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In This Issue:

Connecticut Recognized by National Safety Council for Response to Opioid Epidemic

Legislature Awaits April Revenue Numbers

Second Annual Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative Event at the Capitol

Candidates Lining Up for Elizabeth Esty's Seat

CHA Hosts Forum on Lessons Learned from Middlesex Hospital's Emergency Response

Education Updates

Update Archives

Connecticut Recognized by National Safety Council for Response to Opioid Epidemic



The National Safety Council has [awarded](#) Connecticut its highest mark for the state's response to the opioid crisis in a report released last week, placing Connecticut in a select group of only 13 states that have earned this distinction. The National Safety Council's top mark of "improving" indicates that Connecticut has implemented comprehensive, proven actions to eliminate opioid overdoses and help protect its residents.

A number of Connecticut state agencies, as well as the state's Alcohol and Drug Policy Council, have been working collaboratively to implement the state's response to the opioid crisis.

Among other actions, the state has expanded access to naloxone, a life-saving drug used in the event of an opioid overdose; increased access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder; placed restrictions on the prescribing of opioids; promoted the safe disposal of unused medications; and implemented a program to connect recovery coaches with individuals who come to the ED for drug or alcohol-related reasons.

Connecticut's acute-care hospitals have been part of these efforts, as well. Last week, CHA released a set of updated set of voluntary opioid prescribing guidelines to help ED medical staff treat patients with chronic pain conditions. The guidelines were endorsed by CHA, the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), and the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (CCEP). The guidelines were applauded by DPH Commissioner Raul Pino, MD, who said they "demonstrate the willingness of hospitals and other providers to collaborate with state agencies to address the opioid epidemic."

The new guidelines reflect changes in state law since they were first adopted in 2015. Among other things, the guidelines lower the recommended dose of prescribed opioids from 30 pills to a three-day supply; respond to current clinical recommendations for pain treatment by recommending that alternative, non-opioid therapies be administered or prescribed whenever possible for ED patients; recommend that ED personnel request and review their patients' voluntary non-opioid directive form; and specify that opioids be prescribed electronically as a way to increase security.

Legislature Awaits April Revenue Numbers



With only two weeks remaining in the 2018 Legislative Session, lawmakers are continuing bipartisan budget negotiations while they await a report from the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) on the state's April revenue numbers.

The budget negotiations have been extended to allow more time for drafting adjustments to the FY 19 budget. Leaders cited their bipartisan budget agreement from last year as a model for resolving the budget adjustments needed to balance an anticipated deficit.

Lawmakers indicated that [SB 533](#), *An Act Concerning A Study Of State Revenue Policies*, and [HB 5588](#), *An Act Concerning An Analysis Of The Revenue Streams Of The State*, will serve as the budget bills to make adjustments to the FY 19 budget. They expect to produce a draft budget proposal by Friday, April 20, 2018.

The last day of session is Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

Second Annual Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative Event at the Capitol



CHA and its partners in the Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative will sponsor a legislative reception on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, to affirm their united support for a strong Medicaid program. The event will recognize and focus on the significant lifeline that the Medicaid program offers to the citizens of Connecticut.

The reception will take place in Room 310 of the Capitol from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The event is one of a series of forums designed to inform legislative and state policy makers on issues impacting Connecticut's healthcare provider community. The members of the Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative include CHA, the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities, LeadingAge Connecticut, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, and the Connecticut State Medical Society.

Candidates Lining Up for Elizabeth Esty's Seat



U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty's decision this month not to run for reelection in November has spurred a line of potential candidates to declare their interest in her seat.

Rep. Esty (D-5) decided to leave Congress in the face of a growing storm of criticism over her handling of a former chief-of-staff who was accused of abuse. Her seat is now being targeted by national Republicans, who see it as vulnerable in the November election.

A number of Republicans are said to be interested in the seat or have already declared their intention to run. They include Meriden Mayor Manny Santos; Mark Greenberg, a Republican who is running for state comptroller; former state Rep. Dan Carter, who unsuccessfully ran against Sen. Richard Blumenthal in 2016, and Rep. William Petit, (R-22), who is currently serving his first term in office representing Plainville and New Britain.

The field is also growing crowded on the Democratic side. Mary Glassman, the former First Selectwoman of Simsbury, has entered the race, and state Rep. Michelle Cook, (D-65), has said she is considering it. Additionally, last week, Nicole Hockley and Mark Barden, who both lost children in the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, announced that they are discussing the race with the Democratic Congressional

Campaign Committee. Ms. Hockley and Mr. Barden, who founded the group Sandy Hook Promise in the aftermath of the shootings, said only one of them will run for the seat, not both.

Nominating conventions for both parties are next month.

CHA Hosts Forum on Lessons Learned from Middlesex Hospital's Emergency Response



CHA will host an issue-based forum for members on May 8 about Middlesex Hospital's response to the extraordinary event that occurred earlier this year in its Emergency Department (ED).

On February 22, a man intentionally drove his car into the glass doors of the Middlesex Hospital ED before setting himself on fire outside the hospital entrance. What followed was a test of skills, planning, execution, teamwork, and extraordinary dedication and resilience on the part of the hospital staff.

The Middlesex Hospital management team will share information about the nature and scope of the crisis – including the hospital's emergency planning process, how multi-disciplinary responsibilities were coordinated, what worked, and lessons learned. This program will be helpful to hospital security officers, engineers, patient care leaders, risk managers, public relations staff, human resources leaders, compliance staff, ED physician

and nursing leaders, emergency planners, and anyone responsible for responding to a difficult emergent situation.

This event is for members only and is not open to the public.

[Event Registration](#)

Education Updates

HIIN Health Equity: Developing Effective Partnerships to Address Social Determinants of Health

Friday, April 27, 2018

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

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

Hospitals are forging collaborative relationships with key partners in their communities to improve care and achieve health equity. Partnerships between hospitals and key community-based organizations are central to addressing the social determinants of health that are tied to effective healthcare and improved patient outcomes. Collaborative Consulting, which has expertise in partnership development between healthcare and community organizations, will provide information in this workshop on models and strategies for effective hospital/community based-organization partnerships.

This program is being offered under the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN), a CMS national initiative aimed at advancing patient and family engagement and reducing events of preventable patient harm.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Thursday, May 3, 2018

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.

Leading in Turbulent Times

Friday, May 4, 2018

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 that description perfectly – and as the healthcare 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.

Issue-Based Forum on Human Trafficking in the United States and Connecticut

Friday, May 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA members are invited to attend an Issue-Based Forum on Human Trafficking in the United States and Connecticut. The Forum will feature a report on the work of the Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council and an update on new and recent laws to combat human trafficking in Connecticut. Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and Love 146 will conduct a training and education session geared toward hospital-based caregivers. An agent representing the Federal Bureau of Investigations will address the role that hospitals may play to assist the FBI in its work. The program will also feature a panel discussion on the work being done in Connecticut hospitals to treat the victims of human trafficking.

A Closer Look at Asthma: Innovation and Strategies for the Future

Thursday, May 10, 2018

9:00 AM - 3:45 PM

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

Elizabeth Cotton Matsui, MD, will be the keynote speaker for the upcoming asthma conference, which will feature sessions focused on innovation and strategies for community partnerships to improve asthma care and outcomes.

Dr. Matsui, Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is a leading international expert on environmental allergies and asthma. This conference is being offered through a collaboration between CHA's Connecticut Asthma Initiative and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health's Asthma Program.

Best Practices in Caring for the Mother/Baby Dyad with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Thursday, May 17, 2018

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

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

The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome conference will provide information on best practices for caring for the mother/baby dyad, with a focus on patient and family education, as well as collaboration between state agencies caring for this population.

