



Thursday, April 5, 2012

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Save the Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

## SAVE THE DATE

### Connecticut Hospital Association's 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, June 27, 2012**  
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[Western Connecticut Health Network and Norwalk Hospital to Explore Affiliation](#)



To advance their parallel missions "to provide uniquely excellent, innovative, and compassionate healthcare" and "to improve the health and well being of those we serve," Norwalk Hospital and the Western Connecticut Health Network will formally explore how they can partner to enhance healthcare services across a larger area of Fairfield County and beyond.

The two organizations will study the details of working together to improve community health by delivering coordinated, effective healthcare. This work is expected to take several months before each organization's Board decides on the future of the working relationship.

"We believe that, together, we can deliver the right care in the right place at the right time to our patients through an integrated network of facilities and resources," said John M. Murphy, MD, President and CEO, Western Connecticut Health Network. "What excites us is how much we can accomplish as partners to provide a consistent and seamless patient experience across an expanded network of sites."

Dan DeBarba, President and CEO, Norwalk Hospital, agrees. "We can sustain an environment of continuous learning, discovery and innovation through medical education and research, engage our physicians to partner in these efforts as well as our patients and their families, and be responsible stewards of the community as we expand the area we serve."

Dr. Murphy and Mr. DeBarba will jointly lead the study that will include reviews of clinical, community, and operational issues. "We will carefully explore what it can mean to connect two vibrant and financially healthy organizations that share common beliefs and values as well as a commitment to enhance healthcare services in this area," Mr. DeBarba said.

Members of the communities, patients, donors, clinicians, and employees will be invited in the coming weeks to participate in discussions about the potential of the affiliation.

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Norwalk Hospital is a 328-bed facility; WCHN includes Danbury Hospital and New Milford Hospital with a total of 456 beds.

## Connecticut Hospital Safety Leaders to Participate in National Fellowship

In collaboration with CHA, 40 champions of quality improvement from 24 Connecticut hospitals have been accepted for Improvement Leader Fellowships from the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), the non-profit research and educational arm of the American Hospital Association.

The fellowship program, held in Chicago, will teach the science of improvement, measurement, and culture/teamwork to build a cadre of front-line improvement leaders armed with best practices to engage their teams, overcome challenges, and spread sustainable improvement strategies.

The HRET Improvement Leader Fellowship Program is part of Partnership for Patients, a new national initiative designed to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent over a three-year period. Partnership for Patients is being conducted by CHA in partnership with HRET. All 30 Connecticut acute care hospitals are involved in this program.

## Appropriations Committee Releases FY 2013 Budget Adjustments

### Cuts to Medicaid for Low-Income Adults Reversed

On Thursday, March 29, the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee met, debated, and amended [HB 5014](#), *An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures And Revenues For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013*. The new budget document can be viewed [here](#).

After a lengthy debate, the committee voted 34 to 15 to approve the document. Republican Senator Len Suzio (R-Meriden) joined the Democrats in voting for the budget plan. The release of the budget by the Appropriations Committee came a week before the Committee's April 4 Joint Favorable (JF) reporting deadline.

Of interest to the hospital community, the budget:

- Reverses the Governor's proposed reductions to Medicaid low-income adult enrollment.
- Partially restores funding in DMHAS for uncompensated care in hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Restores funding to the LifeStar Air Ambulance program.

The adjusted FY 2013 spending plan was referred to the House for further action.

## Legislative Activity: Reporting Deadlines Reached

On Wednesday, April 4, the Connecticut State Senate and House of Representatives met in session to debate and vote on a number of legislative matters. The Senate session was devoted to debating [SB 280](#), *An Act Revising The Penalty For Capital Felonies*. The bill repeals the state's death penalty. The Senate voted 20-16 in favor of repealing the death penalty. The bill was transmitted to the House for further action.

The House met but did not vote on any legislative proposals of interest to Connecticut hospitals.

Also this week, three key legislative committees met their Joint Favorable (JF) reporting deadlines, marking the last chance for these committees to release bills that originated in their respective committees. All bills released are now ready for further possible action by other committees and each chamber of the General Assembly. The Judiciary Committee met its JF reporting deadline on Monday, April 2. The Appropriations Committee met its JF reporting deadline on Wednesday, April 4, and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee met its JF reporting deadline on Thursday, April 5.

With all legislative committees having met their JF deadlines, the bulk of the legislative activity for the balance of the 2012 session will focus on passing [HB 5014](#), *An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures And Revenues For The Fiscal Year Ending June 20, 2013*, and other legislative proposals released from the various committees.

## Malpractice, Reimbursement, and Healthcare Reform Worry Medical Residents

Medical malpractice is among the top concerns of final-year medical residents entering their first practice. Forty percent listed medical

malpractice among their biggest worries, up from 32 percent in 2008. The research appears in *Survey of Final-Year Medical Residents*, a publication of Merritt Hawkins, a leading physician search firm that works with CHA's Shared Services Program. Residents also expressed concern about reimbursement challenges and dealing with the uncertainties created by healthcare reform.

The report details information including how frequently physicians in their final year of training are contacted by recruiters; what newly trained doctors look for in a practice opportunity; and what their primary concerns are as they enter professional practice. Results of Merritt Hawkins' survey has previously been cited by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Modern Healthcare*, and may be of interest to hospitals, medical groups, and other organizations recruiting newly trained physicians.

If you would like a free copy of this report, contact Jeremy Robinson, Merritt Hawkins' Associate Director of Marketing, at 1-800-306-1330 or via e-mail at [Jeremy.Robinson@MerrittHawkins.com](mailto:Jeremy.Robinson@MerrittHawkins.com).

## Nominations Open for Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award®

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and caregivers, is seeking nominations for its 2012 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](http://www.theschwartzcenter.org). The nomination deadline is Friday, May 4, 2012.

## "Like" CHA on Facebook

Spread the CHA word by liking us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CHA). Adding CHA to your Facebook network is one way to get the latest information about what member hospitals are doing each day. In addition, we are happy to share member news on our Facebook page. Simply e-mail the information to Michele Sharp, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, at [sharp@chime.org](mailto:sharp@chime.org).

## Education Updates

2012 CHA Healthcare Executive Summit  
April 23, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Health reform – with all its complexities, challenges, pressures, and opportunities – continues to demand that hospital leaders transform their organizations through innovation, patient-centered care, and cost reduction.

The 2012 CHA Healthcare Executive Summit is pleased to feature two nationally recognized experts who will present both provocative insights and practical ideas to address the key economic, market, and social drivers of change facing hospitals and healthcare systems.

Leonard Greenhalgh, PhD, Professor of Management, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, will present *Strategy for a Different Future: Minorities in the U.S. Economy*. Andrew J. Majka, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, Kaufman, Hall & Associates, will present *Industry Consolidation: Key Drivers, Transactional Trends and Market Implications*.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).



Leonard Greenhalgh, PhD  
Professor of Management  
Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth



Andrew J. Majka  
Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Kaufman, Hall & Associates

Nurse Manager Leadership Academy  
Session One: Creating the Leader in Yourself  
April 10, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Session Two: Managing the Business (Part One)  
April 19, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Session Three: Managing the Business (Part Two)  
April 27, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Nurse Manager Leadership Academy has been designed to meet the growing demand for nurse manager leadership development. As healthcare reform gains momentum, and the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) intensifies, the role of the nurse manager is essential in healthcare facilities of all types. Effective and targeted professional development for nurse managers is critical to the quality of patient care, the satisfaction of patients with their care, the financial success of the organization, and the satisfaction of nurses in their practice.

The Nurse Manager Leadership Academy provides a unique and interactive learning experience designed to create personal and professional transformations in hospitals and healthcare facilities. It has been developed to help new and aspiring managers develop the core skills essential for success.

The curriculum emphasizes three key areas or learning modules: leadership skills, business skills, and personal development. These comprehensive and successive learning modules build upon each other to provide the necessary link between a nurse manager's clinical background and his or her role as manager.

Participation in the entire curriculum is strongly encouraged to receive the full benefits of the program, but registration for individual modules is permitted.

For more information, click [here](#). To register for Session One, click [here](#). To register for Session Two, click [here](#). To register for Session Three, click [here](#).

