



Thursday, September 22, 2016

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Update Archives

**CHA Hosts Lieutenant Governor at Healthcare Forum**

During a forum at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) on September 19, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman told a group of nearly 100 healthcare leaders from across the continuum of care that the state is facing another difficult budget process in the upcoming legislative session.

The Lieutenant Governor's remarks were made during an hour-long question and answer session with hospital, nursing home, home care, and state medical society leaders, during which Lt. Gov. Wyman expressed her continued support for the healthcare industry and issued an invitation to have more detailed conversations with providers about issues of concern, such as the hospital tax and Medicaid reimbursement rates.

She also said that while Connecticut's budget challenges continue, she is confident that the state's economy is slowly improving.

"We are coming back," Lt. Gov. Wyman said, adding that balancing the budget remains a difficult challenge. "In February, when the Governor comes out with his budget, it's going to be a tough budget again. We will be looking under every rock."

Lt. Gov. Wyman took questions from the crowd, including those related to Medicaid reimbursement, the state's Certificate of Need (CON) process, and the state's budget priorities. Hospital representatives expressed frustration about the lack of trust between state officials and hospitals, and said they believe the state is missing opportunities to improve both the economy and the healthcare system.

The Lieutenant Governor remarked that Connecticut is committed to helping providers respond to changes in the federal law concerning alternative payment models. She said that we must think broadly about provider concerns and come up with creative ideas to address those concerns.

"We're trying to figure out how to balance the budget," she said. "We should also be looking to you to offer suggestions."

The Lieutenant Governor also said she understood concerns related to recommendations made by Bailit Health, a consultant hired by the Health Care Cabinet, which has touted a voluntary shared risk arrangement under which doctors would lose government money if they didn't save enough money on patient treatment and achieve quality standards.

"Bailit's suggestions are great, but they all won't work in Connecticut," Lt. Gov. Wyman said. "Let's figure out what works. We need to be positive and work together."

The forum was moderated by Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA. It was hosted by the Collaborations of Care Partners, CHA, the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities, Leading Age Connecticut, the Connecticut Association of Healthcare at Home, and the Connecticut State Medical Society.

**CHA Releases Hospital Issue Briefs**

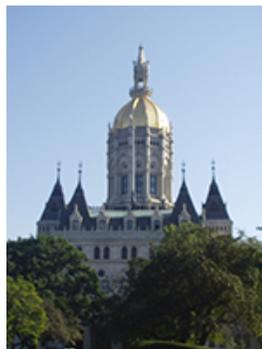
The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) this week released a series of Issue Briefs highlighting an array of topics important to hospitals in an effort to educate legislative candidates prior to the November election.

The goal of the briefs, which will be distributed to candidates and other interested constituencies, is to help policymakers better understand the role of hospitals in their communities and to inform them about hospital legislative priorities.

The ten briefs cover a wide swath of topics: [Hospitals for a Healthy Economy](#); [Hospitals and Taxes](#); [How Hospitals are Paid](#); [Connecticut Hospitals are Evolving](#); [Hospitals Serve our Communities](#); [Hospitals and Health Equity](#); [Hospitals and Population Health](#); [Hospitals and Mental Health](#); [Hospitals and Substance Use Treatment](#); and [Hospitals: Delivering Safe, Reliable, Quality Healthcare](#).

**Intimate Partner Homicide Report Identifies Healthcare as Opportunity for Intervention**

On Thursday, September 22, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) released the 2015 - 2016 [findings and recommendations of the CT Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee](#), which reviews intimate partner fatalities and near-fatalities to analyze the strengths and challenges of Connecticut's response to intimate partner violence. The organization reported that since 2000, 222 people have been killed in Connecticut as a result of intimate partner violence, including 190 women (86%) and 32 men (14%).



cca | DV

"Connecticut continues to see an average of 14 intimate partner homicides each year," said Karen Jarmoc, CCADV Chief Executive Officer. "Another 3,600 individuals have suffered serious, near-fatal injuries since 2000. Each of these victims' stories provide important opportunities for us to view and strengthen a system intended to protect them."

The recommendations in the report focused on the key areas of offender accountability, victim resources, and healthcare and training. The Committee continued to see trends related to potential points of intervention within the healthcare system for victims prior to their deaths, most notably for pregnant victims and mothers of young children.

"Healthcare providers' relationships with their patients make them strategically positioned to identify and respond to victims of intimate partner violence," said Madeleine Biondolillo, MD, Vice President, Population Health Management, Connecticut Hospital Association. Dr. Biondolillo noted that healthcare providers support efforts that would help strengthen their ability to help victims of domestic violence.

Intimate partner homicide continues to be a leading cause of death for pregnant women, while experiencing any abuse during pregnancy is associated with a number of poor health outcomes for both the mother and the child.

## Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week



Federal agencies participated this week in more than 250 events as part of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, [proclaimed](#) Friday by President Obama to raise awareness about the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic.

The events included the awarding of \$4.7 million in Distance Learning and Telemedicine program grants by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support [18 projects](#) that will expand access to healthcare, substance use treatment, and educational opportunities in 16 states.

The USDA also announced a series of state forums, including an opioid epidemic awareness forum sponsored by the USDA in Tolland, Connecticut, on Monday, September 19, that will bring together government officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to forge partnerships and identify possible solutions. For more information, see the White House [factsheet](#).

CHA and Connecticut hospitals have been at the forefront in the battle to prevent prescription drug abuse by being early adopters of voluntary opioid prescribing guidelines for Emergency Departments and sponsoring training and education to programs for prescribers of opioids. Earlier this year, CHA provided testimony in support of a measure to increase access to overdose reversal drugs. **PA 16-43, *An Act Concerning Opioids And Access To Overdose Reversal Drugs***, is one component of a comprehensive statewide strategy to reduce the misuse and abuse of opioids and other prescription drugs in Connecticut.

## 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. This program 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 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[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.

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

### **Improving Health Equity: The Connecticut Asthma Initiative and Beyond**

Thursday, October 13, 2016

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

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

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, CHA will host *Improving Health Equity: The Connecticut Asthma Initiative and Beyond*, a health equity and asthma policy summit.

This full-day event will showcase the collaborative work of hospitals and community partners 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.

The CAI demonstrates how collaborative efforts that focus on social determinants can improve health and health equity. 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 part of its mission was to address barriers to treatment such as environmental or socio-economic factors.

### **Financial Skills for Managers**

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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

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

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare is back by member request to present the program.

Continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### **Using High Reliability to Improve the Patients' Experience**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

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

[Event Registration](#)

Session II: 1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This program focuses on highly reliable staff behaviors that enhance patient satisfaction and HCAHPS scores. Lynn Pierce of HPI, an alumna of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, FL (home of the 2003 Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award), will be back as the instructor.

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

