CHA Annual Meeting – Save the Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012

SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hospital Association’s 94th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 27, 2012
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHA Board Chairman Shares Diversity Collaborative Work at National Conference

On June 5, Christopher M. Dadlez, Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees and President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, presented highlights of the CHA Diversity Collaborative to hospital leaders gathered at the Institute for Diversity in Health Management 2012 National Leadership and Education Conference in Nashville.

Mr. Dadlez presented during a panel discussion along with leaders from the South Carolina and Tennessee Hospital Associations. Mr. Dadlez provided an overview of the CHA initiative, discussing its origin in CHA’s work with the CT-NAACP and its development into a statewide collaborative, based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s clinical collaborative model. He shared information on the process, structure, components, tools, and education programming to date. The presentation was very well received by participants who expressed appreciation for the practical infrastructure concept and strategies presented by Mr. Dadlez. Session discussion covered strategies to keep senior leaders focused on diversity and disparities work, effectively making the business case, engaging partners, creating effective staff development pipelines, and the importance of supporting minority businesses (a CHA Diversity Collaborative focus area).

Mr. Dadlez has made addressing diversity and disparities a focus during his term as CHA Board Chairman, and has been a progressive leader in the area at Saint Francis. The Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute at Saint Francis, in affiliation with the Tuskegee Institute, for example, is playing a leading national role in addressing the disproportionate impact of prostate cancer among African American men. Mr. Dadlez hosted CHA’s kickoff symposium for the Diversity Collaborative in October 2011, attended by more than 160 hospital and community leaders from across the state. He has consistently reiterated his commitment and that of CHA to eliminate health disparities and affirm the values of diversity and inclusion as strategic imperatives for Connecticut hospitals.

Mr. Dadlez also serves on the Board of the American Hospital Association, where he serves as a member of the AHA Equity of Care Committee. He also chairs the AHA Region I Policy Board.
Governor Malloy Signs Bills Into Law

On Wednesday, June 6, Governor Dannel Malloy signed a number of bills previously passed during the 2012 Legislative Session. Of interest to hospitals, the Governor signed SB 78, An Act Concerning The Learn Here, Live Here Program, a bill supported by Connecticut hospitals. SB 78, also referred to as Public Act 12-75, opens the Learn Here, Live Here Program to any student graduating from a public or private college, or a healthcare training school, including hospital-based occupational schools located in the state. The Learn Here, Live Here Program helps students save towards a down payment on their first home in Connecticut. During the legislative session, CHA successfully advocated for the inclusion of hospital-based educational programs into the Learn Here, Live Here Program.

ChimeNet's Second Co-Location Data Center A Success

This year, ChimeNet, CHA's technology affiliate that provides secure, high-speed broadband connectivity, Internet access, and fully managed network, security, and wireless services, opened its second co-location data center. ChimeNet's first co-location data center quickly filled up last year.

Clients' network equipment is securely housed in APC locking racks – utilizing the new industry standard of hot aisle/cold aisle cooling technology. Hospitals benefit from key features including full in-line UPS backup, generated power, environmental monitors and controls, and a network cross-connect from the hospital's network rack to the ChimeNet backbone.

ChimeNet designs and manages secure network connections between hospitals and other entities. Nearly all of Connecticut's acute care hospitals connect to the ChimeNet network, allowing them to leverage this healthcare network to communicate securely and effectively with other hospitals, affiliated physician practices, payors, clinics and remote sites, third party service providers, and the Internet.

Since 1996, ChimeNet has partnered with hospitals and physician organizations to offer end-to-end IT product solutions that reduce hospitals' costs, simplify their IT infrastructure, and provide access to state-of-the-art technology.

ChimeNet is poised to expand its core set of services to include content and applications that can be delivered through the cloud and will also play an integral role in Connecticut's Health Information Exchange.

Connecticut Hospitals Strengthen Community Health

CHA celebrates Connecticut hospitals and all they contribute to improve the health of their communities during Community Health Improvement Week, June 3-9, and all year long.

Connecticut hospitals offer a variety of community benefit programs and services to help residents maintain and enhance their health. These include programs such as financial assistance to the uninsured, mobile vans and clinics delivering primary and preventive care, healthy lifestyle education programs, weight loss and physical activity promotion, programs for managing chronic conditions like asthma, and multi-faceted initiatives to address Connecticut's key public health issues.
health challenges like heart disease and cancer. In total, in 2010, Connecticut hospitals spent $84.7 million on these programs.

The value of community benefits also includes investment in traditional safety net services. In 2010, Connecticut hospitals spent $237 million in uncompensated care — $98.21 million in charity care and another $138.8 million of care that hospitals had to write-off for patients who couldn’t pay. They also incurred $672.7 million in losses due to the unpaid costs of government programs — the shortfall resulting from Medicare and Medicaid paying hospitals less than the cost of caring for beneficiaries of public programs.

Community Health Improvement Week is a national awareness and recognition event designed to raise awareness and increase understanding of the vital role of community health improvement strategies as complementary to individual medical care and broader public health approaches, demonstrate the value and impact of community health initiatives, and celebrate community health professionals.

**CHA Hosts Third Supplier Diversity Forum**

Please join us for CHA’s third annual Supplier Diversity Forum, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives. The Forum, to be held on June 27, 2012, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, addresses a key goal of the CHA Diversity Collaborative and will offer practical programming for hospitals as they launch initiatives to increase their purchasing of supplies and services from minority businesses. The Forum includes an education program and vendor fair.

The education program will consist of two speakers, followed by a hospital panel. *The Basics of Building and Staffing a Supplier Diversity Program* will be presented by Antonio R. Rodriguez, CMC, President of Daniel Penn Associates, LLC. *Best Practices for a Supplier Diversity Program* will be presented by Jolene M. Anderson-Rau, Mayo Clinic’s Supplier Diversity Program Manager in Rochester, MN.

Hospital Panel Discussion
Panelists include Veronica F. Cook, MSOM, Program Director for the UConn Supplier Diversity Program, and also part of Procurement Services Capital Projects and Purchasing Department; Keith Murphy, Director of Strategic Sourcing at Yale New Haven Health System; and David L. Walsh, Administrative Director, Supply Chain, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. The hospital panel will be moderated by Fred McKinney, PhD, President and CEO of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council.

The vendor fair provides senior executives and purchasing decision makers from member hospitals the opportunity to learn about products and services offered by CHA’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) partners.


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**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.