Tom Foley Discusses Future of Healthcare in Connecticut

On September 23, more than 100 people from across the continuum of care participated in a conversation with Tom Foley, Republican candidate for Governor. The program, hosted by the Collaborations of Care Partners, was part of what will be a series of discussions with candidates for Governor.

Mr. Foley began by discussing the importance of building a strong future for the next generations – a future with a vibrant economy and strong education and healthcare systems.

As Governor, Mr. Foley said he would work with healthcare providers to develop solutions to better coordinate care while lowering the cost of healthcare delivery. “We have an opportunity to become a leader in developing new models, new technology, and new ways to deliver better services for less money,” he said. “Connecticut is a community. We have a lot of people who need healthcare services, and we all have a common mission and obligation to make sure that gets provided.”

Mr. Foley vowed to work with providers across the continuum of care to support mental health services, increase hospice utilization, and support the long-term care industry. On the issue of medical malpractice, Mr. Foley said he would search for solutions to achieve a balance so practitioners don’t live in fear of a lawsuit.

“We appreciate the open dialogue, which has helped us gain a fuller understanding of your positions on improving healthcare delivery in Connecticut,” said Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs.

Governor Dannel Malloy will participate in a conversation with the Collaborations of Care Partners on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. In addition to CHA, the Collaborations of Care Partners include the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, the Connecticut State Medical Society, and LeadingAge Connecticut.

Since October 2011, the Collaborations of Care Partners have been working on a shared goal of enhancing the quality of healthcare provided to every Connecticut resident. The collaboration has focused on improving and coordinating the transitions of care provided by our hospitals, home care and hospice, skilled nursing facilities, and the physician community.
Hospitals Participate in Surviving Sepsis Program

More than 70 people from hospitals across the state attended the Partnership for Patients Surviving Sepsis program held at CHA on September 19. Sepsis is the known or suspected infection plus systemic manifestations of infection. The occurrence of sepsis, the leading cause of hospital deaths, can be reduced with early identification and treatment.

Creators of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign and authors of the current industry standard served as program faculty. These experts included R. Phillip Dellinger, MD, Mitchell Levy, MD, Lauren Catalano, MD, David Portelli, MD, and Christa Schorr, RN.

Program participants reviewed key quality improvement and clinical strategies hospitals can implement to diagnose and treat sepsis rapidly to improve the care delivered to patients with this deadly diagnosis. They discussed the updated guidelines, Surviving Sepsis Campaign: International Guidelines for Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock: 2012, which were published in 2013.

The Surviving Sepsis Campaign, which began in 2002, is a global program that aims to impact bedside practice and reduce mortality rates from severe sepsis through education and the implementation of evidence-based guidelines.

More information on the campaign can be found at www.survivingsepsis.org.

Upcoming Program: Addressing Child Abuse, Sex Trafficking of Minors, and Children's Behavioral Health Issues in the ED

Please join us on Tuesday, October 7, 2014, for an issue-based, multidisciplinary program that will address a broad range of children's health topics. CHA is pleased to have the Department of Children & Families (DCF) Commissioner Joette Katz provide the keynote address, which will focus on strategies outlined in DCF’s Connecticut Children’s Behavioral Health Plan, initiatives to improve the detection and reporting of child abuse, DCF’s efforts to better partner with hospitals and medical providers in Connecticut, and several other agency initiatives.

We will also be joined by professionals from Casey Family Programs, ValueOptions, the Connecticut Community Provider Association, and DCF staff for presentations on the impact of changes in child welfare practices in hospitals, and addressing the growing problem of child abuse and sex trafficking of minors.

This forum will also feature medical professionals from four Connecticut acute care hospitals participating in a panel discussion to share key lessons and best practices being implemented across the state for meeting children's behavioral health needs in the ED.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

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Independent Connecticut Healthcare Systems Announce Formation of Statewide “Value Care Alliance”

A group of five high-quality, high-value Connecticut healthcare systems, including seven hospitals, have come together to form the Value Care Alliance (VCA), a collaboration of hospitals and physicians working together to provide efficient, coordinated, high-quality care for the communities they serve.

The VCA is the largest collaboration of independent healthcare providers in the state. The seven member hospitals cover the majority of the state geographically and serve approximately 1.3 million people in their combined market areas. Members include Griffin Hospital, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, and Western Connecticut Health Network, which comprises Danbury Hospital, New Milford Hospital, and Norwalk Hospital. Each VCA member hospital has a proven track record of delivering high-quality care with a focus on cost efficient
operations, and Alliance members also share a common commitment to preserving not-for-profit healthcare in their communities.

VCA member hospitals and physician organizations will each maintain their strong community focus and independence with local control over governance. This strategic alliance will provide the opportunity to take advantage of the benefits of scale, share best practices, and pursue efficiencies while addressing local market needs. This unique partnership of like-minded hospitals also sets the stage for innovation and collaboration to jointly develop new services and capabilities among the initial VCA members, with additional healthcare organizations to be added over time. The Alliance will also develop and share data and analytical capabilities among its members to enable efficient and effective care management and coordination across multiple settings of care.

The VCA will be governed by a single board and executive leadership structure with a majority of board seats being held by physicians from each member organization. Physician leadership is paramount to the successful development of the Alliance’s care delivery model, which will capitalize on VCA members’ combined strengths and expertise in the areas of quality, patient satisfaction, cost-effective operations and clinical integration, which are all critical elements for success in the changing healthcare environment.

“The Value Care Alliance, through its unique collaboration of providers and facilities, will enable Connecticut residents to continue to access comprehensive, quality care from high performing hospitals and physician practices in their local communities,” said Patrick Charmel, Chairman of the VCA and President and CEO of Griffin Hospital, a founding member of the Value Care Alliance. “What’s more, because the new healthcare environment has resulted in individuals being personally responsible for a greater portion of the cost of care they receive, the VCA is also designed to provide healthcare consumers with a lower cost alternative to the high cost of care associated with regional referral centers.”

In addition, the organizational structure will enable the VCA to innovate and adapt to new models of payer contracting and reimbursement methods, and offer new products. The result is a nimble organization that is positioned to be responsive to payer, employer, and consumer needs.

Education Updates

2014 Nurse Leadership Forum
Thursday, October 16, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

We are pleased and excited to announce that we have confirmed Cy Wakeman as the keynote speaker for CHA’s 14th annual Nurse Leadership Forum. Ms. Wakeman, a New York Times bestselling-author and national leadership consultant, is a highly sought-after conference headline who will share her perspective on the need for an innovative and dynamic new look at leadership. Forum sessions are also being planned on operational challenges, including nurse staffing and ballot initiatives in other states, and exploring the transition individuals make from clinical to operational leadership.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium
Thursday, October 23, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

CHA will present a symposium to celebrate the third anniversary of the CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact. This multi-year, statewide initiative is designed to engage hospital teams in educational programs, implementation of improvement strategies, sharing best practices, and measuring and tracking progress to achieve the Collaborative goals.

The Symposium will feature a keynote address by Colleen O’Toole, PhD, Chief Administrative Officer of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, the Health Improvement Collaborative, and HealthBridge. Dr. O’Toole will discuss The Greater Cincinnati Health Council’s continuing efforts to strengthen race, ethnicity or language (REL) data collection methodology and data integrity in pursuit of reducing disparities in care. Lessons learned along the journey from the 28 initial member hospital participants regarding securing commitment, training, quality assurance, and communications will be shared.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition
Monday, September 29, 2014
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. 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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
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?

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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.
Friday, October 3, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

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."

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Improving Hospital-Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services (HBIPS) Performance
Monday, October 6, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

The Hospital-Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services (HBIPS) measure set provide a group of standardized measures that reflect processes of patient care related to restraint and seclusion, transitions of care, and medication safety. These measures are now publicly available through the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting program from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) on its Hospital Compare website.

Please join us for a half-day session with Celeste Milton, Associate Project Director, Center for Performance Measurement, The Joint Commission. Ms. Milton will share strategies and best practices to improve inpatient psychiatric care processes related to HBIPS measurement.

This program is designed for hospitals with inpatient psychiatric services.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training
Friday, October 10, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Second session: Friday, October 17, 2014.
This program is being held at the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI) in Hartford.
View Brochure | Event Registration

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity at Saint Francis, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA is again pleased to offer Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training (CC&DIT)—a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program to achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care and addressing healthcare disparities.

The CC&DIT curriculum was developed in direct response to member requests for help in providing diversity education and is structured as a two-module program, each session five hours in duration—delivered once each week over a two-week period. Training content is based on current research that emphasizes the idea that cultural competence is not achieved through a single training event—but is a lifelong commitment to learning, and professional skills development. With over 100 members completing the training, program evaluations have been consistently positive about the value of this training.

Diversity Collaborative team members are encouraged to attend as a way to help achieve team goals in their organization.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

HRO Using High Reliability to Improve the Patient Experience
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Event Registration
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Lynn Pierce of HPI, an alumna of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola FL (home of the 2003 Malcolm Baldridge Quality Award), will be our instructor.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Financial Skills for Managers
Friday, October 17, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As the demands of healthcare reform pick up speed, 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 will be awarded.

Restrain and Seclusion Documentation and Chemical Restraints in the Hospital and Nursing Home Settings
Monday, October 20, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
View Brochure | 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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.
Please join us for a program focusing on restraint and seclusion documentation and chemical restraints in the hospital and nursing home settings. Connecticut Department of Public Health’s Barbara Cass, Section Chief; Lori Griffin, Supervising Nurse Consultant; and Donna Ortelle, Public Health Services Manager, will present the most common issues found in hospitals and nursing homes regarding these focus areas. Additionally, experienced healthcare attorneys will provide an overview of the importance of adhering to restraint and seclusion guidelines to provide safe patient care in both settings.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.