

Thursday, April 13, 2017

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This afternoon Governor Dannel Malloy announced that he will not be seeking a third term. In a press conference at the state Capitol, he touted the areas on which he focused during his terms in office, including education, employment, and criminal justice.

Gov. Malloy said this decision was a personal one, made over a period of months with his wife. He said he intends to spend the next 20 months of his final term focusing on his priorities and on making the core principles in his proposed FY 2018-2019 budget a reality. He told reporters that his budget was built with Connecticut's interests in mind.

"I will focus all of my attention and energy, and will use all of my political capital, to implement my Administration's vision for a more sustainable and vibrant Connecticut economy," he said. Gov. Malloy emphasized the need for "an equitable system for town aid" that

includes shared responsibility for teacher pensions.

Governor Malloy called his Governorship "the honor of a lifetime."

The race to succeed Governor Malloy will now begin in earnest.

Hospital Leaders Focus on Collaboration at Healthcare Forum

On March 12, the Metro Hartford Alliance's Connecticut Health Council held a day-long forum, *Change in DC: What it Means for Connecticut's Health Sector*. Speakers included Marna Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale New Haven Health and Yale New Haven Hospital; Elliot Joseph, Chief Executive Officer, Hartford HealthCare; as well as legislators and representatives from the state, insurance companies, and other areas of the healthcare sector.

The hospital leaders participated on a panel with insurance and industry executives to discuss a range of topics.

Discussing the need to reduce the cost of healthcare, Ms. Borgstrom emphasized the importance of focusing on the social determinants of health that negatively impact healthcare for so many in our state.

"We can't just look to healthcare to solve all the problems of the cost of healthcare," she said. Ms. Borgstrom noted that people who don't have their basic needs met have more chronic diseases and worse health outcomes overall, which adds cost to the system. Addressing these fundamental, underlying issues will help to build healthier communities and reduce cost.

Discussing cost and quality transparency, Mr. Joseph said that healthcare leaders embrace the concept. "Transparency is a tremendous force for good," he said, though he also acknowledged the challenges inherent in gathering and presenting cost and quality data to the public in a way that engages them.

The hospital leaders described ways to take costs out of the system, including by supporting innovation and reducing variation in care. To achieve these goals, there is a need for greater partnership and collaboration with the state, they said.

A legislative panel featuring U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, U.S. Congressman John Larson, and U.S. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty focused on developments in Washington, DC. The legislators noted that they seek compromise rather than an outright repeal of the Affordable Care Act. They voiced concerns about block grants for the state of Connecticut.

A third panel featured state representatives Ben Barnes, Secretary of the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management; Mark Schaefer, Director, Healthcare Innovation, State Innovation model Program Management Office; Ted Doolittle, Healthcare Advocate, State of Connecticut; and Kate McEvoy, Director, Division of Health Services, Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Issue-Based Forum Held on Hospital Property Tax Exemption

On April 11, CHA held an issue-based forum on the hospital property tax exemption. Carl Schiessl, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, opened the program by describing how the Governor's proposed budget would reduce state funding for municipalities and end a decades-old arrangement by having cities and towns assume the obligation to fund one-third of teacher pensions. To offset these new financial burdens,



municipalities would be allowed to tax the real property owned by not-for-profit hospitals, ending in Connecticut a centuries-old American tradition.

“We hope that local representatives and senators understand that this is no time for a new tax on hospitals and, at the same time, we want to continue to support our municipalities,” said Mr. Schiessl. “They are good partners to our hospitals.”

Elliott B. Pollack, Esq., a partner in the law firm of Pullman & Comley, offered background information on the history of the property tax exemption.

“The property tax exemption goes as far back as colonial times,” said Attorney Pollack. “There was a general consensus that charitable institutions were exempt from the property tax. They provide critical services that otherwise the community would have to do.”

Attorney Pollack also provided a primer on the assessment appeals process in Connecticut. He surveyed judicial developments in Connecticut and across the nation, and noted the increasing demand in all municipalities for sustainable sources of tax revenue. He closed by making recommendations for hospitals to consider when applying for exemption from the property tax or entering into discussions with municipal officials, highlighting a range of charitable activities that will support qualification for the exemption.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Columnist to Provide CHA Annual Meeting Keynote Address



Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist and MSNBC analyst Eugene Robinson will deliver the keynote address at CHA's 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Mr. Robinson is on the front lines of news coverage every day. His twice-weekly column is syndicated in 145 newspapers across the nation. In his three decades at The Washington Post, Mr. Robinson has been city hall reporter, city editor, foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires and London, foreign editor, and assistant managing editor in charge of the paper's award winning Style section. He has written books about race in Brazil and music in Cuba, covered a heavyweight championship fight, witnessed riots in Philadelphia and a murder trial in the deepest Amazon, sat with Presidents and Dictators and the Queen of England, trusted and parried with hair-proud politicians from sea to shining sea, handicapped three editions of American Idol, acquired fluent Spanish and passable Portuguese and even, thanks to his two sons, come to an uneasy truce with hip-hop culture.

Mr. Robinson's remarkable story-telling ability has won him wide acclaim, most notably as the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for his commentary on the 2008 presidential race.

Mr. Robinson's insights on the current political realities and the impact on healthcare are free of the usual inside-the-beltway jargon. While media outlets may be tempted to churn out news served on a platter by candidates and companies, Mr. Robinson takes a step back not only to look at the big picture, but to focus on deeds—not just words. Whether he's assessing politicians, cliff-hanging events on Wall Street, or handicapping elections, he reminds us that politics may not be for the faint of heart but sure can be fun to watch.

The theme of this year's Annual meeting is *Connecticut Hospitals: Building a Healthier Connecticut*. The theme reflects hospitals' 2017 advocacy focus on building a healthier state – with healthier people, healthier communities, and a healthier economy that comes from a strong hospital and healthcare sector.

Next Week: CHA Hosts Kickoff Program for Care Decisions Connecticut

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, CHA will host the kickoff program for Care Decisions Connecticut, a collaboration with healthcare partners across the continuum of care and state government with the goal of integrating patient-directed care strategies to improve palliative/hospice care and quality of life for people in Connecticut with serious illnesses.

Susan Frampton, President of Planetree International, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Frampton, a medical anthropologist, has authored numerous publications, including the three editions of *Putting Patients First* (Jossey-Bass 2004, 2008, 2013), and served as lead author on the National Academy of Medicine's "Harnessing Evidence and Experience to Change Culture," released in early 2017.



Dr. Frampton leads Planetree's advocacy efforts, chairs the National Quality Forum's National Quality Partners Leadership Consortium, and has co-chaired NQF Action Teams on Advanced Illness Care, Patient-Family Engagement, and Decreasing Hospital (Re)Admissions. She serves on the Governing Board of the WHO-CC International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals, and on the editorial board for the Journal of Compassionate Healthcare.

In addition to speaking internationally on culture change, quality, safety, and the patient experience, Dr. Frampton was honored in 2009, when she was named one of "20 People who Make Healthcare Better" by Health

Leaders magazine.

The program will take place from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at CHA. Co-sponsors include CHA, the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF), and The Conversation Project. Click [here](#) for the program brochure and [here](#) to register.

The program coincides with National Healthcare Decisions Week, during which time organizations across Connecticut will host events related to serious illness and end-of-life care planning. For a listing of local events and additional resources, go to www.CareDecisionsCT.org.

Yale New Haven Hospital, Danbury Hospital Chosen for CMS Program



Yale New Haven Hospital and Danbury Hospital were among 32 hospitals nationwide chosen by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to serve as local hubs, linking clinical and community services to address social determinants of health like housing instability, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal violence, and transportation.

The goal of the program, according to the [announcement](#) by CMS, is to reduce avoidable healthcare use and reduce healthcare costs while improving outcomes for Medicare and Medicaid patients. The three-track Accountable Health Communities Model will be tested by CMS over a five-year period.

Yale New Haven Hospital will participate in the “Assistance Track,” while Danbury Hospital will participate in the “Alignment Track.” Each organization participating in the Assistance Track will receive up to \$2.57 million to provide person-centered community service navigation services to assist high-risk beneficiaries with accessing needed services. Alignment Track organizations will each receive up to \$4.5 million to also provide community service navigation services, as well to encourage community partnerships to deliver needed services and supports.

The third track of the model, the “Awareness Track,” is intended to increase beneficiary awareness of available community services through publicity and referral. CMS intends to make announcements about that track this summer.

CHA Raises Donate Life Flag in Support of Donate Life Month



CHA has raised the Donate Life flag on its campus in Wallingford in honor of National Donate Life Month (NDLM). This is the second year that CHA will celebrate NDLM during the month of April by raising a flag and highlighting in its member newsletters the organ and tissue donor awareness activities undertaken at Connecticut hospitals.

NDLM was instituted by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Celebrated in April each year, NDLM features local, regional, and national activities to help encourage Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors, and to celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation. CHA partners with New England Donor Services and Donate Life Connecticut on a number of educational and advocacy issues during the course of the year, helping to spread awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donations.

Separately last week, the leadership of Donate Life Connecticut sent letters in support of hospitals to legislative leaders and members of the two budget-writing committees. Donate Life Connecticut cited the vital role hospitals play in caring for patients and their families. The organization called on legislators to support hospitals as they craft the state’s next two-year budget.

The letters, signed by the co-chairpersons of Donate Life Connecticut, Sukru Emre, MD, and Annmarie Liapakis, MD, can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Education Updates

Healthcare Financial Management - An Overview

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

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

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

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, 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 provided. Please see the brochure for details.

The Basics of Budgeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

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 knowledge or 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 management development program, part one of a two-part series, provides managers with

an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, and salary and supply budgets, as well as information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Bill Ward will present the program.

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

Promoting Safety and Connectedness: A Philosophy of Care for the High-Risk Infant and Family

Friday, April 21, 2017

8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

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

Stephen W. Porges, PhD, Distinguished University Scientist at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University Bloomington, and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, will be the keynote speaker at this conference. Dr. Porges is the developer of the Polyvagal Theory linking the evolution of the autonomic nervous system to social behavior.

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

2017 CHA Regulatory Compliance Conference

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

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

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

CHA's Regulatory Compliance Conference will feature a keynote presentation on the new administration's impact on compliance enforcement. This presentation by Jonathan Diesenhuis and Gejaa Gobena, Partners at Hogan Lovells, will describe "hot topics" in compliance enforcement as the transition to a new administration evolves, and will provide up-to-date information and best practices for handling these changes. Hogan Lovells is a legal firm that offers extensive experience and insights gained from working in healthcare and other complex legal environments. The firm provides counsel to the American Hospital Association on compliance issues.

Following the keynote address, attorneys from Wiggin and Dana will present two sessions on Stark and Anti-kickback, and what to do when the government shows up at the hospital with a search warrant. Additionally, Jennifer Cox, from Cox & Osowiecki, will present—alongside an IT specialist—a session on privacy and security in health IT, sharing information on the "Top 10" things hospitals should be thinking about in this arena.

This conference is specifically designed for compliance officers, risk managers, in-house legal counsel, health information managers, IT specialists, and others interested in privacy, security, and the impact of the new administration's policies on compliance enforcement.

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

HIIN: The Early Identification and Management of Sepsis

Friday, May 5, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Sepsis is diagnosed in more than one million patients each year in the United States with an estimated mortality rate of 28 to 50 percent. The risk of mortality and urgency when treating all stages of sepsis, from sepsis to septic shock, drove the development of bundles, approved by the National Quality Forum, for the care of the septic patient. These bundles prompt the reliable completion of the indicated tasks within the first hours after the identification of septic symptoms. Hospitals nationally have implemented evidence-based practices that are considered best practice in the early recognition, treatment, and management of sepsis. A clinical focus topic of the HIIN, sepsis care has been targeted by CMS for quality improvement. Please join Carole Moss, patient advocate and founder of the Niles Project, and Sean R. Townsend, MD, Vice President of Quality & Safety, California Pacific Medical Center, and others for an educational event to improve the early identification and treatment of sepsis in the acute care environment.

The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

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 changing healthcare environment. For those who attended the program *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

Thursday, May 11, 2017

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

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

The scope and pace of change in healthcare is unrelenting. VUCA is an acronym that describes an environment that is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. It is 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.

Leadership CHAMP Refresher Course

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA worked with HPI/Press Ganey to design the Leadership CHAMP Refresher Course for hospital leaders and managers. This course is for those who want to reinvigorate their role as high reliability leaders. It will include topics such as error prevention, rounding to influence, top 10 prioritization, and Fair and Just Accountability.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Training

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Cause analysis teaches staff how to evaluate events, patterns of events, and causes of events, and then helps staff ascertain how to implement solutions. These sessions are for quality staff, safety staff, risk management staff, and other staff that respond to events.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

