Appropriations and Finance Committees Release SFYs 2020-2021 Budgets

On April 30, the Appropriations Committee released its version of the SFYs 2020 and 2021 biennium budget, and on May 1, the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee released its revenue package for the budget.

Neither the Appropriations budget nor the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee budget reflects the historic 2017 bipartisan hospital agreement, which calls for $394 million in hospital taxes and supplemental payments to hospitals of $166 million in FY 20.

Instead, the Finance Committee accepted the Governor’s recommendation related to the hospital tax – keeping it at the Governor’s proposed $900 million-per-year level for each year of the biennium. The Appropriations Committee budget includes the Governor’s proposal related to the supplemental payments (a reduction of $43 million/year – to $453 million) and a $3 million reduction in funding for the Small Hospital Pool.

Both budgets passed mainly along party lines.

CHA released the following statement on the adoption of the Appropriations and Finance proposals:

“We stand by the agreement we reached in 2017 and are opposed to any budget proposal that reduces funding to hospitals and increases the state’s reliance on the hospital tax to fix the holes in the General Fund, as both the Governor’s and Finance and Appropriations Committee’s proposed budgets do. While we oppose these proposals, we will continue to work with the Administration in budget and settlement discussions.”

Budget and settlement discussions are ongoing between CHA and the Lamont Administration.

With the spending and revenue proposals released from their respective committees, negotiations will begin in earnest, leading to a final budget vote, expected at some point prior to the end of the 2019 Legislative Session, which is scheduled for June 5, 2019.

Hospitals And Not-For-Profit Organizations Stand United Against Proposed Bills

On April 29, CHA, hospitals and health systems, and other not-for-profit entities testified before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in opposition to SB 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits In Lieu Of Taxes, and SB 1138, An Act Concerning Community Restoration Funds - bills that would require not-for-profit hospitals, colleges, and other organizations to pay an annual fee to the state treasurer in an amount equal to 25 percent of the sum that they would have paid to the municipalities in which such real property is located, if such property were subject to the local property tax, to fund community restoration and revitalization activities.

Thanks to strong advocacy, on Wednesday, May 1, the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee amended SB 1138 to make the bill permissible, eliminating the mandatory contributions. The Committee did not take action on SB 1137.

Calling the Deposits in Lieu Of Taxes (DILOT) a thinly disguised effort to impose a hybrid form of property tax, CHA testified that, “Connecticut citizens are already well-served by a system through which hospitals and their community partners identify and address the medical, behavioral health, and social service needs that are unique to each community,” and this new form of taxation would jeopardize the ability of hospitals to fulfill their charitable missions.

“Imposing a new fee on not-for-profit hospitals will increase the cost of healthcare in Connecticut,” said Carl Schiessl, Senior Director, Regulatory Advocacy, Connecticut Hospital Association, in testimony at the hearing. “This fee will violate the long-cherished American tradition not to impose taxes or other levies on providers of essential services that fortify the health and welfare of our people, like not-for-profit hospitals. Hospitals are keeping our promise to state and local government by targeting programs to meet specific community needs, and providing community benefits through tailored outreach and support. In 2017, we delivered more than 12.4 million free services to people at a value of $1.7 billion. We are working together with community-based organizations to address the social determinants of health and achieve health equity for all.”

In addition to CHA, other hospitals and not-for-profit organizations testifying in opposition to SB 1137 and SB 1138 include: Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Day Kimball Healthcare, Hartford HealthCare, Hospital for Special Care, Johnson Memorial Hospital, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, Stamford Health, Trinity Health Of New England, and Yale New Haven Health.

Mystic Aquarium, Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, Foodshare, Catholic Charities, the National Audubon Society, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Oak Hills, The Alliance, the Catholic Conference, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, the Jewish Federation, LeadingAge Connecticut, United Way of Connecticut, YMCAs of Connecticut, and numerous land trust and conservation organizations also testified.

Yale New Haven Hospital Announces Plans to Build Neurosciences Center

Joined by community members and elected officials, Yale New Haven Hospital announced on April 29 the launch of a major healthcare investment on its Saint Raphael campus in New Haven. The $838 million project would include two new patient facilities and focus on innovation in the neurosciences. It will be the largest project of its kind in state history and will provide enhanced access to state-of-the-art care for patients, according to the hospital.
Norwalk Hospital Announces Plan to Build Patient Pavilion

Norwalk Hospital announced plans on April 29 to build a seven floor, 200,000 square-foot patient pavilion tower, thanks to a $15 million donation from Carol Bauer and her husband George, both longtime volunteers and supporters of the hospital. Carol Bauer is a 2012 CHA Healthcare Hero.

The patient pavilion will include a comprehensive Center for Women and Children with a labor and delivery space, nursery, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and enhanced pediatric specialties. The facility will also feature patient-centered amenities and advanced clinical facilities and programs, including intensive care and step down units, a medical-surgical unit for inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures, and an inpatient pediatric unit. Construction is expected to begin next year and slated to open in 2022.

Mrs. Bauer has volunteered at Norwalk Hospital for 40 years and is currently the on-call chaplain for maternal health and child care. In addition, she has served as a Norwalk Hospital Trustee for almost 20 years and was the first woman elected Chairman of the Board.

The Bauers are among Norwalk Hospital’s most loyal supporters; their philanthropic gifts have helped to establish The Bauer Emergency Care Center, Jeffrey Peter Bauer Newborn Intensive Care Unit, and the Carol Bauer Nursing Scholarship. The Jeffrey Peter Bauer Newborn Intensive Care Unit was named in memory of their son who passed away shortly after his birth.

The patient pavilion is the largest expansion in Norwalk Hospital’s 126-year history and will bring cutting-edge critical care, surgical, women, and pediatric facilities and services to Fairfield County, Connecticut.

“We could not be more appreciative of Mr. and Mrs. Bauer’s remarkably generous gift to Norwalk Hospital. Their leadership and commitment to Norwalk Hospital has allowed us to provide innovative medical care close to home for Fairfield County residents,” said John M. Murphy, MD, CEO of Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN). “We are dedicated to making investments in people, facilities, programs, and services to advance the caliber and scope of care we provide our patients. This transformative gift from the Bauers will allow us to do just that in Norwalk.”

“Speaking on behalf of our entire family and our foundation, it is our honor to support Norwalk Hospital as it prepares to care for the next generation of community members,” said Mrs. Bauer. “Many of the special services housed within the patient pavilion are near and dear to our hearts. We welcome the opportunity to help Norwalk Hospital provide patients with high-quality medical care well into the future, and we invite others to join us in this most critical effort.”

“We are eternally grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Bauer for their inspirational gift,” said Peter R. Cordeau, President of Norwalk Hospital. “Mr. and Mrs. Bauer’s incredible generosity has helped so many people at Norwalk Hospital throughout the years. They are truly changing and saving lives by supporting Norwalk Hospital as we evolve to not only meet but exceed the healthcare needs of the communities we serve.”
CHA is pleased to announce that former United States Senator Jeff Flake will deliver the keynote address at CHA’s 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Mr. Flake served as U.S. Senator from Arizona from 2013-2019, and as a member of the United States House of Representatives from 2001-2013. Known for his ability to work across the political aisle, Sen. Flake took a stand for principle and civility in an era of hyper-partisanship in his New York Times bestseller, Conscience of a Conservative: A Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle. His 2018 Senate floor speech titled “Truth and Democracy” was carried live on CNN; MSNBC, and the FOX News Channel.

While in the Senate, Sen. Flake chaired the Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology & the Law, which sits at the intersection of innovation and regulation. He also chaired the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, where he passed landmark legislation on wildlife trafficking and democratic governance. He was the lead House Republican in the successful effort to prohibit spending earmarks, and the lead Senate Republican in the successful effort to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Prior to entering Congress, Sen. Flake served as Executive Director of the Goldwater Institute in Arizona. He also directed the Foundation for Democracy in Namibia during that nation’s transition to independence. Sen. Flake holds degrees in International Relations and Political Science from Brigham Young University. He is a contributor to CBS News and partners with CBS on a series called “Common Ground.”

The theme of this year’s Annual Meeting is A Shared Vision For A Healthy Future. The theme reflects work on multiple fronts – from improving patient safety to addressing social determinants of health and finding solutions to ensure a sustainably financed healthcare system for the future.

### CHA to Host Housing Quality: A Strategy to Reduce Asthma Disparities

On Monday, May 20, 2019, CHA will host Housing Quality: A Strategy to Reduce Asthma Disparities. The program, offered through a collaboration between CHA and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health’s Asthma Program, will be held at CHA from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The keynote address will be provided by 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. Dr. Sandel, a former Director of Pediatric Healthcare for the Homeless at Boston Medical Center and a Co-Principal Investigator with Children’s HealthWatch, will lead a discussion on how housing is a new vital sign for health and a lever to improve asthma health outcomes.

The program will also feature presenters from Connecticut who are engaged in multiple initiatives and systems change focused on improving the environment of those dealing with asthma control and education work together to increase knowledge about a disease that impacts millions of Americans.

View Brochure | Event Registration

### Education Updates

#### 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.

#### 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 Safety Coach Training
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Event Registration

Wednesday, May 29, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Event Registration

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts. This program is being presented on May 28, and is repeated on May 29.

HRO Common Cause Analysis
Wednesday, May 29, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Event Registration

This course will teach attendees how to analyze data from ACAs and RCAs using a standardized approach. This will allow leaders to recognize trends and establish themes occurring across their organization. Common cause analysis aggregates themes, and directs and prioritizes improvement activities.

HRO Leadership Method Training
Thursday, May 30, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
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.