CHA Reflects on Reform, Resilience, and Resolve at 93rd Annual Meeting

Nearly 600 hospital and healthcare leaders from across Connecticut convened at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on Thursday, June 23 for CHA’s 93rd Annual Meeting. Participants in the meeting heard reports from the president, chairman, and treasurer of CHA before voting in a new slate of officers and trustees and honoring the 2011 CHA annual award winners.

Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees, Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, reflected on the past year using the meeting’s theme of “Reform. Resilience. Resolve.” He noted the major challenges of federal healthcare reform implementation that came at a time when the state was undergoing a leadership change and facing an unprecedented budget deficit—proportionately, one of the largest in the country.

Mr. Dadlez commented on two CHA initiatives that began this year, the first a critical statewide initiative to pursue the elimination of preventable harm, CHA’s most ambitious patient safety project to date. The second initiative is CHA’s focus on reducing health disparities, and Mr. Dadlez noted the recently announced CHA statewide collaborative on diversity that uses the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s collaborative model to address the challenge of increasing diversity in hospitals’ senior management and governance ranks, and noted CHA’s work to better coordinate and promote the work of hospitals in the critical area of eliminating health disparities.

The awards section of the meeting began with the presentation of the American Hospital Association 75 Year Service Award to Day Kimball Hospital, for achieving that service milestone. Ten “Healthcare Heroes” from a spectrum of hospitals were then honored during the meeting. Selected from an inspirational field of more than 35 nominees, all of these Healthcare Heroes embody dedication and compassion extending well beyond the walls of their respective hospitals.

CHA’s other awards:

- AHA, in partnership with CHA, honored Marna Borgstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital, with the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award for her exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for issues of importance to hospitals and healthcare.
- Sponsored by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the 2011 Community Service Award recognized The William W. Backus Hospital’s Enjoy LIFE (Lifelong Investment in Fitness and Exercise) program for engaging its community in physical activities, reducing obesity, and giving people tools they can use throughout their lives to sustain healthy lifestyles.
- The 2011 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data, was presented this year to Norwalk Hospital, selected for its “Moving Stroke Care from Good to Great” program.
- Colleen Smith MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President for Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at Middlesex Hospital was recognized with CHA’s highest honor, the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award.

Following networking and a cocktail hour, Annual Meeting participants heard from Donna Brazile, author and political commentator, who spoke about the need for common ground and political unity. Ms. Brazile’s folksy presentation underscored...
the challenges facing the country as we continue to meet the challenges of healthcare reform.

Click [here](#) for a gallery of more Annual Meeting photos.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, CHA hosted a second Supplier Diversity Program Vendor Fair, co-sponsored by the American College of Healthcare Executives. Twenty-five minority business enterprises displayed a variety of services to hospital administrators.

Photo courtesy of Tom Ficklin.

The vendor fair opened with an educational session, where approximately 45 hospital leaders heard from Fred McKinney, PhD, President of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council; Pam Scagliarini, System Director, Supply Chain Management, Yale New Haven Health System; and Jennifer Cox, partner, Cox & Osowiecki (pictured here, from left to right).

The CHA Annual Meeting was made possible in part by the generous support of Platinum Sponsor Credit Suisse; Gold Sponsors Wiggin and Dana and Anthem; and Silver Sponsors Bank of America, ConnectiCare, Cox & Osowiecki, LLC, The Eastern Bag & Paper Group, MetLife Resources, MKA Executive Planners, Murtha Cullina, New England Home Care, PwC, Saslow Lufkin & Buggy, LLP, Sheridan Healthcare, and Towers Watson.

To read CHA’s annual report, including more information on the 2011 CHA award winners, click [here](#). Photography by Chris Volpe Photography.

**Governor Releases Recommendations to Close Budget Deficit**

Tuesday, June 28, Governor Dannel Malloy released and sent to the legislature a set of recommendations to close the biennium budget deficit of $1.6 billion for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013 biennium budget. The rejection of the proposed state employee union concessions plan necessitated Governor Malloy to issue a Call of Special Session for today, Thursday, June 30. The special session is the first one called to address the newly created $1.6 billion budget shortfall that resulted after the state employee unions rejected a concession package negotiated between the Malloy administration and union officials.

The recommendations propose more than $700 million in savings for FY 2012 and more than $900 million in FY 2013 by laying off approximately 5,466 employees and not filling 1,000 currently vacant positions. If these recommendations are enacted, each Commissioner or agency head will be responsible for determining how to achieve the designated savings. The layoff numbers are suggested by the Office of Policy and Management to achieve the required savings, but departments may have more layoffs or fewer, provided the required savings are achieved; if fewer layoffs are implemented, additional savings must be found elsewhere in the agency budget.

Agencies hit hard by proposed budget reductions include: the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, with 486
positions eliminated (13.6 percent reduction in positions); the Department of Social Services, with 239 positions eliminated (13.2 percent reduction), and the Department of Public Health, with 87 positions eliminated (16.6 percent reduction). The department hardest hit by sheer number of layoffs is the Department of Corrections, with 1,019 positions being recommended for elimination (15.7 percent reduction).

Also recommended is a reduction of more than $54 million in each fiscal year for town aid grants to municipalities. In addition to debating the proposed cuts, the General Assembly is also expected to consider providing Governor Malloy with increased rescission authority, allowing him to independently make budget reductions.

Details on today's special session will be included in the next Update.

CHA Comments on Proposed IPPS Rule for 2012

On June 17, CHA submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) comments on the proposed Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) rule for 2012. Connecticut hospitals are particularly hard hit by the FY 2012 IPPS proposed rule, with an average decrease in Medicare funding of 3.6 percent, with more than half of the hospitals in the state being cut by more than 6 percent.

As noted in the June 16 edition of Update, the 2012 IPPS proposed rule presents a significant challenge for Connecticut hospitals for several reasons—PPACA mandated reductions, national coding offsets, and a significant decrease in the wage index value calculated for the rural floor—which will result in a year-over-year Medicare funding reduction in excess of $60 million for Connecticut.

Hospitals were encouraged to submit comments to CMS by Monday, June 20. For more information about the impact of the IPPS proposed rule, contact Stephen Frayne, CHA’s Senior Vice President, Health Policy, at frayne@chime.org.

Recruiting for the Stop CAUTI Project September Cohort

CHA is expanding the Stop BSI project to encompass the Stop CAUTI project, a national initiative aimed at reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), and recruitment is now open for the September 2011 cohort. The goal of the project is to reduce CAUTIs by 25 percent through the implementation of best practices for the appropriate placement, continance, and timely removal of urinary tract catheters, and improve the culture of safety in the hospital by utilizing the Comprehensive Unit Based Safety Program (CUSP), developed by Peter Pronovost, MD, PhD, and others.

Approximately 600,000 patients develop urinary tract infections per year which accounts for 40 percent of all hospital-acquired infections. For this reason the Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections has targeted the prevention of CAUTIs as a national goal, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have included CAUTIs in the 2014 Value-Based Purchasing program.

Joining the national initiative will allow access to content and patient safety experts, clinical guidelines and best practices, resources and tools, and will complement the infection prevention work that is already ongoing at Connecticut hospitals. To learn more please contact Alison Hong, MD, CHA’s Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety at hong@chime.org.

The Stop CAUTI initiative is supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) in partnership with the Health Research & Educational Trust of the AHA, the Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group, and the Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

Update Publication Schedule

In recognition of the 4th of July holiday, Update will not be published next week. The next edition will be published on Thursday, July 14, 2011.