Safe Haven Day Raises Awareness About Amnesty Law

Today, state officials and the Connecticut Hospital Association commemorated the fifth annual observance of Safe Haven Awareness Day at the Legislative Office Building. In 2015, legislators, agency officials, healthcare providers, educators, and advocates spearheaded a Special Act designating April 4 as Safe Haven Awareness Day in Connecticut.

The press conference was attended by Department of Children and Families (DCF) Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes, Department of Education Commissioner Diana Wentzell, State Representative and Deputy Majority Leader Jeff Currey (D-East Hartford), former State Representative Pam Sawyer who championed the state’s Safe Haven Act, and Carl Schiessl, CHA Senior Director, Regulatory Advocacy.

A Safe Haven Group, which includes representatives of CHA and several hospitals, continues its work to enact measures such as these to heighten and sustain public awareness of the law.

The Safe Haven Law, adopted in 2000, allows newborns under 30 days of age to be given up, with no questions asked, at hospital emergency rooms. The babies are then placed in adoptive homes by DCF. Connecticut’s hospitals have served as a refuge for 34 babies under the law. The law was amended in 2017 to require hospital employees to disclose information if he or she has reasonable cause to suspect the infant was abused or neglected, consistent with their responsibilities as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

According to National Safe Haven Alliance, 3,126 babies have been rescued across the United States as a result of Safe Haven laws.

Health Quest and Western Connecticut Health Network Combine to Form New Health System to be Called Nuvance Health

Health Quest and Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN) have combined to form a new not-for-profit health system. The name for the new health system will be Nuvance Health. The new health system was created to provide communities across New York’s Hudson Valley and western Connecticut with more convenient, accessible, and affordable care.

What is Nuvance Health?

Thirteen months after formally agreeing to create a new health system, Health Quest and WCHN have begun to operate as one organization after receiving the required federal and state (New York and Connecticut) regulatory approvals and support from patients, donors, and business and community leaders.

John M. Murphy, MD, is the CEO of the new health system, and Robert Friedberg is its President. Previously, Dr. Murphy served as President and CEO of WCHN and Mr. Friedberg was President and CEO of Health Quest. The new organization’s Board of Directors includes diverse and equitable volunteer community representation: eight members were nominated by Health Quest and eight were nominated by WCHN.

The new health system will serve 1.5 million residents. It includes seven hospitals, more than 2,600 physicians, and 12,000 employees. Projected annual revenues of the system are $2.4 billion.

Why was this new system formed?

The single, unified health system ensures the communities served have access to the latest treatments, technology, services, and top-notch physicians and care teams.

“Our patients and communities are the heart of efforts to form the new health system. We are steadfastly focused on how we can improve the health and well-being of the people we passionately serve,” Dr. Murphy said. “Through the new integrated health system, we will be able to attract top clinical talent to provide even more advanced, compassionate, and collaborative care.”

The benefits of combining and creating the new health system include greater breadth of services, such as more specialty physicians and population health programs. Additional expected benefits include the use of data analytics to enhance quality and safety and improve health outcomes, and growing medical education and learning to shape the future of medicine that best serves each community’s needs.

“By coming together, we will bring our communities more healthcare options through new programs and services, especially to help prevent disease and effectively manage chronic conditions. Our communities will also benefit from having greater access to specialists and the latest treatments, conveniently within one health system and close to home,” Mr. Friedberg said.

What is going to happen?

Nuvance Health is devoted to caring for its unique communities. That is why local, community-based leadership and separate Boards of Directors oversee each hospital.

The name Nuvance Health, derived from a combination of the words “new” and “advance,” will replace the legacy health network names Health Quest and WCHN. The organization will reveal a new logo and other brand marks in the coming weeks and months.

“The name Nuvance Health reflects a mission to continually make progress and pursue the impossible, so we can improve the lives of every person in each of our communities,” Dr. Murphy said.
Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group Now Rebranded As Bristol Health

Bristol Hospital and Healthcare Group, which includes Bristol Hospital, Ingraham Manor, Bristol Home Care and Hospice, Emergency Medical Services, and an integrated, multi-specialty physician group, is excited to announce it is rebranding to become Bristol Health.

The name change better reflects the full scope of services Bristol Health provides to the residents of greater Bristol and surrounding areas, increased expansion into the outpatient setting, and a long-term commitment to supporting the health of the community. The integrated physician group, formerly known as the Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group, will now be known as Bristol Health Medical Group.

“At a time when consolidation and acquisition activities of other healthcare organizations are causing confusion, we want to show our patients and partners that they can feel confident about Bristol Health and our ability to provide advanced care in convenient settings,” said Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, President and CEO of Bristol Health. “Bristol Health remains an independent, community-based system whose sole focus is to be a health and wellness resource for people right here in our community.”

Founded in 1921, Bristol Hospital has evolved into a complete network of local and community-based services. The network now includes 20+ physician office locations in central Connecticut, including in Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, Plainville, Southington, and Wolcott.

Bristol Health has also adopted a new mission statement, “Caring Today for Your Tomorrow” and a new vision statement, “Advancing the health of our community through integrated, innovative and individualized care.” The organization’s rebrand also brings with it a vibrant and modernized logo that will be shared by all entities as well as a new and improved website that will enhance the user experience and better serve its patients. The website is scheduled to launch in the summer.

The name change precedes the opening of Bristol Health’s Medical Care Center, a new 60,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art outpatient facility located at the corner of Riverside Avenue and Main Street in Bristol. The building will house medical offices, including urology, cardiology, neurology, rheumatology and orthopedics, and has dedicated space for laboratory and physical and occupational therapy services. The building, slated to open in early June, is the anchor project of a larger downtown revitalization effort. The genesis of the project was a recent community needs assessment that highlighted access to care as a critical need for the community.

“Bristol Health Medical Center is representative of our entire model. When you can provide easier access for patients across your care services, it removes a layer of stress,” said Mr. Barwis. “In addition to access, patients want doctors and care teams to understand them, and see that individualized attention is being given. Our quality scores show that this combination of access and attention is very unique to Bristol Health.”

CHA Advocates For Resident Funding

On Thursday, March 28, CHA urged Connecticut’s federal lawmakers to sign on to the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 (S. 349/H.R. 1763). If passed, it will add 3,000 Medicare-funded residency slots each fiscal year for the next five years, at least half of which must be used for a shortage specialty residency program.

In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Congress anticipated a physician surplus and froze the number of Medicare-funded residency positions at 1998 levels. The freeze has severely limited hospitals’ ability to train the next generation of providers and has contributed to a shortage of physicians, especially in behavioral health, primary care, and general surgery.

The current cap on residency slots restricts the number of slots for which hospitals may receive direct GME funding. The cap also limits the number of residents that hospitals may include in their ratios of residents-to-beds, which affects indirect medical education (IME) payments. The legislation outlines a hierarchy for distributing the new slots, prioritizing teaching hospitals that are currently training residents in excess of their cap, those in states with newly opened medical schools, and those that emphasize training physicians in community-based or outpatient hospital settings. At least half of the new slots would be for specialty residency programs with shortages.

In the Senate, S. 348 was introduced by Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), John Boozman (R-Ark), and Charles Schumer (D-NY). In the House, H.R. 1763 was introduced by Reps. Terri Sewell (D-Ala) and John Katko (R-NY).
Connecticut Hospitals Stand with Nebraska

Last month, heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt caused catastrophic flooding across Nebraska, causing an estimated $1.3 billion in damages. Many of the unsung heroes throughout the disaster have been hospital and health system employees that keep hospital doors open 24/7.

The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) has established a hospital employee relief fund to assist the more than 500 hospital staff who have been impacted by damage caused by the floods. The NHA will work in partnership with its member hospitals to identify employees who need assistance. One hundred percent of donations will be used to assist those affected. More information about the fund and how you can help is available on the NHA website.

CHA to Host 17th Annual Patient Safety Summit

CHA will hold its 17th Annual Patient Safety Summit: Leading Safety into the Next Decade on Wednesday, April 24, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The program, which is co-sponsored with Qualidigm, will include multiple presentations on human factors and a panel discussion on simulation.

The morning program will include a keynote presentation from Jeff Thompson, MD, former CEO of Gundersen Healthcare, on values-based leadership. His experience in leadership is far-reaching, having led diverse teams, projects, and divisions, before holding multiple senior executive roles. Dr. Thompson’s extensive experience as intensive care pediatrician and senior executive has shown him how leading from one’s values has the power to effect long-term meaningful change.

In addition to Dr. Thompson, Calie Santana, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, WESTMED Practice Partners, will discuss building quality leaders; Vicki Lewis, PhD, Principal Consultant at Healthcare Safety, will present on human factors engineering; and Joseph Keebler, PhD, Associate Professor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, will discuss human factors in healthcare.

Education Updates

HIPAA Rules of the Road: Public Relations, Communications, and the Media
Monday, April 8, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

This program will cover HIPAA requirements and restrictions that apply to use of, or sharing (and/or exposing) patient identifiers and patient information through filming and photography, with media-related entities, in connection with social media platforms, with law enforcement, or in the context of advertising or public relations outreach. The program will review guidance, as well as HIPAA enforcement penalties, from the Office for Civil Rights.

De-escalation Training
Thursday, April 11, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

CHA is approved by CPI to provide an abridged version of its Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® foundation course using a blend of online and classroom learning. This program will provide attendees with CPI’s Blue Card™ confirmation. Included in this program is approximately two hours of online pre-work and a pre-test. Please note: the pre-work and pre-test must be completed prior to attending the classroom portion of the program at CHA.

ICU High Reliability Training: Patient Safety
Friday, April 12, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Participants will learn about high reliability tools, behaviors, and practices that are specific to patient safety in hospital ICUs. This is the first of a three-part series focused on high reliability in the ICU.

Peer Supporter Refresher Training
Tuesday, April 30, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Event Registration

This program is for members who have attended a Peer Supporter Training course at CHA or for those currently serving as a Peer Supporter for their organization.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
Wednesday, May 1, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Please note: this is a two-session program; participants should attend both sessions. The second session will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Safer Hospitals Initiative: Workplace Violence Assessment Workshop
Thursday, May 2, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Event Registration

CHA is offering a Workplace Violence Assessment Workshop that will feature presentations and discussion of the tools being used in Connecticut hospitals, including the Broset Violence Checklist and V-RISK-10 screening instrument. The program also addresses the current use of crisis response teams and the opportunity to adopt a standard approach to the structure, personnel, policies, and procedures of such teams. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of strategies to mitigate violence in the workplace.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?
Thursday, May 9, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well one’s problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended Staff to Management: Starting the Transition in March or September, this is the second course in the two-part program and provides additional development for all managers—those who are new to the role and those who want to improve their skills.

Leading in Turbulent Times
Friday, May 10, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

The scope and pace of change in healthcare is unrelenting. Turbulent times is synonymous with VUCA, an acronym that describes an environment that is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous—a military term that was created during the Cold War and reused during the Middle East conflicts. Healthcare fits the description perfectly—and as the landscape continues to evolve, learning the strategies and principles of VUCA Leadership will enhance focus and agility. This workshop will blend didactic and experiential material, giving leaders practical tools to engage their employees in shaping organizational culture and achieving outcomes that drive operational excellence.

ICU High Reliability Training: Worker Safety
Friday, May 17, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Part two of a three-part series focuses on worker safety and examines how high reliability practices and principles can keep ICU workplaces safe. Attendees will learn about high reliability tools, behaviors, and practices that are specific to worker safety in ICUs.

Housing Quality: A Strategy to Reduce Asthma Disparities
Monday, May 20, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Megan Sandel, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine and a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health, will present the keynote at the May 20 conference on asthma. Dr. Sandel is the former Director of Pediatric Healthcare for the Homeless at Boston Medical Center and a Co-Principal Investigator with Children’s HealthWatch. Program participants will discuss how housing is a new vital sign for health and a lever to improve asthma health outcomes.

HRO Apparent Cause Analysis
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Event Registration

This course will focus on how to conduct an Apparent Cause Analysis (ACA). ACA methodology is used to evaluate and better understand the causes of precursor events at the microsystem level. Analyzing events using this tool will help direct the front-line leader to the appropriate improvement activities. This course is for front-line leaders—nursing and physician—and quality managers. After attending this program, the participant can serve as a local expert and provide coaching on ACA’s to others in their setting.

HRO Safety Coach Training
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
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...
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.