In addition to causing financial challenges for patients, Ms. Borgstrom also explained that the two-midnight policy entangles clinicians in reimbursement enforcement of the two-midnight rule and take a more thoughtful approach to developing a new standard that will provide clarity on whether a patient's hospital stay status is inpatient or outpatient; and the Medicare Audit Improvement Act legislation (H.R. 1250/S. 1012), which reforms the Recovery Audit

AHA and CHA support the Two-Midnight Rule Coordination and Improvement Act legislation (H.R. 3698/S. 2082), which directs CMS to further delay billing status is inpatient or outpatient; and the Medicare Audit Improvement Act legislation (H.R. 1250/S. 1012), which reforms the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program.

Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity Focuses on Eliminating Healthcare Disparities

On July 31, Saint Francis Care announced the joining of the former Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Institute and the Saint Francis Center for Health Equity into the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity. Curtis D. Robinson is a member of the CHA Board of Trustees.

“We are taking this opportunity to build on the successes of two great programs by formally bringing them together in a united mission to address disparities in healthcare,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer at Saint Francis Care. “This is clearly a case of combining the strengths of two entities to create a single, stronger, broadened delivery of care. Curtis Robinson has worked tirelessly to promote health equity and we recognize and appreciate his continued leadership and personal commitment to the community and Saint Francis.”

Housed together in the same building at the Urban League of Greater Hartford at 140 Woodland Street for the past 18 months, the Men’s Health Institute and the Center for Health Equity have shared a goal of ensuring that no one’s health is disadvantaged by income, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status or neighborhood.

The newly named Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity will focus on diversity initiatives at Saint Francis, develop cultural competency among healthcare providers, and develop activities to support research, education and outreach agendas, with a focus on both patients and caregivers.

Mr. Dadlez, a current member and former Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees, made the elimination of health disparities and affirmation of the values of diversity and inclusion strategic imperatives for Connecticut hospitals. His effort led to the CHA Diversity Collaborative, a first-ever, multi-year, statewide endeavor to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity.

Party Primaries to be Held Next Week

Primary elections for statewide, General Assembly, and Judge of Probate offices will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. Winners of the primary elections will have their names placed on the November 4 general election ballot. Winners of statewide and General Assembly elections will take office in January 2015.

In the State Senate, three incumbent Senators face challengers, while one current State Representative is running in the Democratic primary to fill a vacated Senate seat. All Senate primaries are being held by the Democratic Party. In Hartford, longtime Senator Eric Coleman is being challenged by Hartford City Council President Shawn Wooden. In Southeast Connecticut, current State Representative Elizabeth “Betsy” Ritter from Quaker Hill and Bill Satti, Former New London Mayor and current Democratic Town Committee Chairman, are running in the Democratic primary for a Senate seat being vacated by Senator Andrea Stillman (D-Waterford). In Bridgeport, incumbent Senators Anthony Musto and Andres Ayala are being challenged by Marilyn Moore and Scott Hughes, respectively. Ms. Moore is the Founder and CEO of the Witness Project of Connecticut, which provides cancer education and screening services. Mr. Hughes is a Bridgeport City librarian.

Five current Democratic members of the Connecticut House of Representatives are facing primary challengers. On August 12, there will be 14 primaries for House seats. Of note, Democratic incumbents Douglas McCorry (Hartford), Linda Orange (Colchester), Christina Ayala (Bridgeport), Chris Perone (Norwalk), and Bruce Morris (Norwalk) face challengers. The remaining primaries involve non-incumbent races with members who have decided to retire or run for higher office.

Because hospitals are working with Judges of Probate on a host of issues, it is worth noting that there are two Judge of Probate primaries being held on August 12. Specifically, in the Probate District Plainfield – Killingly # 27, Andrea Truppa and Anna Zubkova face-off in a Democratic primary. In the Probate District Madison – Guilford #34, William Bilcheck and Gail S. Kotoski seek the Republican nomination.

Education Update

HRO Webinar: Review Draft Learning System Modules
Thursday, August 21, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Live Webinar, Presented at your Facility
Event Registration

CHA's implementation of our statewide Safety Absolute on January 1, 2015 requires a lot of preparation at the hospitals. As members requested, we are preparing learning system modules for staff, managers, and physicians, which will be ready by September 1, 2014. We will have a webinar on Thursday, August 21, 2014 to review drafts and provide hospitals an opportunity to give us feedback.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
(Two-session program: Participants must attend both sessions.)
Thursday, September 4, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 25, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that eliminates roadblocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waiting times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

This two-session program will explain the value of applying Lean principles and methodology to improve healthcare—by providing examples of specific benefits that accrue when the people that actually do the work look at the details of processes and fix things where the work is done.

The program is designed for beginners—or those with only limited understanding/experience applying Lean principles and methodology. Clinical leaders, operational managers, and administrative support staff will all benefit from learning more about this method of continuous improvement and employee engagement.

HRO Fair and Just Accountability
Tuesday, September 16, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration
Thursday, September 18, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration
Thursday, October 2, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration

This is a session for Human Resources Executives and anyone else who manages people. Fair and Just Accountability trains staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event, focusing on the behavior rather than the outcome.

HRO Safety Coach Training
Tuesday, September 16, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration
Thursday, September 18, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts.

HRO Leadership Method Training
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Event Registration

This eight-hour Leadership session is designed to teach your hospital leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors. The session is structured for leaders at the manager level and above. Continuing education credits will be awarded for these sessions. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition
Monday, September 29, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Making the transition from being a staff person one day to a supervisor/manager the next is a significant step. Transitioning from individual contributor to being effective in a leadership role is far more challenging and complicated than ever before and requires the ability to use the tools of diplomacy, negotiation, persuasion, and alliance building to a greater degree than one used in the past. Managing the demands of your organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. You will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others and managing change.

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, returns at member request to present this full-day, highly interactive, management development program, the first in a two-part series specifically designed for new managers.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Event Registration

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work.

What is not so clear is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. How can we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How
can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, one of CHA’s most highly rated leadership development speakers, will present this full-day, interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory. Ms. Arnett will present communication methods and tools for navigating the challenging maze of different personalities and communication styles to better manage conflict.

**HRO Safety Starts With Me Train-the-Trainer**
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
[Event Registration](#)

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

**HRO Rounding to Influence**
Thursday, October 2, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
[Event Registration](#)

Rounding to Influence teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, to mentor, and to sustain High Reliability habits and practices.

**HRO Creating Sustainability for High Reliability Organizations**
Friday, October 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
[Event Registration](#)

This session is designed for drivers of change in your organization and includes concepts and tips to prevent High Reliability from becoming a “flavor of the month.”