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CHA Annual Meeting - Save the Date

SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hospital Association's
95th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

You are Invited: Connecticut Hospital Day at the Capitol



CHA and Connecticut hospitals will host Connecticut Hospital Day on April 11, 2013, at the Legislative Office Building (LOB), in Hartford. The day will begin as hundreds of people from the state's hospitals gather at the Capitol for a press conference with patients, caregivers, and legislators.

Hospitals are standing together to oppose the unprecedented \$550 million in cuts proposed by Governor Malloy in his budget. If the proposed budget is accepted, hospitals will need to cut jobs as well as programs and services on which Connecticut families rely - disproportionately those that already lose money. It will also cause healthcare costs to shift to businesses, resulting in higher premiums for working families.

Hospitals and members of the healthcare community will be communicating with elected officials about these critical issues.

- Date: Thursday, April 11, 2013
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Press Conference: 11:00 a.m. in Room 1B
- Place: Legislative Office Building, Hartford

All members of the healthcare community are invited to attend. For more information, contact Michele Sharp, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, at (203) 294-7213 or at sharp@chime.org.

Hospitals Focus on Reducing Readmissions

On April 3, CHA and Qualidigm hosted more than 125 healthcare leaders from across the state for a quality and patient safety program focused on reducing hospital readmissions. Harlan Krumholz, MD, MS, highlighted for participants the increased generalized risks of an adverse health event following hospitalization. Dr. Krumholz is professor of cardiology, epidemiology, and public health at Yale University School of Medicine, and director of the Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation. His recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article, "Post-Hospital

Syndrome," highlighted the need for caregivers to recognize the stressors that occur to a hospitalized patient and understand how they can lead to a hospital readmission.

"Illness doesn't begin when a patient enters the hospital, nor does it end when they leave. You have to put the focus on patients and you can improve patient outcomes," he said.

Additional sessions were presented by Michael Souza, Rhode Island Hospital Association, and David Schulke, Carrie Brady, and Matt Schreiber, MD, from the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET). The day-long program also featured a session on innovative care models in Connecticut that included the panel discussion, *Building a Community-Based Team of Providers*. Panelists included Anne Elwell, Qualidigm; Julie Gelganda, Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut; Margherita Giuliano, CT Pharmacist Association; Sheila Molony, PhD, CT Community Care, Inc.; and Tracy Wodatch, CT Association for Healthcare at Home.

The program is part of Partnership for Patients, a national initiative designed to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent. Partnership for Patients is being conducted by CHA in partnership with HRET. All Connecticut acute care hospitals are involved in this program.



Corporate Compliance Highlighted at CHA Conference

On April 2, more than 50 hospital leaders attended the CHA 2013 Corporate Compliance Conference.

Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen provided the keynote address, *The Attorney General's Office, Enforcement, and You: A Perspective on Connecticut Healthcare Compliance*.

Attorney General Jepsen described the organization and function of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). He discussed some of his initiatives, such as his effort to create a simplified process for data breach reporting and the creation of a Privacy Task Force focusing on data breach and privacy concerns. Attorney General Jepsen also established an Antitrust and Government Program Fraud Department, which is vigorously pursuing an array of antitrust and enforcement matters. He also highlighted his interest in environmental and consumer protection issues.

Attorney General Jepsen was joined by Assistant Attorney Generals Matthew Fitzsimmons, who leads OAG's Privacy Task Force, and Henry Salton, who heads the OAG's Health and Education Department. Attorney General Jepsen took



questions from the audience, addressing topics such as HIPAA enforcement, security breach reporting, Attorney General review of healthcare mergers and acquisitions, and the general need to synchronize state and federal laws.

During the day-long conference, participants also discussed New York's RAC experience with prepayment reviews, high-risk tax issues, attorney/client privilege, developing an effective ACO compliance program, EHR documentation compliance and auditing, and issues related to vendor exclusions.

Hospitals Testify in Opposition to Certificate of Merit Bill



On April 1, Carl Schiessl, Director of Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, [testified](#) before the Judiciary Committee in strong opposition to [HB 6687](#), *An Act Concerning Certificates Of Merit*, and [SB 1154](#), *An Act Concerning The Accidental Failure Of Suit Statute*. These bills seek to significantly change and weaken the current medical malpractice law. The bills were filed for and are supported by the plaintiffs' bar. A similar bill had been filed during the last three legislative sessions, only to be defeated on the House floor during the final days of the 2012 Legislative Session. Kurt Barwis, President and CEO of Bristol Hospital, and Dr. Rocco Orlando, Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer, Hartford HealthCare, joined CHA in providing testimony before the Judiciary Committee.

HB 6687 seeks to undo a 2005 law that discourages the filing of baseless lawsuits against healthcare providers by requiring a plaintiff's counsel to obtain, at the outset of a case, an opinion from a similar healthcare provider indicating there is evidence that the standard of care has been breached. This opinion is documented by a "good faith certificate." HB 6687 weakens this process, and may cause providers to incur increased costs defending otherwise meritless claims, ultimately diverting hospital personnel, resources, and funds away from their mission to provide quality healthcare. SB 1154 would amend the accidental failure of suit statute to expressly include any medical negligence claim that was

dismissed because the plaintiff failed to obtain the written opinion of a similar healthcare provider.

Members providing testimony included Norwalk Hospital, University of Connecticut Health Center, Western Connecticut Health Network, Hartford HealthCare, Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Yale New Haven Health System, Stamford Hospital, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and Bristol Hospital.

Additionally, several physician specialty groups testified, as did the Connecticut State Medical Society; the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians, represented by testimony presented by Gregory Shangold, MD, co-chairman of the CHA Emergency Department Directors Meeting Group; and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA).

Legislative Committees Reach Reporting Deadlines



Several legislative committees met their Joint Favorable (JF) Deadline this week. The JF Deadline is the day by which each committee must report out bills or resolutions for further consideration by other committees or the full General Assembly. The Public Health Committee will reach its reporting deadline on Friday, April 5. Other legislative committees reaching their JF Deadline include: Transportation (3/27/13); Commerce (3/28/13); Energy and Technology (3/28/13); Higher Education and Employment Advancement (3/28/13); Education (4-3-13); Environment (4-3-13); Planning and Development (4-3-13); and Human Services (4/4/13). With most of the committees of interest to hospitals having met their reporting deadlines, all attention will focus on the Judiciary; Appropriations; and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees – all of which will all reach their JF Deadlines in the coming weeks.

CT Receives Nursing Grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Connecticut is one of 20 states to benefit from a \$3 million Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiative, the *Future of Nursing State Implementation Program*. The program is designed to help states prepare the nursing profession to address our nation's most pressing healthcare challenges: access, quality, and cost.

As hospitals do their part in transforming healthcare delivery, nurses will be integral to the work, as they are key front-line caregivers. The RWJF program bolsters efforts already underway to transform healthcare through nursing and meet the challenges stemming from an aging and increasingly diverse population. The initiative will provide two-year grants of up to \$150,000 to 20 state-based Action Coalitions that have developed or made substantial progress toward implementing the Institute of Medicine's recommendations on the future of nursing.

Linda Berger Spivack, Director for the Connecticut Nursing Collaborative – Action Coalition (CNC-AC), says the Coalition will focus on securing and analyzing data on the more than 50,000 licensed nurses to influence and inform statewide workforce planning decisions. Additionally, work will focus on aligning and designing seamless education progression models for the practicing nurse so that he or she can easily ascertain higher levels of education and competencies.

CHA works with the CNC-AC and other groups in the state to advance workforce development and advocate for systems that promote health and support quality healthcare. CHA participated in the development of the CNC-AC and its advancement to national designation as an Action Coalition.

Read more [here](#).

Education Updates

Clinical Integration: A Self-Assessment

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Live Webinar, Presented at your Facility

The alignment of hospitals with physicians has become a touchstone of the changing healthcare environment. There are many structural strategies being deployed—from employment, to co-management, to leasing the practice to the hospital, to paying physicians for quality results. None of these will work unless the physicians are actively engaged in clinical integration. While the term “clinical integration” first was popularized as an antitrust concept, the antitrust issues of clinical integration do not go anywhere near as far as hospitals and physicians will have to go in order to succeed in the new environment. This webinar is intended to clarify key elements of clinical integration. It will be presented by Alice Gosfield, attorney and nationally recognized expert in health law and policy issues.

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

Financial Skills for Managers

Thursday, April 18, 2013

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

As the demands of healthcare reform pick up speed, 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 contribute to “bottom line” results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present the program.

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

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Leaping From Staff to Management: The Next Steps

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well your problem solving and decision making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended “Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager. Now What?” in February, this second course in the two-part program provides additional development for all managers who want to continually improve their skills.

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

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HIPAA Privacy and Security Rule Changes

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

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

The long-delayed HIPAA privacy and security rule changes have finally been issued! These changes will substantially affect operations for all HIPAA covered entities and business associates. This program will explain what's changed, review which policies and contracts related to business associates

and their subcontractors need revision, and outline the compliance deadlines.

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

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