Connecticut Hospital Leaders Featured in National Program

Several Connecticut hospital leaders were featured in the American Hospital Association’s Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Hospital Engagement Network National Virtual Collaborative Program, held June 18-20. The program explored several of the major goals of Partnership for Patients, including patient and family engagement, surgical site infections, hospital acquired infections, injuries from falls and immobility, venous thromboembolism (VTE), preventable readmissions, and adverse drug events (ADE).

On June 18, David Whitehead, President and CEO, The William W. Backus Hospital, spoke about leadership in patient and family engagement. Scott Ellner, DO, MPH, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, discussed how to drive change in the operating room. Cheryl Hoey, RN, BSN, MBA, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, described best practices for bedside rounding. On June 19, Diane Dumigan, RN, BSN, CIC, Yale-New Haven Hospital, spoke about preventing hospital-acquired infections.

All Connecticut hospitals are involved in Partnership for Patients, a national CMS initiative designed to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent.

Hospital Leaders Participate in High Reliability Rounding Workshop

On June 19, more than 60 hospital leaders participated in a high reliability workshop on rounding to influence. When building a culture of safety, rounding to influence is a technique used to reinforce vital behaviors and performance expectations.

Hospital leaders practiced the concepts in this hands-on workshop taught by CHA and Healthcare Performance Improvement (HPI) Consultant Steve Kreiser, CDR, USN Ret., MBA. Rounding to influence, one element of highly reliable organizations, focuses on what leaders see, ask, and say to frontline staff. The goals are to ask key questions that build accountability, elicit better information, encourage critical thinking, and overcome any barriers to implementing safety initiatives to ultimately achieve measurable results.

Connecticut hospitals are leading the charge on patient safety through our first-in-the-nation statewide high reliability collaborative. To date, nearly 2,000 hospital staff, leaders, and physicians have been trained in high reliability science and behaviors.
CHA Diversity Collaborative Focuses on New CLAS Standards

On June 19, CHA’s Vice President of Health Equity Marie Spivey spoke to members of the CHA Diversity Collaborative about the newly enhanced National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Healthcare. She highlighted key aspects of meeting CLAS standards for hospitals, and the synergies with the work of Diversity Collaborative teams.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health (OMH) recently released enhanced CLAS Standards, in its first update since the initial release of the Standards in 2000.

A comprehensive update, it expands the concepts of health, culture, and audience to reflect new developments and trends, while also including a focus on leadership and governance as drivers of culturally competent healthcare and health equity. Data collected from public comment, the National Project Advisory Committee, and a systematic literature review enabled OMH to develop several enhancements to the structure and content of the National CLAS Standards.

A complete list of all 15 enhanced National CLAS Standards can be found here. OMH will maintain a Web version of The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care: A Blueprint for Advancing and Sustaining CLAS that offers a user-friendly format for providing comprehensive information on each standard. To access the Web version of The Blueprint, use this link.

CHA Annual Meeting - Connecticut Hospitals: Caring for People, Serving Our Communities

CHA will hold its 95th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The premier annual healthcare gathering in Connecticut brings together more than 600 hospital CEOs, trustees, 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, Connecticut Hospitals: Caring for People, Serving Our Communities, reflects a message that Connecticut’s hospitals will continue to play a leadership role in transforming healthcare, while ensuring the safety net remains viable through 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. Read about this year’s award winners by clicking here.

The program will feature award-winning presidential historian Michael Beschloss. He is the author of nine bestsellers and is a regular TV commentator. Called “the nation’s leading presidential historian” by Newsweek, Beschloss is the presidential historian for NBC News, as well as a regular contributor on Meet the Press and the PBS NewsHour. In 2005, he won an Emmy Award for his role in creating the Discovery Channel series, Decisions that Shook the World. He is currently working on a history of American Presidents in wartime, from James Madison to George W. Bush, slated for publication in 2015.

CHA thanks Credit Suisse, the Annual Meeting platinum sponsor.

The Annual Meeting is open to members, invited guests, and sponsors. Read more here.

CHA Hosts Fourth Supplier Diversity Program

Please join us for CHA’s fourth annual Supplier Diversity Forum, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, to be held the morning of the CHA Annual Meeting on June 25, 2013, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The Forum addresses a key goal of the CHA Diversity Collaborative and will offer practical programming for hospitals as they increase their purchasing of supplies and services from diverse businesses.

The Forum includes an education program and vendor fair. The education program includes Building and Sustaining Momentum for Your Supplier Diversity Program, presented by Lawrence A. Gill, Supplier Diversity Corporate Procurement, Travelers. Mr. Gill is responsible for seeking out and promoting the competitive participation of diverse businesses in the performance of contracts led by the company.

Supplier Diversity From a Supplier’s Perspective will be presented by Jeré C. Eaton. Ms. Eaton is the founder and owner of PrintabiliTees, LLC. Under her leadership, the company has grown to become a recognized brand with MBE, WBE, DBE, and SBE certifications.

Supplier Diversity Leading Practices will be presented by Jamie Yolles, Director, Strategic Sourcing and Contract Management at OhioHealth. Ms. Yolles is responsible for management and continued development of OhioHealth’s established Supplier Diversity Program.
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 Supplier Diversity Program (MVWBE) partners. Click here for a complete list of 2013 Supplier Diversity Forum vendors.

For more information, click here.

Hospitals Collaborate on Disaster Preparedness

Connecticut hospitals and other healthcare partners met at CHA on Monday, June 17, in an ongoing effort to plan and prepare for the response and recovery from any natural or manmade disaster. The annual and quarterly meetings of the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s (DPH’s) Statewide Hospital and Healthcare Partners Working Group coincided with the state’s two-day statewide emergency preparedness drill and the annual visit by officials from the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The annual visit by DHHS officials is focused on how DPH, local, other state officials, hospitals, and other healthcare providers are preparing for the response to any disaster with mass injuries and casualties.

Federal officials joining state stakeholders at the meeting included Captain Patti Pettis, Region 1 Hospital Preparedness Program Field Project Officer; Mark Libby, Region 1 DHHS Regional Emergency Coordinator; Robert Scott Dugas, Branch Chief, Hospital Preparedness Program, Washington, DC; Cynthia Walker, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Region 1 Project Officer; and Don Boyce, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Director of Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations. Connecticut DPH officials coordinating emergency preparedness included Mary Keating, RN, MA, Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator, State Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals/Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, Public Health Preparedness and Response; and Jonathan Best, EMTP, Director, Public Health Preparedness and Response. The site visit by the federal officials included stops at several hospitals.

Republican Sam Belsito Sworn In As New Member of CT General Assembly

On June 19, Secretary of State Denise Merrill conducted a swearing-in ceremony for Sam Belsito (R-Tolland), the newest member of the Connecticut General Assembly. State Representative Sam Belsito (R-53) was elected by voters in the towns of Ashford, Tolland, and Willington during a special election to fill the seat vacated when former Rep. Bryan Hurlburt (D-Tolland) resigned to accept a post as Executive Director of the federal Farm Service Agency’s office in Connecticut. The seat has been vacant since April 16, 2013.

State Representative Belsito is a small business owner and a member of the Tolland Town Council. CHA congratulates him on his swearing in, and looks forward to working with him on issues of importance to hospitals.

Education Updates

Conducting Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessments

Thursday, June 27, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Learn about Connecticut best practices in planning, implementing, and evaluating collaborative community health needs assessments (CHNA) at this half-day workshop. This training is designed for organizations in any stage of the assessment or health improvement planning process. The workshop is based on the guidebook, Guidelines for Conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment, developed in 2012 by the CT Association of Directors of Health and Connecticut Hospital Association, along with community health center representation. This guide provides tools and resources to assist local health departments and hospitals in conducting collaborative community assessments to meet Public Health Accreditation Board and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requirements.

Apparent Cause Analysis Webinar

Friday, June 28, 2013
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The content for this webinar will be directed toward managers and directors out on the floors and in departments other than Quality and Safety. The webinar will teach those individuals how to evaluate event data that is used to “track and trend” to uncover causes that are not apparent on the surface.

Event Registration