



Thursday, July 18, 2019

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Update Archives

### CHA Hosts DCF Training Program on Human Trafficking

CHA, in partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (H.A.R.T.), and Connecticut Children's, hosted a two-day *Training of Trainers Introduction to Human Trafficking for Medical Providers* workshop on July 11 and 15.

Tammy Sneed, Clinical and Community Consultation and Support Division at DCF, told the 25 attendees representing hospital and social service agencies that the federal definition of human trafficking is "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining a person for sex and/or labor trafficking."



According to Ms. Sneed, sex trafficking is the second most profitable criminal industry in the United States because a person can be sold repeatedly – surpassing gun sales. (Drug sales is the number one most profitable criminal industry.) She noted that between 2008 – 2018, Connecticut identified 1,056 children between the ages of 2 and 18 as victims of human trafficking, with the number increasing in recent years as awareness of the issue has heightened.

In her presentation, Ms. Sneed focused on red flags healthcare providers should notice that might indicate a patient is a victim of trafficking. More than 68 percent of domestic sex trafficking victims are seen in an emergency department, she added. The program included a one-day curriculum learning, a half-day of classroom teach-backs, and a live training for medical providers with a lead trainer to ensure the trainee is comfortable responding to common questions that arise, and comfortable educating staff at hospitals, clinics, or physician offices.

### Governor Lamont Signs Opioid Abuse Prevention Law



On July 9, Governor Ned Lamont signed into law **Public Act 19-191 (HB 7159), An Act Addressing Opioid Use**, a bill supported by CHA that, among other provisions, proposes to strengthen oversight of prescriptions for opioids, including enhanced communication between healthcare practitioners and patients regarding opioid use.

The Act makes several changes to prevent and treat opioid drug abuse, including a new requirement on hospitals, starting January 1, 2020, to administer a mental health screening or assessment on patients treated for a non-fatal drug overdose, if medically appropriate. The new law will also require hospitals to provide screening or assessment results to the patient or to the patient's parent, guardian, or legal representative, if deemed medically appropriate.

The legislation makes several changes to the laws on pharmacies, pharmacists, and prescribing practitioners. Effective October 1, 2019, pharmacists will be required to offer consultations to all patients whenever practical and before or while dispensing a drug. Under current law, pharmacists must make consultation offers and keep related records only when dispensing prescriptions to Medicaid patients. The new law expands the current requirement to include all patients. The Act will apply to hospital pharmacies when dispensing a drug for outpatient use, including outpatient dispensing to an employee or the employee's spouse or children.

### CHA Recognized for Hospital Engagement in Safety Program

The American Hospital Association (AHA) and the AHA Center for Health Innovation selected the Connecticut Hospital Association to receive a 2019 AHA Performance Improvement Award Honorable Mention for exemplary hospital engagement in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Safety Program for Intensive Care Units (ICUs).

The award will be presented at AHA's Leadership Summit next week. The 12-month safety program focused on reducing or eliminating central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) in ICUs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified ICUs across the country with the greatest opportunity to improve and contracted with AHRQ to develop a comprehensive prevention program. AHRQ contracted with the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) to complete the program deliverables. The program comprises Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) team development, educational webinars, and in-person conferences, data collection, site visits, best practice guidelines, and outcomes.



### CHA Represented on Governor's Council on Women and Girls Steering Committee



Last week, Governor Ned Lamont and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz announced the members of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls Steering Committee. The Council is focused on four areas: Leadership, Health and Safety, Economic Opportunity and Workforce Equity, and Education and STEAM. Mary Cooper, MD, CHA Senior Vice President, Clinical Services, will serve on the Steering Committee's Health and Safety Subcommittee. CHA members also serving as representatives on the Steering Committee include Hartford HealthCare, Yale School of Medicine, and Murtha Cullina LLC. The Steering Committee will work with state leaders on issues that impact the lives of women and girls in Connecticut.

"We are proud to announce the steering committee for the first-ever Council on Women and Girls in our state,"

Governor Lamont said. "This Committee is made up of talented and diverse community leaders that will continue to deliver on our Administration's commitment to gender equality and opportunity. Focusing on education and STEAM; economic opportunity and workforce equity; leadership; and health and safety will also ensure that women and girls have every opportunity to determine their future and make a good living for themselves and their families."

"I'd like to thank everyone who agreed to lend their talents and expertise to the Steering Committee to ensure that the Council on Women and Girls is best prepared to address the issues faced by women and girls in Connecticut," Lt. Governor Bysiewicz said. "Our Administration has already delivered on several key promises, including the passage of Paid Family Medical Leave, a \$15 minimum wage, and the Time's Up Act. We also updated state employee policies on domestic violence and appointed women to lead half of our state agencies for the first time in our state's history. As chair of the Council, I look forward to working closely with private, public, and not-for-profit partners to advance women and girls in our state."