

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Printer-Friendly Version



Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate National Nurses Week

Connecticut hospitals are honoring nurses during National Nurses Week, celebrated each year from May 6 to May 12. Here are some of the ways in which Connecticut hospitals are honoring their nurses.

There was a full slate of activities scheduled for National Nurses Week at **Connecticut Children's Medical Center**, including lunch and learn programs, raffles, pet therapy, pizza parties, yoga, and the Nightingale Award Dinner at the Convention Center.



Celebrations this week at **Griffin Hospital** included the 31st Annual Nurse Day Celebration to honor its more than 360 staff nurses and present awards to those nurses who delivered exceptional care during the year. Tania Cote, RN, BSN; Diana Konecny, RN, BSN; Karyn Spaulding, RN, BSN; and Tracy Volpe, RN, BSN, were named 2017 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing winners. Tammy Gray, RN, of Griffin's Respiratory Department and Wound Care Center, received The Outstanding Nurse of the Year Award. The celebration

also recognized Tracey Ragozzine, RN, with The Marie Santini Perioperative Nursing Excellence Award; Katherine Delvecchio, RN, with The Richard Stivala, MD, Obstetric Nursing Excellence Award; Edward Valente, RN, with The Mary Schumacher Leadership Award; Kaitlyn White, RN, with the Donald Torok Memorial Scholarship; and Jeenet Reid, RN, with The Mary Nelligan Award for Continuing Education.

There were a slew of activities scheduled at **Hartford HealthCare** to recognize nurses and celebrate the work they do during National Nurses Week. Nightingale recipients were recognized across social media channels, in internal newsletters, on digital screens and employee intranet, and on the external website at hartfordhealthcare.org/nursesweek. The healthcare system also took out advertisements in local newspapers congratulating its 2017 Nightingale Award recipients. Further, Hartford HealthCare hospitals and non-acute settings celebrated their nurses individually with special events related to this year's theme, *Nursing: The Balance of Mind, Body and Spirit*, which included food and cupcake deliveries, chair massages, acupuncture, reflexology, yoga, spiritual services, webinars, alumni events, pet therapy, and more. Hartford Hospital also created a video titled "[Hartford Hospital Nurses in Action 2017](#)," and produced a special edition of its weekly newsletter, *R-xtra*, that is dedicated to nurses.



Middlesex Hospital celebrated National Nurses Week by sponsoring showings of the movie *The American Nurse*. It also planned many other special activities throughout the week, including yoga sessions and professional development events, and held its Nurses Annual Meeting.

Milford Hospital celebrated its nurses and the entire staff through a week-long series of special events including complimentary breakfasts, "Sweets and Treats" dessert bars, a picnic, a "Make Your Own Sundae" bar, raffles, and more. A special Nursing Grand Rounds Presentation, "The Research Practice Connection," by Kerry A. Milner, DNSc, RN, Associate Professor Nursing at Sacred Heart University, was held and, on May 10, four hospital nurses were honored as Nightingale Award Recipients. The week culminates with the hospital's 21st Annual "Live Well" Mother's Day 5K Walk & Run, at which more than 500 community members, physicians, nurses, and staff are expected to participate.



This year, **Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center** honored its 1,500 nurses with a variety of awards and activities, including a ceremony in which nurses received the Mullane and Triompo awards. The Mullane and Triompo awards are given annually to nurses who demonstrate exceptional advocacy, care, and clinical practice. The hospital also celebrated the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, which were awarded to eight nurses from Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center this year, and conducted a special blessing of the hands service. The hospital provided visits from therapy dogs, as well as hand massages from the therapist in the hospital's Center for Integrative Medicine. In addition, the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing Alumni recognized the 16 recipients of nursing scholarships totaling \$26,000.



National Nurses Week was celebrated in its usual festive manner by **St. Vincent's Medical Center** and featured many activities, including the hospital's annual awards and recognition receptions, a daily blessing of the hands service, food trucks and other treats, a slide show display in the hospital lobby, and a complimentary night shift coffee bar. Many St. Vincent's nurses also participated in "Wear White Day" to commemorate Nurses Week.

Stamford Hospital and its affiliated locations began their week-long celebration of National Nurses Week with an ice cream social and a blessing of the hands on Monday, and followed it up with daily events after that. Some of the events were also intended to mark the importance of National Hospital Week, which runs concurrently to nurse's week. Those events included Care for the Caregiver days, plant sales, a nurses breakfast and awards presentation, and others.

In This Issue:

Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate National Nurses Week

CHA Congratulates Nightingale Winners

Governor Issues Deficit Mitigation Plan, Cuts Hospital Funding

Hospital Leaders Take Message to Washington D.C.

Parents Advocate for Prevention of Sepsis

CHA Participates in American Association of Suicidology Conference

Education Updates

[Update Archives](#)

UConn Health is holding a week of educational workshops and other activities to celebrate its nurses. The events include comedy shows, reiki sessions, refreshments delivered to the floors, and blessing of the hands—all leading to the annual Nurses Week Awards and Recognition Ceremony on May 12. The hospital also honored its nurses by writing a [profile](#) in *UConn Today* of its Nightingale winners.

Western Connecticut Health Network scheduled a roster of events to celebrate Nurse's Week, including an ice cream social, a rolling photo booth, a blessing of the hands, pot lucks on each nursing unit, a nurses memory garden ceremony, guest speakers during Nursing Grand Rounds, and a special awards ceremony. The week also featured a super hero day, during which staff were asked to dress in their favorite superhero cape or mask.

Yale New Haven Health nurses enjoyed a variety of events, including awards ceremonies, ice cream socials, chair massages, the traditional blessing of the hands, and more.



Bridgeport Hospital celebrated National Nurses Week with a full slate of activities and events, including a group outing to the Ballpark at Harbor Yard, home of the Bridgeport Bluefish, with colleagues from Yale New Haven Health. The week also featured award ceremonies for nurses and nurse managers, complimentary massages and yoga, stress reduction exercises, a blessing of the hands, healthy food sampling, and the distribution of gifts. In addition, Mike McGowan of WEBE 108 delivered orchids to each nursing unit in the hospital. The hospital also participated, with the rest of Yale New Haven Health, in the annual Joseph A. Zaccagnino Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Conference, which included a presentation of the health system's first Nursing Excellence Award.

Greenwich Hospital kicked off National Nurses Week with a blessing of the hands service to celebrate nurses and staff who contribute to the healing spirit of the hospital. The Helen Meehan Award for Excellence in Nursing, the Physician Partner in Care Award, and the Partner in Care Award were presented at the Nurses Day Award Ceremony. Greenwich Hospital also celebrated its first Daisy Award recipient, and nurses were treated to free Healing Touch sessions, guided imagery meditation, and received small gifts.



The schedule of events planned by **Lawrence + Memorial Hospital** included a blessing of the hands service to celebrate and honor its nurses, a nurse's tea, and a staff walk at Harkness State Park.

CHA Congratulates Nightingale Winners



The Connecticut Hospital Association congratulates the outstanding nurses across Connecticut who won 2017 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing during celebrations across the state held during National Nurses Week.

The Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, Connecticut's largest statewide nursing recognition program, is a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession.

Winning nurses have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to community, and have made a significant impact on patients and the nursing profession.

Governor Issues Deficit Mitigation Plan, Cuts Hospital Funding



To address the projected \$390 million deficit for FY 2017, Governor Malloy issued a [deficit mitigation plan](#) that contains one-time revenue sweeps from several funds, the withholding of \$19 million in municipal aid, cuts to most state agencies, and a depletion of the rainy day fund. In issuing the deficit mitigation plan, Governor Malloy stated, "It requires actions we would all prefer to avoid, such as depleting the budget reserve fund and sweeping funds that in better times would be used for important purposes."

The Governor's plan reduces hospital supplemental payments by \$6 million. It also cuts \$2.2 million from the University of Connecticut Health Center. It is CHA's understanding that the Governor, through his rescission authority, can make many of the reductions without legislative approval. Some parts of the deficit mitigation plan will require legislative approval, but it is unclear at what portions of the plan the Governor will be submitting for legislative approval, or whether he will be seeking approval for the entire plan by the legislature.

Hospital Leaders Take Message to Washington D.C.

CHA and Connecticut hospital leaders joined colleagues from across the country at the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, held May 7-10 in Washington DC.

The AHA annual meeting is an opportunity for hospital leaders to come together to share strategies, ideas, and experiences. It is also an important advocacy event, providing a valuable forum to present a unified message about the importance of hospitals and the need to ensure their financial stability. CHA staff and hospital leaders met with Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn), staff from Senator Richard



Blumenthal's (D-Conn) office, as well as staff from the offices of Representatives John Larson (D-1), Joe Courtney (D-2), and Jim Himes (D-4).

Healthcare reform was a major topic of discussion, particularly with respect to proposed changes to Medicaid under the Affordable Health Care Act recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. Hospital leaders discussed with congressional lawmakers how to work together to protect patient coverage.

Hospitals also asked the congressional delegation to support adequate reimbursement to mental health providers, ensure that federal parity laws apply to Medicaid services, provide relief from recovery audit contractors and unfair Medicare penalties, and support the transformation of the healthcare delivery system.

Attending the congressional meetings were: Dianne Auger, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, St. Vincent's Medical Center; Ray Baldwin, President/CEO, St. Vincent's Special Needs Center; Vincent Capece, President and CEO, Middlesex Hospital; Daniel Keenan, Regional Vice President, Advocacy and Government Relations, Trinity Health - New England; Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA; and Stephen Frayne, Senior Vice President, Health Policy, CHA.

Also attending the AHA Annual Meeting was Carl Schiessl, JD, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, who participated in the AHA State Issues Forum on May 6. He joined representatives from four other hospital associations in a panel discussion of each state's experience with out-of-network and surprise billing legislation. Mr. Schiessl spoke about the enactment of surprise billing legislation in 2015, as well as efforts in 2017 to change the state's law to subject to sanctions healthcare providers who make even unintentional billing errors. While the bill, SB 876, died in committee, it is possible that the proposal may be resurrected as an amendment to another bill and debated by the General Assembly.

Parents Advocate for Prevention of Sepsis



Carole and Ty Moss, fierce advocates for the prevention of unnecessary deaths from Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs), spoke movingly during CHA's May 5 program on the early identification and treatment of sepsis about their 15-year-old son Nile Calvin Moss, who died after contracting a "superbug" at a California hospital.

Nile entered a children's hospital in California for an annual series of tests and died 48 hours later from a MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant-Staphylococcus-Aureus) infection that led to sepsis. His parents began a foundation, [Nile's Project](#), which is dedicated to ending unnecessary deaths from sepsis, MRSA, staph infection, *C. diff*, vancomycin-resistant enterococci infection, and other HACs through education and public awareness.

MRSA, like other HACs, is a preventable epidemic in the U.S. and many other countries. According to the CDC, preventable HACs cost the nation \$45 billion annually, and kill more than 100,000 people each year. Sepsis, which was the focus of CHA's May 5 program, is diagnosed in more than one million patients each year, with an estimated national mortality rate of 28 to 50 percent.

Hospitals nationally and in Connecticut have implemented evidence-based practices that are the standard of care in the early recognition, treatment, and management of sepsis. Sepsis has been targeted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for national quality improvement and is a clinical focus of the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN), through which Connecticut hospitals are engaged in ongoing work to reduce HACs like sepsis, *C. diff*, and surgical site infections.

Carole Moss is a member of the CDC Environmental Cleaning Subcommittee, which was established to protect the public from HACs by establishing best practices for cleaning California's healthcare facilities.

The CHA program, which was attended by more than 60 healthcare professionals, was moderated by Steve Tremain, MD, Improvement Advisor for Cynosure Health, who said more than 4,000 hospitals nationally are working to improve the identification and management of sepsis. The day-long program also included a webinar presentation by Sean Townsend, MD, California Pacific Medical Center, on advanced sepsis management.

CHA Participates in American Association of Suicidology Conference



Members of the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB), which includes a CHA representative, participated in the American Association of Suicidology conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Zero Suicide is an approach founded on the belief that suicides are preventable for those who are receiving care in the health and behavioral health system. The approach was developed after state and national data showed that people who are receiving treatment are still attempting and dying by suicide; further, the rate of suicide-related hospitalizations and deaths was climbing.

At the April 29 conference, Carl Schiessl, JD, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, and four other Connecticut panelists outlined the intention of Zero Suicide, which is to provide a framework for preventing suicide, a focus on safety and error reduction in healthcare, and a set of best practices and tools for health systems and providers. They also described how Zero Suicide is being implemented in the state through the Connecticut Zero Suicide Learning Community, which provides participants with resources and technical assistance, workforce peer-to-peer support, and access to training resources. The Learning Community was created in 2015 by the CTSAB, the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital, and the National 2015 Zero Suicide Academy graduates.

Since its inception, 14 health and behavioral health systems from diverse settings have participated in the Learning Community, including state agencies, hospitals, behavioral health systems, the federal VA Connecticut Health Center, the Beacon Health-Medicaid Provider Network, the Connecticut National Guard, the state Judicial Branch and Court Support Services, and the state Department of Correction.

As of October 2016, all of the systems involved in the Learning Community have adopted elements and related evidence-based strategies endorsed by the Zero Suicide approach. Five have completed the organizational self-assessment tool, and three have completed the workforce survey. Further, 75 percent of all Connecticut hospitals have been formally oriented to the Zero Suicide approach with support from CHA.

Zero Suicide is a key concept and goal of the [2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) and Connecticut State Suicide Prevention Plan 2020, as well as a priority of the [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#).

The panel was moderated by Andrea Iger Duarte, LCSW, MPH, Behavioral Health Program Manager at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Co-Chair, CTSAB and Connecticut Zero Suicide Learning Community. In addition to Mr. Schiessl, participants included: Andrea Reischerl, PMHCNS-BC, CCHP, Psychiatric APRN for Health Services, Department of Correction; Nancy Hubbard, LCSW, Director of Outpatient and Ancillary Services, Institute of Living/ Hartford Hospital, and Co-Chair, CT Zero Suicide Learning Community; and Amy Evison, LMFT, Service Director, Community Health Resources.

Education Updates

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Program

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

Join CHA on May 16 for the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) program, which will include presentations on perinatal opioid use, the empathic attachment model for a mother-infant dyad affected by NAS, treating NAS by emphasizing mother-baby engagement and minimizing morphine, and implementing the NAS model in a community setting. This program will also include a group discussion.

Leadership CHAMP Refresher Course

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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

[Event Registration](#)

This year, CHA worked with HPI/Press-Ganey to design a refresher course for hospital leaders and managers, and is hosting the Leadership CHAMP Refresher Course. The course is for leaders and managers who want to reinvigorate their role as high reliability leaders. It will include error prevention highlights, such as the tools and the science; rounding to influence; top 10 prioritization; and Fair and Just Accountability.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Cause Analysis -- Two-Day Training

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Thursday, May 18, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. both days

[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, safety, risk management, and other staff who respond to events.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

How to Ensure a Healthcare Compliance Program is Really Effective

Friday, June 16, 2017

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

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

This program will cover the latest industry enforcement trends, including developments on compliance program effectiveness. It will also provide an in-depth discussion on how to mitigate key risk areas such as coding, billing, and privacy. Participants will receive input regarding ways to demonstrate the effectiveness of a compliance program.

Managing the Operating Budget

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

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

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

In today's healthcare environment, resources are limited. Managers are challenged to get the most out of their budgeted resources and comply with budgetary constraints. The need for sound budget management tools is paramount. Managers must understand revenue and costs behavior, how to analyze their departmental performance, and how to modify performance to achieve their budgeted operational and financial objectives.

This day-long program—part two of a two-part series introduced in April 2017—will introduce managers to a variety of analytic tools (revenue and spending analysis, volume-adjusted variance analysis, work process and root cause analysis, revenue and expense forecasting) as well as a number of strategies to improve revenue and expense performance. Bill Ward, a lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present this program.

Financial Analysis Tools for Managers

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

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

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

What is the potential financial impact of a new initiative or a new technology? How can the financial impact be determined? Why is departmental supply spending so much higher than last year? Does it make sense to staff a critical vacancy with agency staff? Is the employment of clinical pharmacists, intensivists, or hospitalists financially sound?

What are the best ways to develop answers to these questions? How can department managers and directors make and support their decisions with sound financial analyses? This program provides managers and clinicians with tools they can use to answer questions about current performance and opportunities they are considering. Bill Ward, a lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present this program.

