



Thursday, June 2, 2011

CHA Celebrates Connecticut's 2011 Healthcare Heroes

Each year the Connecticut Hospital Association celebrates a select group of **Healthcare Heroes**. A call for nominations goes out to a wide range of hospital and healthcare staff, asking people to recognize individuals who embody the best in their profession.

The 2011 Healthcare Hero nominations again recognize an inspiring and committed group of individuals. These healthcare professionals will be acknowledged at the 93rd CHA Annual Meeting on June 23 at the Aqua Turf Club, along with the colleagues who nominated them. The Healthcare Heroes will also be featured in CHA's Annual Report, and information on their achievements will be posted on CHA's website after the Annual Meeting.

CHA is pleased to announce the Healthcare Heroes for 2011:

- **Vicie Brooks**, RN, BSN, Nurse Manager, Neuro-Trauma Unit, Hartford Hospital;
- **Lauren Burke**, CSA, Clinical Support Associate, Oncology Unit, St. Vincent's Medical Center;
- **Dorothy Carvalho**, RN, OCN, Urology Nurse Navigator, Middlesex Hospital;
- **Beth Cheney**, APRN, Women's Health Coordinator, Windham Hospital;
- **Alice Facente**, RN, MSN, BC, Clinical Educator, The William W. Backus Hospital;
- **Eunice Huynh**, LCSW, Social Worker, The Hospital of Central Connecticut;
- **Marcus McKinney**, DMin, LPC, Director, Pastoral Counseling and Community Outreach; Director, Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center;
- **Karen Santucci**, MD, Medical Director, Section Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Yale-New Haven Hospital;
- **Pam Vecchiarino**, (1965-2011) RN, MSN, Former Nursing Director for Medicine, Oncology, IV Therapy; Hartford Hospital; and
- **Sarah Zaglifa**, MSSW, LCSW, ACHP-SW, Quality of Life Coordinator, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

CHA salutes all these exemplary Healthcare Heroes.

Yale-New Haven Hospital Attains Magnet Status

After a rigorous, multi-year application process and four-day site visit, Yale-New Haven Hospital has been granted Magnet recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Only six percent of all American hospitals have been honored by the Magnet Recognition Program[®]. Middlesex Hospital is also a Magnet hospital, for the third time.

"Magnet recognition both signifies nursing excellence and recognizes the collaboration between nurses and members of the healthcare team in the service of patient care and safety," explained Sue Fitzsimons (below), RN, PhD, senior vice president, Patient Services at Yale-New Haven, when the award was announced on Tuesday, May 24. "As an organization, we have worked very hard and over many years to earn this prestigious recognition."

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Magnet appraisers look closely at four areas of nursing excellence in every hospital that applies for it. They rigorously examine the hospital's nursing leaders and how they empower nursing staff, the hospital's culture of safety, the quality of nursing practice, and the best practices nurses discover and share to deliver safe patient care. "We have felt that our nurses have been doing exceptionally high-quality work for some time so it is gratifying that, after a rigorous examination process, the ANCC agrees with us," said Dr. Fitzsimons, who notes that more than 2,700 nurses work at Yale-New Haven Hospital.



House Passes Healthcare Reform Legislation

Last Friday, May 27, the House passed [HB 6308](#), *An Act Establishing The Connecticut Healthcare Partnership*, by a vote of 88 to 48. HB 6308 represents an agreement between the Democratic leaders in the General Assembly, the Malloy administration, and the Sustinet Partnership Board of Directors. In short, the bill passed by the House allows the Comptroller to establish a healthcare insurance pool for municipalities and certain non-profits. It creates a newly constituted Sustinet Health Care Cabinet, which is charged with developing a business plan to evaluate private or public mechanisms to increase health insurance coverage. Most notably, HB 6308 does not contain a public option, nor does it establish a basic health plan.

HB 6308 is a comprehensive bill which:

- Requires the Comptroller, beginning January 1, 2012, to establish the "partnership plan." The Comptroller is required to offer coverage under the partnership plan to 1) non-profit employers, their employees, and retirees; and 2) non-state public employers, their employees, and retirees;
- Establishes the Office of Healthcare Reform and Innovation within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor which shall coordinate and implement the state's responsibilities under state and federal healthcare reform;
- Requires the Office of Health Reform and Innovation to convene a working group to develop a plan to implement a statewide, multi-payer data initiative to enhance the state's use of healthcare data from multiple sources to increase efficiency, enhance outcomes, and improve the understanding of healthcare expenditures in the public and private sectors. Such group shall include, but not be limited to, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; the Comptroller; the Commissioners of Insurance, Public Health, and Social Services; and representatives of health insurance companies, health insurance purchasers, hospitals, consumer advocates and health care providers;
- Requires hospitals to expand the data to be submitted to the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) to include emergency department data (hospitals currently voluntarily submit this data to OHCA). The bill also requires hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities to work with OHCA to develop a plan for the future submittal of outpatient data;
- Establishes a Sustinet Health Care Cabinet for the purpose of advising the Governor and the Office of Health Reform and Innovation. Hospitals will be represented on the cabinet through an appointment by the co-chairs of the current Sustinet partnership board of directors;
- Regulates third-party administrators; and
- Ensures conformity of Connecticut insurance statutes to federal requirements necessary for federal healthcare reform, including lifetime caps on benefits.

HB 6308 was transmitted to the Senate for further action. The timing of Senate action on this bill is unknown at this time. The legislative session ends on Wednesday, June 8.

Bioscience Connecticut Proposal Moves Forward in Legislature

On Wednesday, June 1, the Senate passed and transmitted to the House, [SB 1152](#) *An Act Concerning The University Of*

Connecticut Health Center, otherwise known as Governor Dannel Malloy's Bioscience Connecticut [proposal](#). The bill passed by the Senate would authorize \$ 262.9 million in new bonding under the UConn 2000 infrastructure program and increases the authorizations for two enumerated UConn Health Center (UCHC) projects—a main building renovation and new construction and renovation. The bill maintains previously announced funding for collaborative programs and projects between UConn and Hartford-area hospitals.

Senate Passes Health Insurance Exchange

Tuesday, May 31, the Connecticut Senate passed [legislation](#) to create a health insurance exchange, laying the foundation for a new insurance market that will play a key role in expanding coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The bill passed the Senate [23 to 13](#), and will now go to the House. It establishes a quasi-public agency that would be charged with developing and running the Exchange, a marketplace for individuals and small businesses to buy health insurance. CHA provided [testimony](#) requesting that a hospital representative be included in the Exchange, but the Senate bill would prohibit anyone on the board from being employed by, or otherwise affiliated with insurers, insurance producers or brokers, healthcare providers or healthcare facilities, or their trade groups.

CHA Annual Meeting: Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Connecticut's premier healthcare event, CHA's 93rd Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Aqua Turf, with keynote speaker Donna Brazile, political commentator, Democratic strategist, and author. More than 500 healthcare professionals from around the state are expected to participate in the meeting, which will also recognize CHA's annual awards for excellence. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For information about sponsorship levels and benefits, please contact Rhonda Bates at 203-294-7263 or bates@chime.org



Immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, CHA will host a Supplier Diversity Vendor Fair. CHA has been working with member hospitals to identify qualified minority-owned vendors to supply goods and services to hospitals. The vendor fair, which will be open from 1:00-4:00 p.m., will feature businesses in several areas including advertising, architectural services, collections, construction, IT implementation, janitorial services and supplies, medical supplies, office equipment, and relocation and staffing services. Education sessions focused on supplier diversity begin at 10:30 a.m., immediately prior to the vendor fair. Speakers at the program will be Pam Scagliarini, System Director, Supply Chain Management, Yale New Haven Health System; Fred McKinney, PhD, President of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council; and Jennifer Cox, attorney, Cox & Osowiecki.

For more information on the education session or the vendor fair, contact Peggy Courchesne at courchesne@chime.org.

Education Updates

Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager. Now What?, Thursday, June 9, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Making the transition from being a staff person one day to a supervisor/manager the next is a significant step for nearly everyone. Taking on a leadership role is far more challenging and complicated than ever before. Once you have met the challenge of simply getting oriented to what it means to be a manager/leader, you will discover that you carry the responsibility for meeting the demands of your organization for high productivity, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance. You will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others. This program has been designed to get you started by exploring the basics of management and leadership in theory and applied practice, and to lay the groundwork for continued development of your leadership and management skills.

The program's speaker, Victor Walton, MA, is a professional educator, speaker, trainer, and leadership consultant to organizations throughout the United States. He has a deep personal involvement and interest in the professional, personal growth, and development of people in changing organizations. Participants who have attended this program in the past routinely rate Vic as an outstanding speaker who offers practical approaches to effective leadership.

Click [here](#) for the brochure, and [here](#) to register.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (6.25 contact hours). This program has been approved for Continuing Education Credit Hours by the National Association of Social

Workers, CT and meets the continuing education criteria for CT Social Work Licensure renewal (6.25 credit hours). This program has met the HR Certification Institute's criteria to be pre-approved for recertification credit (6.25 credit hours).

HIPAA Privacy and Records Release, Friday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Protection of medical information in all forms has always been an important responsibility for healthcare providers. Given the financial, legal, and reputational risks associated with using sophisticated technology to process personal health information—along with increased governmental scrutiny of how the transition from paper to electronic health record is being handled, it is imperative that hospital staff in all areas, at all levels understand federal and state laws and regulations related to medical information.

This half-day program is designed as a refresher course on the HIPAA Privacy rule, and will cover the Connecticut framework for record release and disclosure requirements; media requests, social media, and advertising privacy issues; handling highly sensitive data (e.g., HIV, mental health, substance abuse treatment data); law enforcement requests; and distinctions based on setting (clinic, physician practice, skilled nursing, etc.)

Participants will learn what the law requires, and practical steps that should be taken to improve privacy and security policies and procedures in their organizations.

The session will be presented by Jennifer Cox of Cox & Osowiecki, LLC, a Hartford law firm representing healthcare institutions and providers in regulatory, litigation, licensing, and business matters.

Click [here](#) for the brochure, and click [here](#) to register.

Advanced Concepts for Experienced Nurse Preceptors, Monday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Experienced nurse preceptors play a vital role in the development of professional nurses at their organizations. While the rewards of teaching students and new nurses are great, the demands and challenges are many. Supporting these veteran staff registered nurses to grow and learn in their own right is an important part of sustaining their good work.

Advanced Concepts for Experienced Nurse Preceptors is a full-day program conceived by the same team of educators from Connecticut hospitals and schools of nursing that developed the highly successful basic nurse preceptorship program. It is designed to help experienced nurse preceptors renew knowledge of basic concepts, learn about and discuss specific preceptor practices and professional nursing trends, and participate in interactive sessions with their counterparts from around the state on topics that present challenges to them.

Following a brief overview of basic precepting concepts, this program will feature sessions on strategies for developing critical thinking in the preceptee, motivating and influencing, staying current as a professional, and “challenge scenario” discussion and analysis. The program will provide a unique opportunity for nurses who have precepted for a few years to learn and strengthen their skills and to share experiences with colleagues from a variety of organizations.

The program is presented by Robin Guisti, EdD, MSN, RN-BC, Administrative Director of Nursing Services, The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital; Anna McGuirk, MSN, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, MSN, RN, Director of Education, The William W. Backus Hospital.

Click [here](#) for the brochure, and [here](#) to register.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (5.5 contact hours).