Costello, RN, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Goodwin College; Anna McGuirk, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, RN, Clinical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry, The William W. Backus Hospital.

*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 (6.0 contact hours).*

Click [here](#) for the brochure; click [here](#) to register.