
The CHA Annual Meeting will be held on June 27, 2012. The premier annual healthcare gathering in Connecticut brings together nearly 600 hospital CEOs, CFOs, physicians, and other key hospital and healthcare decision makers. The meeting provides an exclusive setting for the state's most influential healthcare leaders to celebrate Connecticut hospitals' accomplishments, discuss the challenges of the future, enjoy first-rate entertainment, and network with each other.

This year's theme, The Will to Change — The Courage to Lead: Transforming Connecticut Healthcare, reflects a strong message that Connecticut's hospitals will continue to play a leadership role in transforming healthcare through a relentless focus on safe, accessible, affordable, patient-centered care for all.

The meeting will feature CHA's annual awards, including the Healthcare Heroes awards, the Community Service award, the John D. Thompson award, and the prestigious T. Stewart Hamilton award, which recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to Connecticut healthcare and service to CHA. The meeting will also feature a keynote address by two nationally recognized speakers.

The Annual Meeting is open to members, invited guests, and sponsors. Read more on the CHA Annual Meeting web page.

Collaboration Aims to Improve Community Health in Connecticut

CHA, the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH), and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) have joined together to meet aligned goals and foster significant improvements in community health and health outcomes in Connecticut.

Hospitals, local health departments, and FQHCs have been regularly assessing the health of their communities for many years, sometimes working jointly to do so. Today, the need for collaboration is even greater. Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, non-profit hospitals are now required to conduct a community health needs assessment with input from public health experts and community members, and adopt an implementation strategy to meet needs identified by the assessment. Simultaneously, local health departments are preparing for a national accreditation process that requires them to conduct strategic planning, including a community health needs assessment and a community health improvement plan.

“Working together, we will develop strategies to dramatically improve community health and health outcomes in the state,” said Nneka Mobisson-Etuk, MD, MPH, MBA, Vice President, Community Health and Population Health Management, CHA. “The time is now to implement new solutions. This is important, exciting work.”

CHA, CADH, and FQHCs have created a work group with participants from a diverse selection of hospitals, community health centers, and health departments/districts across the state. Over the next year, work group members will review tools and resources to develop a mutual framework and approach to community health assessment.

One key objective of the collaboration is to create a model community health assessment template for use by hospitals, community health centers, local health departments, and hospitals across the state, providing a standardized method for data collection and reporting on benchmark indicators that could be used regionally and statewide. Ideally, the assessment tool could serve as a national model.
In the long term, forging sustainable partnerships among hospitals, community health centers, and local health departments will result in the leveraging of existing resources to coordinate initiatives, the avoidance of duplicative efforts, and the ability to demonstrate value and accountability to stakeholders.

CHA Asks for Hospital Exemption From New Pharmacy Licensure Classification

CHA submitted written comments to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) on proposed regulations to establish and regulate a new class of pharmacy licensure: non-sterile compounding pharmacies. Currently, DCP licenses seven classes of pharmacies. Hospital-based pharmacies are explicitly exempt from DCP licensure because their practices already include the types of quality and safety standards that are addressed in DCP regulations. CHA has asked DCP to explicitly exempt hospital-based pharmacies from this new, eighth licensure classification. If DCP grants the request, hospital pharmacies will not be required to follow the new regulations.

Click here to view the comment letter and regulations.

General Assembly to Meet in Special Session

House Speaker Christopher Donovan (D-Meriden) has informed the members of the House that they will meet in Special Session on Tuesday, June 12. It is expected that members will caucus at 10:00 a.m., with the Special Session to start at 11:00 a.m. The call of the Special Session is to address the budget implementer bills and possibly other legislative matters not voted upon during the regular session, which ended May 9. The Senate has announced that it will also be in Special Session on June 12.

Education Update

Accountability: Building and Sustaining a Patient Safety Environment
June 12, 2012  8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Senior leaders and frontline staff share responsibility for developing and sustaining a work environment that is focused on patient safety. Determining who is accountable for what requires a commitment to assess the organization’s accountability system to ensure the right actions are taken following an adverse event or potentially serious safety incident, and transforming counterproductive “blaming” into systems, processes, and behavioral changes that identify and remove barriers to safe practices.

In this intensive full-day program, participants will examine adverse event case studies and use an accountability analysis tool to explore the balance between organizational and personal accountability, to identify systems and organizational issues that affect an individual’s ability to provide safe patient care.

The keynote speaker is Patrice Spath. She is a teacher, author, and quality improvement expert who has presented more than 300 training programs on quality and patient safety for healthcare providers.

For more information, click here. Click here to register.