



Thursday, March 31, 2016

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Lawmakers approved a bipartisan budget deal on March 29 that closes an estimated \$220 million deficit without making any additional cuts to the supplemental or small hospital pools. The plan does cut \$350,000 from CT Children's Hospital and approximately \$4 million from the University of Connecticut Health Center.

The vote on [HB 474, An Act Making Adjustments To The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2017](#), calls for the state to release \$140 million in hospital funding that was approved, but never released, for services provided to Medicaid patients.

The budget deal was negotiated by Democratic and Republican leaders and the Governor's budget office. Gian-Carl Casa, a spokesman for Governor Malloy's budget office, was quoted in an [article](#) in the CT Mirror as saying that the Administration is on board with the new deficit mitigation plan and that it would release the hospital funds as agreed to in the budget plan.

In a joint [press release](#), Senate President Pro Tempore Marty Looney (D-New Haven) and Senate Majority Leader Len Fasano (R-North Haven) highlighted the restoration of hospital funding as being a priority for both caucuses.

The budget deficit agreement calls for a reduction of \$15 million from the Medicaid line. It is CHA's understanding that this reduction will not impact hospitals, other providers, or eligibility. The plan passed by the General Assembly will make current year reductions to various line items of almost \$133 million, "sweeps" of a little more than \$61 million, and transfers of \$25 million. "Sweeps" is the practice of reducing a budgeted line item by an amount projected not to be used by an agency or program.

The plan passed with bipartisan support with a vote of 33-3 in the Senate and 127-16 in the House.

During the House debate, several legislators spoke to the importance of restoring hospital funding. Specifically, House Minority Leader Themis Klarides (R-Derby) said restoring hospital funding was a priority for legislators, while Representatives Melissa Ziobron (R-East Haddam), Craig Minor (R-Litchfield) and Whit Betts (R-Bristol) spoke of the importance of providing the funding to hospitals agreed upon in December. The legislators sought a commitment, which they received, that the administration would release hospital funding previously being withheld.

Lawmakers must next tackle a much larger, looming \$900 million deficit for the next fiscal year in the remaining six weeks of the legislative session.

To that end, legislators also voted Tuesday to amend the General Assembly's Joint Rules to extend the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees' reporting deadlines by one week. The request to delay the reporting deadlines, from March 31 to April 7 for the Appropriations Committee, and from April 1 to April 8 for the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, will allow legislative leaders additional time to consider the state's ever-changing fiscal situation as they deal with the estimated \$900 million deficit.

It is expected that the two budget committees will release their FY 2017 budget adjustment proposals on or before their new reporting deadlines.

Worker Safety and Engagement the Focus of Patient Safety Summit

Jerolyn Ireland was an energetic and committed nurse from Maine who planned to keep working until her 80th birthday, but medical problems – beginning with a seizure that cascaded into a series of medical errors – ended those plans.

Ms. Ireland's story was told by her son, Mark Boutilier, at CHA's 2016 Patient Safety Summit on March 24, because Ms. Ireland was too ill to make the trip from Maine. The Summit is part of Connecticut's efforts to eliminate all preventable harm at hospitals using high reliability science. The effort has resulted in tens of thousands of staff and physicians in Connecticut being trained in high reliability safety behaviors.

Mr. Boutilier said his mother's problems began with a seizure in 2012 from a benign meningioma in her brain that resulted in two broken shoulders and a lengthy stay in a nursing home. While there, she developed deep venous thrombosis and CAUTI, Mr. Boutilier said, but still managed to recover enough to return to work the following June. However, another seizure required an operation that led to a MRSA infection in her brain. She was unable to keep working and suffers from chronic pain. Ms. Ireland's story, which kicked off the summit, demonstrates the importance of striving to eliminate both patient and practitioner harm, other speakers said.



Pamela F. Cipriano, PhD, President, American Nurses Association (ANA), said her organization recognizes the safety of patients is directly tied to the health and safety of nurses and other hospital staff. She noted that the ANA, which represents 3.4 million RNs, has launched the "Safety 360 Taking Responsibility Together" initiative to promote a culture of safety in hospitals.

"When it comes to safety, you cannot create smoke and mirrors and truly have a culture of safety," said Dr. Cipriano. "Our leaders need to be the drivers and loud voices that really focus on safety."

National patient safety efforts are bearing fruit, Dr. Cipriano said, citing statistics from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality showing that the Medicare & Medicaid Services Partnership for Patients program, in which Connecticut hospitals participated through the

American Hospital Association's Hospital Engagement Network, led to 2.1 million fewer hospital acquired conditions, 87,000 saved lives, and \$20 billion in savings from 2010 to 2014. During the course of the project, Connecticut was a consistently top performing state.



Also presenting at the Patient Safety Summit was the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rachel Kaprielian, MPA, JD.

Ms. Kaprielian spoke about the strides in patient safety and healthcare accessibility that have been made under the Affordable Care Act.

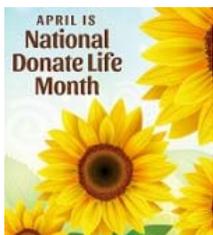
"The Affordable Care Act was one of the top 10 accomplishments in modern history," said Ms. Kaprielian, adding that the government program has eliminated denials for preexisting conditions, resulted in nearly 100 percent insurance coverage for children in the Northeast, and is moving healthcare providers toward

incentivized, value-based care.

"We are in an era where there are great incentives to be bold," said Ms. Kaprielian.

Other speakers at the summit included Charisse Coulombe, MS, MBA, Vice President of Clinical Quality for the Healthcare Research and Educational Trust at the American Hospital Association, who spoke about the Partnership for Patients HEN 2.0; Michelle M. Pandolfi, LMSW, MBA, Director of Consulting Services, and Ann Spenard, MSN, RN-BC, Vice President, Qualidigm, who talked about the workplace safety initiative in long-term care facilities; and Jackie Conrad, RN, BSN, Improvement Advisor and Leadership Coach at Cynosure Health Solutions, who gave the closing presentation on "Shaping a Culture of Safety through Engagement."

Hospitals Honor Organ Donation: April is National Organ Donor Month



Hospitals across the state will celebrate National Donate Life Month this April. Celebrated every year since 2003, National Donate Life Month is a time to recognize the generosity of those who have saved and enhanced lives by becoming organ and tissue donors and to honor the recipients of their selfless donations.

The goal of National Donate Life Month is to make life possible by educating and motivating individuals to register their decision to be organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Each year, Donate Life Month features unique artwork that helps tell the story of donation. The art for 2016 National Donate Life Month (NDLM) is inspired by sunflowers because each sunflower has the potential to create an entirely new field of flowers, which is symbolic of the lives individual donors can help save through organ and tissue donation. One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people, restore sight to two people through cornea donation, and heal countless others through tissue donation.

Currently, 51 percent of the U.S. adult population is registered as donors. Yet the number of people in need of transplants continues to outpace the number of organs donated. On average, 22 people die each day because the organ they need is not donated in time. You can register to become an organ and tissue donor [here](#).

Throughout the month, hospitals across the state, working with Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), hold activities and programs highlighting the importance of organ and tissue donations, as well as honoring donors and transplant recipients.

CHA will help celebrate National Donate Life Month by hoisting a Donate Life flag at its office in Wallingford. The flag will fly for the month of April to promote the benefits of organ donation.

AHA's Dick Davidson is Remembered as a Visionary Leader



Dick Davidson, the American Hospital Association's president emeritus, died on March 28 at age 79. Mr. Davidson, who retired in 2007, served in AHA's top leadership role for 16 years and was the second longest-serving president in the Association's 118-year history.

Mr. Davidson was remembered this week by AHA's current CEO and President, Rick Pollack, as an "innovative and visionary leader, a consensus builder, and a friend and mentor to many throughout our field."

"Dick deeply believed in the special role that hospitals play in the lives of the patients and communities they serve," said Mr. Pollack in a written statement. "He helped unify the field around the importance of strengthening public trust and confidence in hospitals as the essential healthcare service in every community. And he promoted increased community collaboration to better serve patients and improve health."

Under Mr. Davidson's direction, the AHA led national efforts to make information about hospital quality available to the public and consistently pushed to expand health insurance coverage to more people, especially children. He also led AHA's efforts to undertake major initiatives to improve patient safety, increase the number of minorities in health management, and help solve emerging workforce challenges confronting hospitals.

In 2007, Mr. Davidson received AHA's highest honor – the Distinguished Service Award – in recognition of his significant lifetime contributions and service to the nation's healthcare institutions and the Association.

The annual Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association Leadership was established to recognize a state, regional or metropolitan hospital association that demonstrates exceptional organizational leadership and innovation in quality improvement and has made significant contributions to the measurable improvement of quality within its geographic area.

The Connecticut Hospital Association was the 2014 recipient of the Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award, in recognition for its leadership in creating the first-of-its-kind statewide high reliability collaborative to reduce all-cause preventable harm and empower hospitals to become high reliability organizations.

Veteran Legislator Announces Retirement



State Rep. Mary Fritz (D-Wallingford) announced last week that she will not seek another term after serving for



more than 30 years. Rep. Fritz said that she will continue to represent the 90th House District seat until the end of her term, but will not seek reelection in November. The 90th House District covers the towns of Wallingford and Cheshire.

First elected in 1982, Rep. Fritz lost her reelection bid in 1984, but was elected again in 1986 and has served in the Connecticut House of Representatives ever since. Rep. Fritz serves as an Assistant Deputy Speaker and as a member of the Planning and Development and the Judiciary Committees.

Prior to her service in the House, Rep. Fritz served as a member of the Board of Education in Wallingford and was previously a teacher, owner of a private nursery, and co-owner of a custom furniture and gift store in Wallingford.

To date, ten state representatives and two state senators have announced their intentions not to seek reelection in the fall.

Education Updates

2016 CHA Regulatory Compliance Conference

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

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

Join us for CHA's Regulatory Compliance Conference, which will feature the keynote presentation "Lessons Learned: Hospitals. Hacktivists. Hindsight." This presentation by Daniel Nigrin, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Division of Endocrinology, Boston Children's Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School, will describe the recent experience of Boston Children's following a hacktivist attack.

Following Dr. Nigrin's keynote address and continuing the theme of privacy and security, attorney Jennifer Cox, Cox & Osowiecki, will present a session on "Patient Access in the Electronic World." Additionally, attorneys from Wiggin and Dana and Yale-New Haven Hospital will share information on the use of personal recording devices by patients, providers, and visitors, as well as cover the new rulings on employees and social media rights. The Conference will conclude with a presentation on e-discovery by Kristen Connors, Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey, on the type of information potentially available to jurors regarding Facebook posts made by plaintiffs or defendants.

This Conference is specifically designed for compliance officers, risk managers, in-house legal counsel, and others interested in privacy, security, and the impact of social media.

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

Basics of Budgeting for Healthcare Managers

Friday, April 8, 2016

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

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business financial training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results, particularly in an environment of chronic federal and state underfunding. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and organizations. This member-requested management development program provides managers with the skills and tools they need to prepare better budgets, identify problems and solutions, achieve the mission, and succeed in today's volatile healthcare environment. Participants will gain a working knowledge of operating and capital budgets, as part of developing performance planning skills.

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

HRO Worker Safety and Worker Engagement

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Steve Kreiser, HPI, will teach this course and share some of the practices that high reliability organizations can use to incorporate worker safety into their curriculum. There are a number of HPI customers who have taken this next step, and we will hear how some of them have done it.

Webinar: Ransomware in Hospitals 2016 Understanding the Problem and Potential Solutions

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

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

What would you do if you suddenly found your patient records encrypted and not available for access? Ransomware is malicious software that can disable all your patient records in the blink of an eye. Hospitals around the country—both large and small—are experiencing the dilemma of ransomware invading computers and encrypting all files, leaving the hospital at a standstill. After the files are encrypted in a ransomware attack, the attackers send a ransom note demanding payment in exchange for the code to unlock the files.

You can implement some simple steps to avoid this newest invasion of your software. Right now, your best defense is understanding what to look for when you receive files from outside of your organization.

Presenter Ron Galloway will provide a deep dive into recent occurrences of ransomware in healthcare, how best to prevent it, and what to

do if it happens to your facility.

HRO Leadership Method Training

Thursday, April 14, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Leadership Method Training is for organizations that are new to high reliability or for new management employees in organizations that are already on the high reliability journey. Both hospital and ambulatory organization leadership practices will be addressed. The leadership session is designed to teach your hospital or ambulatory leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors. The sessions are structured for leaders at the manager level and above. Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are being offered for these sessions.

HRO Safety Coach Training

Friday, April 15, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Creating Sustainability for High Reliability Organizations

Friday, April 15, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session is designed for drivers of change in your organization and covers techniques to ensure the changes resulting from high reliability approaches are ongoing. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Cross Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness Training - Four-Hour Session for Clinical Providers

Monday, April 18, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, the Saint Francis Center for Health Equity, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA is pleased to offer Cross Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness Training—Four-Hour Session for Clinical Providers—a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program to achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care and addressing healthcare disparities.

The program provides an opportunity for hospitals who have taken the AHA #123 Equity Pledge to Act to Eliminate Healthcare Disparities to meet the requirement for training staff in cultural competence.

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

This program is being held at the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI) in Hartford.

