Thank You to the Hospital and Healthcare Community

We want to express our sorrow and support for those affected by the tumultuous events of this week including a terrifying deadly tornado in Oklahoma and a train collision right here at home. During emergencies and at all times, we are grateful for the first responders, doctors, nurses, and others who dedicate their lives to saving the lives of others. Here at CHA, we are honored to support the work of these everyday heroes and the hospital and healthcare community. Thank you for all that you do.

Hospitals Continue Visibility at the Capitol

With two weeks left in the 2013 Legislative Session, hospitals are meeting with legislators at the Capitol to urge them to protect hospitals. On Wednesday, dozens of clinicians and others from Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Johnson Memorial Hospital met with lawmakers in Hartford. They voiced their concerns about how extensive cuts would hurt patients, staff, communities, and the economy.

Legislators have expressed concern about the proposed extraordinary cuts to hospital funding and the damage that will inevitably result to care and jobs if these cuts are implemented. We encourage people to continue to ask legislators to support hospital solutions. Click here to be taken to an electronic advocacy page that will allow you to simply and easily compose a message to legislators and the Governor.

Hospitals Focus on Preventing Perinatal Harm

Pregnancy complications are dangerous for the mother and baby, and costly for the healthcare system. On May 21, nearly 50 hospital clinicians and quality staff participated in an interactive workshop focusing on the latest science in preventing perinatal harm.

The workshop’s presentations and group exercises focused on instituting a culture of safety, using simulation to prepare for an obstetrical emergency, and engaging the patient to reduce adverse events. Speakers from Yale-New Haven Hospital, MidState Medical Center, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and St. Vincent’s Medical Center partnered with improvement advisors from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Cynosure Health to focus on building capacity for improvement and process reliability.

The program is part of the Partnership for Patients, a national initiative from CMS and administered by CHA through the AHA’s Health Research and Education Trust, which was designed to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent. All Connecticut acute care hospitals are involved in Partnership for Patients.
Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training Series

The Saint Francis Center for Health Equity, the Hispanic Health Council, and the Connecticut Hospital Association are extremely pleased to announce they are partnering to offer the "Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training" program in June. The program was developed as part of the CHA Diversity Collaborative, in direct response to member requests for an education program to help hospitals improve cultural competence in the delivery of care. The program has been enthusiastically received by more than 50 participants who have completed the training since the inception of the program in October 2012.

The two-session series is open to clinical, operational, and administrative leaders and professional support staff throughout hospitals participating in the Diversity Collaborative – and for the first time the location of the program will be at the Innovation and Learning Center at Saint Francis in Hartford. A full description of the program along with driving directions can be found in the brochure.

Early registration is advised. Class size is limited to facilitate discussion and active engagement of learners.

If you have questions, please contact Christine Prestiano at 203-294-7257 or prestiano@chime.org.

Education Updates

Partnership for Patients - Overview of the New Ventilator-Associated Event Definition for Quality and Patient Safety Professionals
Thursday, May 30, 2013
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Live Webinar, Presented at your Facility

The National Healthcare Safety Network has changed the surveillance definition from Ventilator Associated Pneumonia to Ventilator-Associated Events. Data indicate that streamlined, objective algorithms to detect Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE) are easily implemented, can make use of electronic health record systems to automate event detection, and identify events that are clinically important and associated with outcomes such as length of stay and mortality.

Join us for a webinar with Lauren Backman, Epidemiologist III, Healthcare Associated Infections Program, Connecticut Department of Health, who will provide an overview of the new VAE definition and algorithm that can assist quality and patient safety professionals in designing reliable processes to detect ventilator-associated complications.

Event Registration

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
Wednesday, June 12, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

As the demands of health reform and the challenges of reimbursement cuts 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 eliminates roadblocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waiting 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—the second session is being held on Wednesday, June 19. Participants should plan to attend both sessions.

Engaging Patients and Family in Quality and Patient Safety
Wednesday, June 12, 2013
8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

One of the goals of the CMS initiative, Partnership for Patients, is to enhance the relationship between healthcare professionals and their patients and families. This is supported by research, which indicates that when patients and families are engaged in their healthcare, it leads to measurable improvements in safety and quality. To achieve this goal, the organization's administrative team, managers, and clinicians must lead the way toward creating partnership opportunities for patients and family members. Successful involvement of consumers in quality and patient safety requires changes in organizational policies, practices, and the attitudes and actions of all stakeholders, including caregivers. Improving communication with patients, listening to their concerns, and using tools to facilitate active partnerships should be a major element in an organization's quality and patient safety improvement strategy.

Basics of Budgeting for Healthcare Managers
Thursday, June 13, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary business tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and institutions. This member-requested management development program provides managers with the skills and tools they need to prepare better budgets, identify problems and solutions, achieve the mission, and succeed in today's chaotic healthcare environment. Participants will gain a working knowledge of operating and capital budgets, as part of developing performance planning skills.

No Update Newsletter on Thursday, May 30

*CHA Update* will not be published on Thursday, May 30, due to the Memorial Day holiday and shortened week. *CHA Update* will next be published on June 6, and will include a wrap-up of the 2013 Legislative Session.