Public Hearing Expected on Phasing Out Hospital Tax

Within the coming week, it is expected that the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 7058, An Act Concerning The Hospital Tax, a bill supported by Connecticut hospitals. HB 7058 would phase out the hospital tax over a five-year period, beginning in January 2017. CHA will be testifying in support of HB 7058 and is asking all hospitals to support the bill as well.

Hospital Anti-Trust Bill Not Acted Upon by Deadline

The Judiciary Committee did not act on SB 1120, An Act Concerning Application Of The State’s Antitrust Laws To Hospital Mergers And Acquisitions, prior to its reporting deadline on April 13, 2015. Although the bill was on the Committee agenda, it was never called for a vote. Normally, a bill not acted on by a Committee’s reporting deadline would mean the bill is dead for the legislative session. However, legislative leaders have said they may revive some legislative proposals from the Committee agenda through the amendment process as the session progresses. CHA opposes SB 1120, a bill that would have further regulated hospitals during mergers and acquisitions.

Senate and House Meet in Session

The House of Representatives and the State Senate met in session on April 14, 2015. Of interest, the Senate amended and referred to the Public Health Committee SB 290, An Act Concerning Patient-Designated Caregivers. CHA supports the goals of SB 290, but continues to work with the AARP and legislative proponents on several aspects of the proposed bill. The House will meet again on Wednesday, April 22. The Senate is expected to meet next week, but has yet to announce a date or time.

CHA Awarded Grant to Improve Asthma Management and Care

The Connecticut Health Foundation awarded CHA a $100,000 grant to pilot test a system of care model that would help people who suffer from asthma.

The project, to be implemented over a three-year period, aims to:

- Reduce the prevalence of asthma and asthma hospital utilization in general, and reduce ED visits by five percent.
- Gain positive feedback from patients, families, and practitioners regarding effectiveness of cultural sensitivity of the model.
- Reduce disparities in asthma care and outcomes by implementing the asthma care model that becomes standard practice in healthcare and community systems across the state.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with the Connecticut Health Foundation on this groundbreaking statewide asthma initiative," said Elizabeth Beaudin, RN, PhD, Senior Director, Nursing, Health and Workforce, CHA. "Connecticut hospitals, in collaboration with clinical experts, care providers, community agencies, and patients and families, are committed to improving measurably the lives of people in Connecticut who suffer from asthma. This transformational work will also reduce health disparities and improve health equity related to asthma care."

The proposed model of care for the asthma initiative will incorporate guidelines from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service ("CLAS") standards.

On March 3, 2015, CHA launched a statewide asthma initiative to improve patient care and access and to design new models of care that will transform community partner and hospital relationships. The asthma initiative was developed by the CHA Committee on Population Health, which determined that asthma remains a problem in Connecticut, affecting the quality of life of children and adults in the state. The initiative is being led by Anne Diamond, CEO, UConn Health’s John Dempsey Hospital, and Stuart Marcus, MD, CEO, St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

Katty Kay to Give Keynote Address at CHA Annual Meeting

Please save the date of Tuesday, June 30, 2015, for CHA’s 97th Annual Meeting. The keynote speaker will be Katty Kay, lead anchor, BBC World News America. Kay’s reports on the latest U.S. economic and political news are viewed on nearly 300 Public Broadcasting Stations that carry BBC World News America broadcasts, giving her a vast and diverse international audience.

The daughter of a British diplomat, Kay grew up in the Middle East and began her career with the BBC in Zimbabwe, where she also covered the end of apartheid in South Africa. Her assignments as a BBC correspondent began in London, and later Tokyo, where she reported on stories including the Japanese economic recession.
As someone who has lived in and reported from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and now Washington D.C., Kay offers a fresh perspective on American politics and global affairs – looking beyond the headlines to provide clear insights on critical political and economic issues. Kay is also a frequent guest commentator on NBC’s Meet the Press as well as a regular guest and substitute co-host on MSNBC’s Morning Joe.

### Education Updates

**Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training**

Session 1: Monday, April 20, 2015  
Session 2: Monday, April 27, 2015  
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
View Brochure | Event Registration

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, the Saint Francis Center for Health Equity, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA is again pleased to offer Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training (CC&DIT)—a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program to achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care and addressing healthcare disparities.

The CC&DIT curriculum was developed in direct response to member requests for help in providing diversity education and is structured as a two-module program, each session five hours in duration—delivered once each week over a two-week period. Training content is based on current research that emphasizes the idea that cultural competence is not achieved through a single training event—but is a lifelong commitment to learning, and professional skills development. With over 150 members completing the training, program evaluations have been consistently positive about the value of this training.

Diversity Collaborative team members are encouraged to attend as a way to help achieve team goals in their organization.

This program is being held at the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI) in Hartford.

**HRO Leadership Method Training for Hospitals**

Monday, April 27, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

This Leadership session is for new Level 3 hospitals and any new hires in previously trained Level 3 hospitals. Leadership sessions teach the science of safety and behaviors and practices of High Reliability organizations.

**HRO Fair and Just Accountability**

Tuesday, April 28, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

Fair and Just Accountability is for anyone who manages people and the course trains staff how to use the Performance Management algorithm and why Fair and Just Accountability is important to creation of a safety culture.

**HRO Leadership Method Training for Ambulatory Practices**

Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

Leadership sessions teach the science of safety and behaviors and practices of High Reliability organizations. The ambulatory sessions for Leadership training are focused on staff who work in ambulatory areas.

**HRO Train-the-Trainer**

Tuesday, May 5, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

Train-the-Trainer will be open to hospitals and ambulatory practices. After leadership training takes place with hospitals and ambulatory practices this spring, individuals who embody a commitment to high reliability should be chosen from those organizations. Those are the trainers of the next generation of high reliability participants.

**Facilitating Care Transitions Across the Continuum**

Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
Thursday, May 14, 2015 (Program Repeated)  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

This hands-on workshop will provide registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and social workers responsible for managing populations at risk, with practical tools to implement care across the continuum and achieve effective care and care management. Participants will learn how to assess patients and their families for needs and risks; how to work with patients, families, professional, and community teams to develop, organize, and sequence individual plans of care based on evidence and preference for complex patients; the relative costs of necessary levels of care; how to engage patients and families in their care; and how to honestly and fairly evaluate results. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss methods to sustain commitment to such intensely challenging yet pivotal positions in the continuum.

In consideration of the staffing needs at many healthcare organizations, and to allow an opportunity for one’s entire care and case management team to attend, CHA is repeating this program on Thursday, May 14, 2015.
Facilitating Care Transitions Across the Continuum  
Thursday, May 14, 2015  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Event Registration

This hands-on workshop will provide registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and social workers responsible for managing populations at risk, with practical tools to implement care across the continuum and achieve effective care and care management. Participants will learn how to assess patients and their families for needs and risks; how to work with patients, families, professional, and community teams to develop, organize, and sequence individual plans of care based on evidence and preference for complex patients; the relative costs of necessary levels of care; how to engage patients and families in their care; and how to honestly and fairly evaluate results. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss methods to sustain commitment to such intensely challenging yet pivotal positions in the continuum.

In consideration of the staffing needs at many healthcare organizations, and to allow an opportunity for one’s entire care and case management team to attend, CHA is repeating this program on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Program  
Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
Thursday, May 21, 2015  
8:00 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.

The sessions are for quality staff, safety staff, risk management staff, and other staff that respond to events.