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Update Archives

Hospitals Need Your Help Today



The budget and other legislation currently being considered by the General Assembly cuts hospital funding or otherwise negatively impacts hospitals. Please join a new electronic letter-writing campaign to urge the Governor and legislators to protect hospitals and to vote **NO** on any budget or legislative proposal that doesn't protect hospital funding and

hundreds of thousands of Connecticut jobs.

Simply click [here](#) to be taken to the new campaign.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy.

CHA Hosts Housing Quality: A Strategy to Reduce Asthma Disparities



On Monday, May 20, CHA hosted *Housing Quality: A Strategy to Reduce Asthma Disparities*, which focused on how housing quality impacts both physical and mental health.

In their welcoming remarks, Renée Coleman-Mitchell, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and Shanté Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Housing, noted that despite years of study and numerous housing remediation programs, environmental conditions in a home such as lead paint, mold, asbestos, mice, and pests continue to cause major health issues.

The forum, offered through a collaboration between CHA and DPH's Asthma Program, featured presenters who are engaged in research, multiple initiatives, and systems change focused on improving health for people with

asthma.

In Connecticut, 13 out of 100 children live with asthma, along with 11 out of 100 adults, according to DPH. Residents from the five largest cities in Connecticut account for 18 percent of the state's total population, yet also account for 47 percent of the \$99 million annual asthma acute care charges.

In her keynote presentation, 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, noted that there are four dimensions to how housing impacts health - quality, stability, affordability, and location.

"We're seeing more and more relationships between what's in the home and health," stated Dr. Sandel, a former Director of Pediatric Healthcare for the Homeless at Boston Medical Center and a Co-Principal Investigator with Children's HealthWatch. "We want to write a prescription for a healthier home."

The plenary session included presentations by Marcus Smith, Senior Manager of the Healthy Homes Program at Connecticut Children's, who noted that the program's initial focus on lead paint in homes has now expanded to include an asthma initiative. Sandra Gill, Project Consultant, Public Health Systems Improvement at DPH, and Madeline Priest, Manager, Connecticut Green Bank, discussed the impact of Connecticut's high energy prices on health and the immediate health benefits of home weatherization programs. Alyssa Norwood, Program Manager, Certification and Innovation, Sustainable Connecticut, focused on the role that environment, equity, and economy play in health and well-being.



The program closed with a panel presentation on policies and systems that support asthma care. Maura Kehoe Coyne, JD, Senior Assistant State's Attorney, Housing Matters, Division of Criminal Justice, highlighted housing laws that require landlords and property owners to address health concerns at their properties. Barbara Metcalf Walsh, MPH, Program Manager, DPH Tobacco Control Program, focused on smoke-free policies in Connecticut that help reduce asthma. In her presentation on medical-legal partnerships, Alice Rosenthal, JD, Senior Staff Attorney, Medical-Legal Partnership Project, Center for Advocacy, noted that attorneys and clinical staff can work together to advance local and state policies that lead to safer and healthier environments. Executive Director Erin Boggs discussed the work of the Open Communities Alliance, which works to build an urban-suburban interracial coalition to support policies that lead to housing choice through programs such as housing vouchers that help families move to better housing.



Tobacco 21 Bill Passes House



On May 16, the state House of Representatives amended and passed **HB 7200, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products To Persons Under Age Twenty-One**. HB 7200 makes several changes to the state's tobacco laws, including raising the legal age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21. In addition to raising the age to purchase tobacco/vaping products to 21, the bill defines "vaping products" in a way that will not interfere with healthcare providers' ability to use inhalers, nebulizers, and other therapeutic devices and agents in the delivery of care.

HB 7200 also bans smoking and e-cigarettes on the grounds of child care centers, schools, and school grounds at all times – not just when school is in session; requires the signature of someone over the age of 21 when purchasing electronic nicotine delivery systems over the Internet; increases certain penalties for cigarette, tobacco product, and e-cigarette sales and purchases involving individuals under the legal age; and prohibits e-cigarettes and tobacco products from being sold in cigarette vending machines or restricted cigarette vending machines.

The action taken by the House follows previous action taken in several communities across the state related to stricter tobacco control measures. Prior to the House's actions on Thursday, the municipalities of Hartford, South Windsor, Bridgeport, Southington, Wallingford, Milford, Trumbull, and Meriden passed local ordinances raising the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21.

HB 7200 was transferred to the Senate for further action.

Connecticut Ranks Third in Nation for Healthcare

The *U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best States* ranking released May 14 ranked Connecticut number 3 in the country for healthcare, based on access to care, public health, and healthcare quality metrics.

The report shows how each of the 50 U.S. states ranks in 71 metrics across eight categories. In calculating the rankings, each of the eight categories was assigned weightings based on the average of three years of data from an annual national survey that asked a total of more than 50,000 people to prioritize each subject in their state: healthcare, education, economy, infrastructure, opportunity, fiscal stability, crime and corrections, and natural environment.

For the healthcare category, Connecticut ranked number one for access to care (including child wellness visits, health insurance enrollment, adult wellness visits, adult dental visits, child dental visits, and healthcare affordability). The state ranked number 6 in public health (including mortality rate, suicide rate, smoking rate, mental health, infant mortality rate, and adult obesity rate), and 14th in healthcare quality (including Medicare quality, hospital quality, nursing home quality, and preventable hospital admissions and readmissions).

Other rankings of interest include: Connecticut ranked 6th in natural environment, 7th in crime and corrections, 12th in education, 30th in economy, 33rd in opportunity, and 46th in both infrastructure and fiscal stability.



Third 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 Thursday, May 30, 2019, 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 State 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 the state'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.

All are welcome; no registration is required.

CHA to Host Issue-Based Forum on Ligature Risk Mitigation

On Thursday, June 13, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CHA will host an issue-based forum focused on helping hospitals understand and achieve compliance related to ligature risk mitigation.

Representatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Connecticut Department of Public Health will provide guidance on regulatory expectations regarding ligature risk mitigation as well as other safety issues for at-risk patients. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with both regulators and hospital representatives.

[Click here](#) to register online.

Education Updates

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 front-line leaders 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 training is being held 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.

Safer Hospitals Initiative: Peer Supporter Master Class

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

Gerald Lewis, PhD, will provide training for peer supporters and those who will train peer supporters in their organizations as part of CHA's *Safer Hospital Initiative*. Dr. Lewis has worked with national and international government agencies, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and private businesses on a wide range of work, behavioral health, and organizational issues. His focus is facilitating organizational recovery and resiliency with the emphasis on "people-recovery."

Lean Principles: Project Charter Preparation and Planning

Thursday, June 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Lean principles and methodology are valuable in improving healthcare, but evidence shows that learning about the principles and methodology is simply not enough. To get the desired results, the principles must be applied. This is a "how to make it happen session" and will explain (and provide examples of) the elements of an effective Project Charter, a pre-requisite to any successful improvement initiative.

Participants are asked to bring with them a process improvement opportunity currently under consideration at their facility, enabling them to create a draft charter as part of their actionable plan toward their process improvement initiative.

NOTE: This program is designed for those who attended CHA's Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare—or those with a basic understanding of Lean principles and familiarity with the terminology. Clinical leaders, operational managers, continuous improvement coordinators, and other change agents will benefit from learning this methodology to plan team-oriented improvement initiatives.

ICU High Reliability Training: Patient and Family Engagement

Friday, June 7, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

Part three of a three-part series focuses on patient and family engagement and how high reliability practices and principles can be used to keep patients satisfied, engaged, and activated. Attendees will learn about high reliability tools, behaviors, and practices that are specific to patient and family engagement in ICUs.

HRO Train-the-Trainer

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

The model for spreading high reliability training to the rest of the staff is a train-the-trainer model. The training is scripted. It requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within the organization. Hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of the training contingent. Train-the-trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices.

HRO Root Cause Analysis Training (two-day training)

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Thursday, June 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[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. Please note: this is a two-day course; participants should attend both program dates.