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CHA Conference Offers Tools for Addressing Social Determinants of Health



Forging collaborative partnerships with a cross-sector of community organizations to improve care and achieve health equity is the key to addressing the social determinants of health, according to the keynote speaker at CHA's *Developing Effective Partnerships to Address Social Determinants of Health* conference last week.

The program was part of CHA's focus on the social factors that influence health. Social determinants of health, which comprise social, behavioral, and environmental influences, account for 60 percent of a person's health. Genetics and healthcare comprise the other 40 percent. Addressing social determinants of health will result in better health outcomes and improve population health.

At the day-long conference, representatives from hospitals and healthcare systems, community based organizations, accountable care organizations, and health insurers learned about different models and strategies to address a variety of social factors, such as housing, food security, and education to improve health outcomes.

"Our health and our health system could be better," said Lori Peterson, CEO of Collaborative Consulting. "Health outcomes are shaped way outside of the medical sector.

"The difference between having ideas and bringing them to life is quite big," she added. "It takes a lot of effort to move the needle."

An example of those efforts was highlighted by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, which is a participant in the North Hartford Triple Aim Collaborative. Partners in the collaborative include the city of Hartford, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, several foundations and community-based organizations – all committed to achieving the "Triple Aim" – longer life for patients, greater well-being, and improved value of investment (impact per dollar spent). After identifying these outcomes, the partners reached out to a broad set of stakeholders to assess needs and build support. The Collaborative also considered what top-level outcomes would make the greatest impact, who needed to be engaged, and how the work could be financed.

"Partnerships between healthcare and community-based organizations are critical to the future of health," said Elizabeth Beaudin, RN, PhD, Senior Director, Population Health, CHA.

CHA leads the Connecticut Social Health Initiative, a pilot project funded by a Connecticut Health Foundation grant. Bristol Hospital, Day Kimball Hospital, MidState Medical Center, and Saint Mary's Hospital also participated in the project, testing ways to determine if patients have housing, employment, food, or transportation needs, and then referring them to appropriate community resources.

"Every model is different depending on the desired outcomes and goals," Erin Lockwood, Collaborative Consulting, told the participants. "One of the key things to remember is to find a common language and ensure that everyone is using the same terms in the same way."

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

Collaboration Partners Host Capitol Event to Educate Lawmakers



CHA and its partners in the Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative held an ice cream reception at the state Capitol on May 2 as part of their ongoing efforts to educate lawmakers about issues important to healthcare providers.

The legislative reception was attended by more than 300 lawmakers, hospital and other healthcare leaders, state officials, legislative staff, and advocates.

The gathering provided an opportunity for providers to have informal discussions with lawmakers and other policy makers about the importance of the Medicaid program, and is one in a series of forums held by the Collaborative to inform legislative and state policy makers on issues impacting the state's provider community.

In addition to CHA, the members of the Connecticut Healthcare Association Collaborative include: the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities, LeadingAge Connecticut, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, and the Connecticut State Medical Society.

In recent years, members of the Collaborative have sponsored or participated in a number of events, including healthcare conversations with legislative leaders and town hall events, as well as healthcare forums with the state's Congressional delegation.



Attorney General Issues Opinion on Captive Audience Bill



Attorney General George Jepsen issued an official opinion last week stating that the provisions of **HB 5473, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings**, would likely be preempted by federal law if ever brought before a court.

HB 5473, a bill **opposed** by CHA, prohibits any person engaged in business from requiring his or her employees to attend employer-sponsored meetings that have as their primary purpose communications concerning religious or political matters.

The Attorney General's opinion was issued following a request from Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano (R-North Haven). Sen. Fasano asked the Attorney General to opine "whether the provisions of HB 5473 that would prohibit employers from requiring employees to attend employer-sponsored meetings, if the primary purpose of the meeting is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning the decision to join or support a labor organization, are preempted by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)."

The opinion issued by the Attorney General can be found [here](#).

The Attorney General's opinion will likely make passage of HB 5473 much more difficult.

Branford, Canton Lawmakers Bow Out of Next Election

Two additional state lawmakers have recently announced they will not be seeking reelection to the House of Representatives.

State Representative Lonnie Reed (D-102) announced last week that she will not seek reelection to another term representing residents in the town of Branford. First elected in 2008, Rep. Reed most recently served as the Chairperson of the Energy and Technology Committee and as a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Planning and Development Committees.

Rep. Reed follows another Branford-based lawmaker, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Branford), who is not seeking reelection this fall. Rep. Reed was one of several Democrats to vote against the state budget approved by the legislature in 2017. The 102nd House District seat covers part of the town of Branford.

On May 2, Rep. Timothy LeGeyt (R-17) announced on the floor of the House that he will not seek reelection in November. A former educator and part-time practicing attorney, Rep. LeGeyt served as an Assistant Republican Leader and as a member of the Appropriations, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Education Committees.

Rep. LeGeyt was first elected in 2008 to represent the towns of Avon and Canton.



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



On Thursday, May 10, 2018, CHA will present *A Closer Look at Asthma: Innovation and Strategies for the Future*.

The day-long conference, offered through a collaboration between CHA's Connecticut Asthma Initiative (CAI) and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health's Asthma Program, will feature sessions focused on innovation and strategies for community partnerships to improve asthma care and outcomes. National and local speakers will present on promising approaches to improving asthma care, including new services programs, genomic research and treatment, and cross-sector collaboration.

The conference takes place during Asthma Awareness Month, during which organizations dedicated to asthma control and education work together to increase knowledge about a disease that impacts millions of Americans.

Elizabeth Cotton Matsui, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Dr. Matsui, a leading international expert on environmental allergies and asthma, will give a presentation on disparities in childhood asthma. There will also be presentations on best practices, innovations, and cross-sector collaboration in asthma care.

The Connecticut Asthma Initiative began in 2015 to address the problem of asthma in Connecticut. The vision of the initiative is to eliminate mortality due to asthma and ensure that no one in Connecticut unnecessarily limits his or her life because of asthma. Since its inception, a group of more than 200 people from 94 organizations across the continuum have partnered to connect communities, healthcare providers, and public health organizations. More recently, the initiative has broadened its mission to focus on identifying and addressing healthcare disparities, such as environmental or socioeconomic factors, that can result in barriers to treatment.

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

AHA Asks Hospitals to Participate in #MyHospital Campaign



With National Hospital Week around the corner, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is asking healthcare organizations to spread the word about the important work done by hospitals.

AHA is asking hospitals to join its [#MyHospital campaign](#) by sharing photos or videos on social media that explain why hospitals are important to the communities they serve, and then tagging them #MyHospital. AHA will promote the posts during National Hospital Week, which is May 6-12, 2018, through its own social media platforms and on its website [Advancing Health in America](#).

Education Updates

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.

Issue-Based Forum on the Lessons Learned from Middlesex Hospital's Emergency Response

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

[Event Registration](#)

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.

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 among state agencies caring for this population.

HIIN: Fall Rates Aren't Falling: Evidence-Based Strategies to Tackle Falls

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

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

[Event Registration](#)

In this workshop, Jackie Conrad of Cynosure Health will review evidence-based practices, provide practical examples of clinical improvement projects, and engage participants in a dialogue about challenges and solutions facing hospitals.

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.

2018 CHA Regulatory Compliance Conference

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

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

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

CHA's 2018 Regulatory Compliance Conference offers a full day of education related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender patients (LGBT). The LGBT community has historically experienced a variety of discriminatory behaviors in seeking healthcare services, resulting in a long-standing distrust of the healthcare system that has put their health at risk in profound ways. Healthcare professionals face regulatory compliance demands to eliminate such discrimination.

The conference will provide practical guidance on understanding educational, operational, and legal enforcement issues, and the need to balance those issues when establishing the policies and systems required to provide a welcoming and inclusive healthcare environment for patients and families of the LGBT community.

This conference is intended for hospital staff looking to obtain more information and awareness around serving the needs of this diverse population, including those working in patient and family experience roles, community health, clinical leadership, direct care staff, as well as legal, risk, compliance, IT, health information management, communications, and human resources.

HIIN Improving Health Equity: Addressing Social Determinants of Health - Morning and Afternoon Workshops

Thursday, May 24, 2018

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

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

Addressing social determinants of health is critical to improving quality of care and achieving health equity. CHA continues to work with Rishi Manchanda, MD, and his team at HealthBegins, to bring his extensive knowledge, expertise, and "Upstream" approach to hospitals, healthcare organizations, and providers in Connecticut. Dr. Manchanda will lead two three-hour workshops on approaches to improving care and outcomes through a focus on social determinants of health. The workshops will build on one another, beginning with basic information and moving to more advanced approaches.

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.

