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*Pam Koprowski, Corporate Director, Public Affairs, Stamford Hospital, with John Larson (D-1)*

On September 13, Connecticut hospital leaders joined CHA and colleagues from across the country in Washington D.C. at the American Hospital Association (AHA) Advocacy Day, which provides an opportunity to present a unified message about the importance of hospitals and the need to ensure their financial stability.

Hospitals urged lawmakers to support a provision that would encourage the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide flexibility in implementing "site-neutral" payment provisions. In recent comments to CMS, the AHA urged the agency to delay implementing the provisions until it can provide fair payment to hospitals for the services they provide.

Hospital leaders also thanked members of the Connecticut delegation for the recently awarded federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants to Connecticut. The nearly \$5 million in grant funding will be used to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction and strengthen drug abuse prevention efforts across the state. Hospital leaders asked federal lawmakers to support hospital efforts to develop integrated care models, such as Community Care Teams, by funding patient care navigators to execute coordinated care plans.

CHA staff and hospital leaders met with staff from the offices of Senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn), as well as U.S. Representatives John Larson (D-1) and Rosa DeLauro (D-3).

Connecticut hospital attendees included Darlene Stromstad, President & CEO, Waterbury Hospital; Pam Koprowski, Corporate Director, Public Affairs, Stamford Hospital; Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA; and Carl Schiessl, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA.

**CHA Hosts Forum on the Connecticut Zero Suicide Initiative**

On September 8, CHA hosted an education and information-sharing forum on the *Connecticut Zero Suicide Initiative*, which featured talks by hospital and government experts as well as moving presentations from a patient and the mother of a suicide victim.

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Connecticut and, on average, one person dies by suicide every 23 hours in our state. More than three times as many people die by suicide in Connecticut annually than by homicide.

The September 8 forum traced the history of suicide prevention efforts in Connecticut, offered statistics related to the rate and methods of suicides, described the work of the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB) and the goals of the State Suicide Prevention Plan 2020, and explained the tenants of the Zero Suicide Initiative.

Zero Suicide is a methodology to eliminate suicide and a belief that even one suicide is too many. It has been embraced by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, and a Suicide Prevention Resource Center. It offers a set of best practices and tools for healthcare systems and providers, and a focus on safety and error reduction.

The forum featured a presentation on the Connecticut Suicide Prevention Plan 2020 by the CTSAB co-chairs Andrea Duarte, MPH, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Manager at the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and Tim Marshall, LCSW, Clinical Manager, Department of Children and Families (DCF). One goal of the 2020 plan is to promote adoption of the Zero Suicide approach within health and behavioral health systems.



That presentation was followed by a compelling experiential panel discussion with Leah Nelson of the Jordan Porco Foundation and Judy Murray, RN, of the Dignity and Advocacy Network, two people personally touched by suicide. Ms. Nelson, whose struggle with depression included a suicide attempt and hospitalization at age 20, urged the audience to remember how critical it is for people with mental illness to receive the help they need in a professional and caring setting.

The forum concluded with a presentation by the team leading the implementation of the Zero Suicide Initiative at the Institute of Living (IOL), featuring Medical Director Linda Durst, MD, Director of Nursing; Ellen Blair, APRN; Patricia Graham, Family Resource Center; and Nancy Hubbard, Director of Outpatient and Rehab Services.

The event was sponsored by CHA in collaboration with the CTSAB, the single state-level board cooperatively co-chaired by DMHAS and DCF. CTSAB is a network of diverse advocates, educators, and leaders concerned with addressing the problem of suicide with a focus on prevention, intervention, and response. It seeks to eliminate suicide by instilling hope across the lifespan and through the use of culturally competent advocacy, education, collaboration, and networking.

Close to 100 people attended the forum, which was one of several events held across the state during National Suicide Prevention Week.

## National Population Health Forum Features CHA Expert



Madeleine Biondolillo, MD, Vice President of Population Health Management at CHA, participated in a leadership panel that discussed the challenges associated with using new troves of data to advance patient care at the *Pop Health Forum 2016* in Chicago on September 12.

The forum, which featured national population health experts in the areas of data use, care coordination, and patient engagement, was sponsored by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), a not-for-profit health information technology organization in the U.S.

Dr. Biondolillo leads CHA's strategic focus on advancing population health strategies in conjunction with health equity, supports hospitals in the implementation of new, risk-based healthcare delivery and payments models, and spearheads CHA's efforts to develop and implement state and federal innovation efforts.

Since joining CHA in 2015, Dr. Biondolillo has overseen the successful implementation of the Connecticut Asthma Initiative (CAI), which began in 2015 and now involves a broad-based group of more than 200 people from 62 organizations across the continuum – including hospitals, community organizations, commercial payers, state government and more – who are collaborating to improve asthma outcomes and address the social determinants of health that create barriers to treatment.

During a morning panel at the Chicago forum entitled “Pop Health on the Frontlines: Assuming Risk, Improving Care, Reducing Costs,” Dr. Biondolillo discussed the ways in which data can be used to help transform the delivery system and enable population health management.

In a story about the Pop Health Forum that ran in Healthcare IT News this month, Dr. Biondolillo is quoted as saying, “The big challenge surrounding population health is understanding how to plan care needed for more complex patients while at the same time building systems of care for these patients and analyzing how that care gets paid for.”

As healthcare shifts from a fee-for-service model to a fee-for-value model, Dr. Biondolillo added, hospitals and healthcare systems must devise new ways to structure and provide care services, using data as a way to identify areas in which they can reduce costs.

Dr. Biondolillo also presented on the use of data to identify asthma “hot spots” and reduce Emergency Department utilization. Hospital, health, and population data has provided analytic insights that have helped the Connecticut Asthma Initiative assess community health needs, make market assessments, and conduct intervention planning.

## Saint Mary's Holds Unity Celebration to Mark Partnership With Trinity Health



Saint Mary's Hospital celebrated becoming part of Trinity Health and Trinity Health – New England by holding a Unity Celebration on September 8, 2016.

The event, which was held in the Saint Mary's Hospital Auditorium, featured readings and prayers that reflected multiple faith traditions and cultures symbolizing the rich history and diverse cultures represented in the Brass City, where The Right Reverend Monsignor William J. Slocum chose to site the hospital more than 100 years ago.

“This is truly a monumental day in the history of Saint Mary's,” said Chad W. Wable, President of Saint Mary's. “This celebration is about hope and resiliency, it's about community, and it's about people. It is our people, the Saint Mary's Hospital family and now our broader Trinity Health family, that make this place and the work we do so special.”

The event was attended by Richard J. Gilfillan, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Trinity Health; Neil M. O'Leary, Mayor of the city of Waterbury; The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., Archbishop of Hartford; the leadership of Saint Mary's Hospital and Trinity Health - New England, members of the board of directors, physicians, nurses, and staff.

Saint Mary's signed a definitive agreement to partner with Trinity Health – New England a year ago. On July 27, 2016, the state Department of Public Health's Office of Health Care Access approved the transaction. The transference of ownership to Trinity Health – New England has also received approval from the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Vatican.

Saint Mary's is the fifth hospital to join Trinity Health – New England, a regional health ministry that includes Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, and Sisters of Providence Health System/Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, and their subsidiaries.

“It is our Mission at Trinity Health – New England to partner with high quality providers like Saint Mary's Hospital to provide everyone in the communities we serve with world class care,” said Trinity Health – New England President and Chief Executive Officer Christopher M. Dadlez. “Saint Mary's complements our resources with a remarkable array of inpatient, outpatient, and continuing care services, adding momentum to Trinity Health's efforts to achieve the triple-aim objectives of improving population health, enhancing the patient care experience, and controlling costs – measures critical to the future care of the communities we serve.”



## CHA to Host Health Equity and Asthma Summit



On Thursday, October 13, 2016, CHA will host Improving Health Equity: The Connecticut Asthma Initiative and Beyond, a health equity and asthma policy summit.

The full-day event will showcase the work of hospitals and community partners collaborating in the Connecticut Asthma Initiative (CAI). The CAI began in 2015 with a vision that no one should die of asthma or have to limit his or her life unnecessarily due to the disease.

Since its inception, a broad-based group of more than 200 people from 62 organizations across the continuum — including hospitals, community organizations, commercial payers, state government, and more — have created a model of collaboration that connects communities, healthcare providers, and public health organizations. This hospital-community partnership structure, essential to the

Initiative's success, is being established across the state through Connecticut acute care member hospitals.

A focus on the social determinants of health that create barriers to treatment is the latest phase of the CAI. Because asthma disproportionately affects children, women, and those who are economically disadvantaged, and because African Americans/Blacks and Latinos are more likely to end up in the hospital for asthma, it was the consensus of the CAI that the next step in its mission was to address barriers to treatment such as environmental or socio-economic factors.

Among other presentations, the event will feature a keynote address, "What Can the Future Look Like?" by Patricia Baker, President and CEO of Connecticut Health Network, remarks by Christopher Dadlez, President and CEO of Trinity Health - New England and Chairman of the CHA Committee on Population Health, and an overview on health equity and the CAI by Anne Diamond, JD, CNM, Chief Executive Officer of UConn John Dempsey Hospital and Co-chairperson of the CAI.

## Education Updates

### Continuing the Conversation on Hospice and Palliative Care: Provider Strategies

Monday, September 26, 2016

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Connecticut gets failing grades when compared to the rest of the country in the use of palliative care and the time to hospice referral. This evening session for providers brings in some of the nation's experts to review the evidence for appropriate use of palliative and hospice care, discuss techniques for initiating the conversations and billing for them, and demonstrate systematic and sustainable change.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

### Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session supports CHA's efforts to take care of the staff who take care of patients. Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach discusses behaviors, techniques, and measurement for worker safety, as used by other high reliability hospitals that are farther along their journey.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### HRO Safety Coach Training

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed 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.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### HRO Rounding to Influence

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

[Event Registration](#)

The program teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, mentor, and sustain high reliability habits and practices.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### **HRO Fair and Just Accountability**

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session, for Human Resources executives and anyone else who manages people, will train staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event – to focus on the behavior rather than the outcome.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

### **Staff to Management: Starting the Transition**

Thursday, September 29, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [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. Participants 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.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

### **Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee**

Friday, September 30, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [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?

Continuing education credits are offered for this session. Please see the brochure for details.

