



Thursday, April 10, 2014

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

In This Issue:

[Quint Studer to Give Keynote Address at CHA Annual Meeting](#)

[Hospitals Celebrate National Public Health Week](#)

[Connecticut House and Senate Meet in Session](#)

[DPH Calls on Providers to Help Reduce Antibiotic-Resistant Infections](#)

[Kennedys to Serve as Honorary Co-Chairs at VNA of South Central CT's Nightingale Awards](#)

[Education Updates](#)

[Update Archives](#)

Quint Studer to Give Keynote Address at CHA Annual Meeting



Quint Studer, founder of Studer Group, will provide the keynote address at the CHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. Mr. Studer will discuss the importance of leadership and what it takes to navigate the constantly changing healthcare environment, including the framework, principles, processes, and tactics that hardwire hospital performance excellence.

The Studer Group is an outcomes firm that implements evidence-based leadership systems and practices to help organizations achieve, sustain, and accelerate exceptional performance, service, quality, finance, and growth.

For nearly three decades, Mr. Studer has shared best practices with hundreds of healthcare professionals, meeting regularly with healthcare leaders around the country. He has served as a board member for the Healthcare Financial

Management Association (HFMA), and currently serves on the Board of Sacred Heart Health System in northwest Florida.

Modern Healthcare has recognized Mr. Studer as one of the 100 most powerful people in healthcare. Mr. Studer is part of the 21st Healthcare Leadership Curriculum Task Force at Harvard Business School. He is faculty-in-residence at George Washington University and a guest professor at Cornell University.

Mr. Studer authored *A Culture of High Performance*, released in October 2013. His first book, *Business Week's* best seller *Hardwiring Excellence*, is one of the most read leadership books for healthcare executives.

Hospitals Celebrate National Public Health Week



April 7-13 is [National Public Health Week](#), a time to raise awareness about issues that are important to improving the health of our communities and nation. Connecticut hospitals are deeply invested in improving public health. In 2012, they provided more than 12.3 million community benefit services to individuals and families. These include support services for cancer, diabetes, asthma, and other chronic conditions, mobile vans and clinics delivering primary and preventive care, healthy lifestyle education programs, and many other programs targeted to meet specific community needs. (See an infographic [here](#). Read the 2014 Community Benefit Report [here](#).)

Here are some examples of what Connecticut hospitals are doing to improve public health:

Every year, nearly 30,000 people in the U.S. will contract Lyme Disease. The mission of the **Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN) Lyme Disease Registry** is to create a comprehensive database of patients with Lyme disease. Through this Registry, WCHN is working to understand the big public health problems caused by a very small bug. This work will serve as the basis for multidisciplinary research leading to a better understanding of the course of the disease, how people are affected, and the causes of persistent symptoms – leading to better testing and diagnosis. Register at www.lymeregistry.org or visit www.facebook.com/lymeregistry for more information.

Joann Petrini, MD, WCHN, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal discuss the effects of Lyme disease and the need for more research.

At a local women's health conference every year, staff from the **Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center** provide information on breast and cervical health, and education about mammography and other health screenings. During this event, women are assessed to determine their eligibility for free mammograms and PAP tests. Free screenings are offered thanks to a grant from Susan G. Komen's Connecticut chapter. In addition, a Middlesex Hospital primary care provider speaks about women's health issues and preventive care.

Recent studies have suggested that people at high risk for lung cancer can increase their chances of survival when they undergo a low-dose screening CT scan. In 2013, **MidState Medical Center** took a giant step forward in the public health arena by launching its Lung Cancer Screening Program. The program makes low-dose CT scans available for free to select patients who meet the program's criteria. Since introducing the program, MidState has screened more than 200 people in the communities it serves, and has identified a lung cancer case. With this program, people can now begin treatment sooner and, as a result, have a chance at survival that is greater than ever before.

Saint Mary's Hospital provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings, along with diagnostic testing and treatment referral services through the Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to uninsured and underinsured women ages 40 and older. In addition, Saint Mary's is one of seven healthcare facilities offering free colorectal cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured patients ages 50 to 64 under the Department of Public Health's Colorectal Cancer Control Program.

For more than a decade, the Waterbury Health Access Program (WHAP) has been strengthening access to high quality medical care by providing comprehensive case management, healthcare navigation, pharmacy assistance, and access to primary and sub-specialty medical care for the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Greater Waterbury Region. Building on this strong foundation of helping residents obtain not only care but health insurance coverage, **Waterbury Hospital** played an active role in enrolling community members through Access Health CT. A dozen staff members were

trained as certified assisters or certified application counselors, and were available to community members by appointment or by walk-in to the WHAP offices at Waterbury Hospital, as well as through community sites and any of the 12 enrollment fairs held at Waterbury Hospital. While the numbers of individuals and families enrolled in Access Health CT by Waterbury Hospital are not yet final, it is certain that hundreds of community members will benefit from these efforts by now having coverage and access to care.

For three years, nurses and dietitians from **The William W. Backus Hospital** have attended the farmers market at the Howard T. Brown Park in Norwich to promote healthier lifestyles to visitors. The market is a place where families redeem Rx for Health "prescriptions" from their primary care providers for fresh fruits and vegetables. Rx for Health was developed as a multi-pronged approach to respond to the region's number one health priority — obesity. It has been gaining momentum each year, and has recently expanded into the Norwich Public School System.

Johnson Memorial Hospital is teaching people to make smarter food choices. While they are inpatients, people meet with dietary staff to gain an understanding of the best food choices for them; the hospital menu has been revised to provide detailed nutritional information. Ultimately, the hospital's goal is to support better community health, one person at a time, through diet improvement.

Throughout the spring, sixth graders from the Ansonia, Derby, Seymour, and Shelton school districts will compete in Valley Initiative to Advance Health & Learning in Schools (VITAHL) Healthy Cooking Challenge. The contest invites the students to create and produce healthy recipes. Launched in 2011 by **Griffin Hospital** in partnership with local schools and school districts, the Valley Initiative to Advance Health & Learning in Schools (VITAHL) is a community and school-based childhood and adolescent obesity prevention program that aims to reduce the prevalence of obesity and promote health, well-being and the academic readiness of students in the Valley school districts.

Bridgeport Hospital and **St. Vincent's Medical Center** are founding members of Get Healthy CT, a coalition to prevent and reduce obesity in the communities served by the two hospitals. Established in 2010 in Greater Bridgeport, Get Healthy CT expanded into the Greater New Haven area in 2013 under the management of Yale New Haven Health System, of which Bridgeport Hospital is a part. With the help of student interns, Get Healthy CT has developed a searchable database that can help people find local shops or supermarkets where healthier food choices are available. The [website](#) also lists nearly 50 places in the area for various types of physical activities and provides a wealth of other wellness information.

In February, Get Healthy CT introduced Know Your Numbers, a grassroots campaign to raise awareness of heart disease and diabetes among residents of the greater Bridgeport area, especially the underserved. The staffs and volunteers of both St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital, and other GHCT agencies, performed hundreds of free cardiac and diabetes health screenings at soup kitchens, rescue missions, and churches. The campaign also included screenings in area towns through a collaboration with the health departments of Bridgeport, Stratford, Fairfield, and Trumbull/Monroe. Launched with the cooperation of Bridgeport's City Council members (see photo), the campaign taught individuals the link between these numbers and their overall health, as well as the necessity of regular monitoring.



Bridgeport City Council members launch the "Know Your Numbers" free cardiac and diabetes screening program, led by St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital.

From Left, David Michaud, Elton Sela, Garrett Cafaro, Makayla Godfrey, Kiersten LaRue, and Skylar Evans present their healthy dishes during Ansonia's local competition for the VITAHL Healthy Cooking Challenge.

Connecticut House and Senate Meet in Session



The House of Representatives and Senate met in session this week to act on Judicial and Executive nominations, refer bills to various committees, and vote on several bills impacting state policy. This and next week's legislative sessions are designed to allow the caucuses to meet and discuss legislative priorities and strategies, setting the stage for the final weeks of the 2014 Legislative Session.

Both chambers of the General Assembly met on April 9, but only the Senate took action on bills of interest to Connecticut hospitals. Specifically, the Senate referred to the Public Health Committee [SB 61, An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation And Liability For Hospital And Ambulatory Surgical Center Services](#). As currently drafted, SB 61 would set the rates for workers' compensation-related services at hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) at 200% of their Medicare reimbursement rate for the same services, unless the hospital or ASC negotiates different rates with the injured employee's employer or workers' compensation insurance carrier.

Also on April 9, the Senate debated and passed on a vote of 25-11 [SB 36, An Act Concerning The Governor's Recommendations To Improve Access To Health Care](#), a bill supported by CHA. SB 36 allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who have been licensed in Connecticut for at least three years to practice independently without needing a written collaborative agreement with physicians. Current law requires APRNs to work in collaboration with a physician and have a written agreement regarding the APRN's prescriptive authority. The bill was transmitted to the House for further action.

At the time of publication, the House was meeting in session. Any bills of interest to hospitals will be reported on in next week's edition of *CHA Update*.

DPH Calls on Providers to Help Reduce Antibiotic-Resistant Infections



Department of Public Health Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, has sent a "Call to Action" to healthcare providers in hospitals and other care settings across the state, encouraging them to renew their focus on reducing antibiotic-resistant infections.

Because many bacteria are now more resistant to antibiotics, some infections are no longer easily treated with antimicrobials. This is a serious threat to public health. Being stewards of antimicrobials is necessary to saving lives.

The Department of Public Health is aware that Connecticut hospitals see antimicrobial stewardship as important for medical care quality, have antibiotic stewardship programs in place led by physician champions, are tracking and controlling antibiotic use, and offer provider education.

"Our hospitals have had great success working together to reduce patient harm and eliminate infections," said Mary Cooper, MD, Chief Quality Officer, CHA. "We take antibiotic stewardship very seriously."

Kennedys to Serve as Honorary Co-Chairs at VNA of South Central CT's Nightingale Awards



Kiki and Ted Kennedy, Jr. will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of South Central Connecticut's 2014 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, which will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014 – during National Nurses Week. The Kennedys have served in this role since 2011.

Mr. Kennedy is a Partner in the national law firm of Epstein Becker Green. Previously, he co-founded and served as President of the Marwood Group, a healthcare-focused financial services firm. He also previously served as Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at CHA.

The 2014 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing will be held in three locations: Hartford, New Haven, and New London. The Hartford event will feature speaker Hilarie Jones, APRN, a nurse practitioner at the University of Connecticut. The Chair of the New London event is Mary Lenzini, CEO and President, VNA; the Co-Chair is Donna Blackstone, executive assistant, VNA.

The Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, Connecticut's largest statewide nursing recognition program, is a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession. The program encourages retention, inspires future nurses, focuses public attention on nurses, and recognizes the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level.

Education Updates

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Monday, April 28, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is essential to continually step back to assess your knowledge of management practice and how well your critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills are keeping pace with the rapidly changing and challenging healthcare environment.

For those of you who attended the first program in our leadership development series—"Staff to Management: Starting the Transition" in September or March, and all managers who want to improve their skills and learn practical techniques for leading change initiatives, building team cohesiveness, coaching employees for better performance, and using time management strategies, this practical and interactive session will help you manage both the people and business components of your job more effectively.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

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

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work.

What is not so clear, is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. How can we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, one of CHA's most highly rated leadership development speakers, will present this full-day, interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory. Ms. Arnett will present communication methods and tools for navigating the challenging maze of different personalities and communication styles to better manage conflict.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

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

2014 Corporate Compliance Conference

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Connecticut healthcare professionals, like their colleagues nationwide are being asked to expand their knowledge and skills to respond to unprecedented challenges triggered by healthcare reform—including the ever-changing regulatory compliance landscape.

Please join us for CHA's annual Corporate Compliance Conference, which will address several critical topics including the CMS 2-midnight presumption, documentation issues, and revenue cycle strategies. Additionally, there will be presentations covering physician-owned distributorships, the focus on transparency of industry physician financial relationships or the CMS Physician Payment Sunshine Act, and compliance strategies for both provider and patient health information exchange (HIE) portals. In addition to compliance, legal, and risk professionals, we also invite physicians, HIM, and other healthcare professionals to join us for a comprehensive conference.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

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

Reducing Surgical Site Infections

Thursday, May 1, 2014
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CHA will host our partners from Johns Hopkins and several Connecticut best-practice hospitals as part of our ongoing successful effort to reduce surgical site infections. We have seen a steep decrease in our infection rates, but the rest of the country is outpacing us. Attend this session to learn what other things we can do to ensure lower infection rates in our surgical patients. This session is for all hospitals that do surgery; it is not limited to SUSP (surgical unit safety protocol) hospitals.

Please Note: This is a federally funded session; therefore we are required to charge you for any meals that we provide to you on this day. We will bill the hospital.

[Event Registration](#)

HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session

Friday, May 2, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

Venous Thromboembolic Disease Prevention

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CHA will host a session on venous thromboembolic disease (VTE). We are hosting Dr. Ian Jenkins from University of California at San Diego, a nationally recognized speaker on VTE prevention. He will give us practical tips for implementing a VTE prevention and reduction plan. We will also hear from several of our Connecticut hospitals that are having success in VTE prevention and reduction.

Please Note: This is a federally funded session; therefore we are required to charge you for any meals that we provide to you on this day. We will bill the hospital.

[Event Registration](#)

HRO Level 3: Medical Staff Training

Thursday, May 15, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

On Thursday, May 15, 2014 we will host a discussion about the role of medical staff in High Reliability Organizations from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. This discussion will be held during the Physician Executive Committee meeting, and we will discuss training, credentialing, and the role of training in the medical schools. In addition, we will kick off a discussion of the expansion of training to ambulatory centers and hospital aligned office-based practices. Breakfast will be included.

[Event Registration](#)

