Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Receives National Nursing Designation

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center has attained the most prestigious nursing recognition designation, reinforcing its commitment to creating a compassionate and customer service-driven patient and family experience. In April, Connecticut Children’s received Magnet recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program®. Considered the gold standard in nursing excellence, Magnet designation recognizes quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice.

Presently only 7 percent of hospitals nationally have earned this designation, including in Connecticut - Bristol Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, Middlesex Health, Stamford Health, St. Vincent's Medical Center, and Yale New Haven Hospital.

“I am so thrilled to see our nurses as a part of a significant milestone for Connecticut Children’s! This Magnet designation is a true testament to the excellence in care we deliver every day, care that is consistently experienced by our patients and families,” said Cheryl Hoey, Chief Nursing Officer at Connecticut Children’s. “To earn Magnet recognition is a great accomplishment and an incredible source of pride for our nurses and team at large. Our nurses are so deserving of this award, and I thank them for bringing Connecticut Children’s national recognition.”

The Magnet recognition program distinguishes healthcare organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence and is the highest and most regarded honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice.

“The Magnet designation process has involved many teams from across the organization that have helped highlight the value of nursing — to patients and families, the organization, and the community,” said Jim Shmerling, President and Chief Executive Officer at Connecticut Children’s. “This designation serves as a benchmark to our community to measure the quality of nursing care at Connecticut Children’s and continues to raise the bar for the pediatric health care in our region.”

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. This process includes an application, written patient care documentation, an on-site visit, and a review by the Commission on Magnet Recognition. Healthcare organizations must reapply for Magnet recognition every four years based on adherence to Magnet concepts and demonstrated improvements in patient care and quality.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Nomination Confirmed

On April 17, the House of Representatives confirmed the appointment of Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell as the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH), replacing Raul Pino, MD.

Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell is a former DPH employee who recently left her position as Executive Director for Cougar Health Services at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.

In previous roles at DPH, Ms. Coleman-Mitchell gained a wide range of experience serving in several capacities beginning in 1986 with the agency’s HIV/AIDS Division. She left the agency in 1994 to work at the Community Health Center in Meriden. In 1995, she became Deputy Director of Health for the City of Hartford. In 2002, she returned to DPH to work as Section Chief of the agency’s Community, Family, and Health Equity Section, where she served until 2016. CHA has worked closely with Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell on a number of issues in the past, and looks forward to working with her again in the future.

Meriden Joins Other Municipalities in Passing Stricter Tobacco Ordinances

On Monday, April 15, the Meriden City Council joined seven other municipalities in passing stricter tobacco ordinances. Like other municipalities, Meriden’s ordinance raise the age to purchase all tobacco products, including vaping devices, from 18 to 21.

Meriden’s resolution will take effect within 180 days of the City Council adoption. A person or business that sells tobacco to someone under 21 would be issued a written warning, followed by fines of $100 and $250 for a second and third offense. Other municipalities passing stricter tobacco ordinances include Hartford, South Windsor, Bridgeport, Southington, Wallingford, Milford, and Trumbull.

On the state level, HB 7200, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products To Persons Under Age Twenty-One, a bill supported by CHA and Connecticut hospitals, sits on the House Calendar awaiting action by the General Assembly.

Democrats Hold Seat In House Special Election

On April 16, voters in the 19th House District went to the polls to elect a new State Representative. Democratic candidate Tammy Exum beat Republican candidate Robert Margolis with 65 percent of the vote. The Special
Election was held to fill a vacancy as a result of former State Representative Derek Slap (D-West Hartford) winning a Special Election to fill a vacancy in the State Senate. The State Senate seat was vacated when former State Senator Beth Bye was not sworn into office and joined the Lamont Administration.

Representative-elect Exum is a former elementary school teacher and served as a West Hartford school board member from 2013-2017. She will be sworn into office once the election results are certified by the Secretary of the State. Once sworn in, the Democrats will hold a 90-60 majority in the House of Representatives. The 19th House District comprises portions of Avon, Farmington, and West Hartford.

Bridgeport voters will go to the polls in the 130th House District on May 7, 2019 to elect a successor to State Representative Ezequiel Santiago, who died suddenly last month.

Healthcare Decisions Day - April 16

National Healthcare Decisions Day was April 16. This day was created in 2008 to educate people across the country about the importance of planning healthcare decisions in advance, ensure that people have the opportunity to document their decisions legally, and encourage healthcare providers to honor those wishes.

Connecticut hospitals participated in National Healthcare Decisions Day, offering education and resources to the public.

In 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association, in collaboration with healthcare partners across the continuum of care and state government, launched Care Decisions Connecticut. The goal of Care Decisions Connecticut is to integrate patient-directed care strategies to improve palliative/hospice care and quality of life for persons in Connecticut with serious illnesses.

Resources are available at www.caredecisionsct.org.

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 and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, 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.

View Brochure | Event Registration

Education Updates

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 the V-RISK-10 screening instrument. The program also addresses the use of crisis response teams, as well as adopting a standardized 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.

**Change Management: 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. 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, an 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 address at the May 20 conference. 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 ACAs to others in their setting.

**HRO Leadership Method Training**
Thursday, May 30, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
[Event Registration](#)
Event Registration

Leadership Method Training is for organizations that are new to high reliability or for new management employees in organizations that are already on the high reliability journey. Both hospital and ambulatory organization leadership practices will be addressed. The leadership session, structured for leaders at the manager level and above, is designed to teach hospital or ambulatory leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors.