



Thursday, September 26, 2013

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On September 24, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) and Congressmen John Larson (CT-1) and Joe Courtney (CT-2) spoke at *The 113th U.S. Congress and its Impact on the Healthcare Continuum of Care in Connecticut*, a forum presented by CHA, LeadingAge Connecticut, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, and the Connecticut State Medical Society. More than 100 hospital and healthcare leaders from across the state participated in the conversation about how congressional activity will impact the healthcare delivery system in Connecticut.

The congressional showdown over the continuing resolution to fund the government was a major topic of discussion. On September 20, the Republican-led House voted on a continuing resolution that defunds the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and keeps the sequester cuts in place.

Congressman John Larson cautioned against “hostage politics,” saying the House should not take the country over the fiscal cliff solely because it insists on defunding PPACA. He said healthcare reform will create a new paradigm in healthcare delivery, reducing cost while enhancing care. “This should be a time of greatness for this country,” he said.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro spoke about being a cancer survivor due to having health insurance and access to excellent care. But not everyone has this. She told the crowd, “You shouldn’t have to survive by luck, and the Affordable Care Act makes sure you don’t have to.”

The three congressional leaders assured forum participants that PPACA will not be defunded, though they said there is a possibility that major economic damage may be done. The continuing resolution currently funding the government expires on September 30.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro also said sequestration, if allowed to continue, will exacerbate numerous problems in our country, including the mental health system, which she called a “public health crisis.” She urged healthcare leaders to continue their advocacy opposing sequestration, saying, “You have real standing as a community and with collaborators across the nation. You can’t get tired; you just have to keep banging the drum. Our institution responds to external pressure. You are that external pressure.”

Congressman Joe Courtney discussed observation status and RAC audits. He has, for the past three years, introduced legislation to try to correct the observation status problem, which impacts a patient’s ability to have subsequent care on the continuum paid for by Medicare. The Congressman noted positive momentum in pursuit of changing the policy on observation status and the need to place the focus on patients and issues surrounding the critical transitions of care faced by patients and providers. “It is the grassroots advocacy that is having a big impact on the issues,” he said.

Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA, asked the congressional leaders to carry the message to Washington that healthcare providers are working together in Connecticut more than ever before, and need their support.

“Providers in all settings are working collaboratively to become integrated, so care is coordinated and a patient can move seamlessly through the care continuum,” said Mr. Iacobellis.

Since October 2011, the sponsor organizations have collectively been working on a shared goal of enhancing the quality of healthcare provided to every Connecticut resident. This collaboration has focused on improving and coordinating the transitions of care provided by hospitals, home care and hospice, skilled nursing facilities, and the physician community.





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Laws Impacting Hospitals to Take Effect



On Tuesday, October 1, 2013, several bills passed into law during the 2013 Legislative Session will take effect. (Most public acts take effect on October 1 of the year in which the bill was passed into law, unless otherwise specified in the legislation.)

Those bills that will take effect next week that affect hospitals can be found in [this linked document](#), which provides a summary of each relevant new law and links to the public act.

Upcoming Nurse Leadership Forum: Navigating the Changing Healthcare Landscape



CHA is pleased to present the 2013 Nurse Leadership Forum, the popular annual program that draws nurse leaders and developing leaders from across the state. This year's program is focused on operational issues, challenges, strategies, and practical tools to help nurse leaders navigate the unpredictable and dramatically changing healthcare landscape. The Forum will explore why nurses at every level must step up their leadership influence and drive the process to dramatically improve patient satisfaction, reduce costs, and improve quality and patient safety while remaining inspired in today's unpredictable healthcare climate.

Joan Ellis Beglinger, RN, MSN, MBA, FACHE, FAAN, Former Chief Nursing Officer, Vice President for Patient Care, St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin, will provide the keynote address, *Healthcare Reform: Unprecedented Opportunity; Unparalleled Risk*. Known for her visionary leadership and ability to translate complex concepts into practical and effective operating strategies, Ms. Beglinger has directed nursing teams that have consistently produced exceptional clinical outcomes, high patient satisfaction, employee and physician engagement, and operational excellence.

Dana L. Nelson-Peterson, DNP, MN, RN, Administrative Director, Ambulatory Care Nursing Services, Virginia Mason Medical Center, will present *Innovation and Commitment: The Journey Toward Excellence*. Virginia Mason Medical Center is nationally recognized for its work, which resulted in dramatically increased quality, improved outcomes, and increased patient satisfaction, while concurrently removing waste from its clinical and administrative processes.

Rich Bluni, RN, author of the book [Inspired Nurse](#), will present a plenary session on how nurses can sustain the spirit of caring that first inspired them to choose nursing as a career, stay connected to their passion for helping patients, and recognize the powerful impact nurses have on the lives of others.

The Connecticut Hospital Association-CHA is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

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AG To Pursue Legislation On Facility Fees In 2014



On September 19, Attorney General George Jepsen [announced](#) that he will urge the General Assembly to enact legislation – A Facility Fee Disclosure Act – that would require “any off-campus hospital-based provider that charges a facility fee to disclose in writing the amount of the patient’s potential financial liability—including the specific amount of any facility fee.”

The Attorney General also stated, “Over the next several months, I plan to seek more information from hospitals about their practices with respect to these facility fees. In addition, I will be reaching out to legislators and stakeholders to work on crafting legislation that will provide meaningful transparency and cost information to consumers.”

In response to the announcement, CHA issued the statement: “Connecticut hospitals support efforts to make pricing more transparent and meaningful for consumers. We look forward to working together with the Attorney General’s office and legislators on this issue.”

CHA CFO 2013 GNEMSDC Shining Star



John Brady, CFO and Vice President, Business Planning, CHA, was selected by the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) as a “Shining Star.” He was honored on September 24 at the 2013 GNEMSDC Business Opportunity Conference & Expo, held at the Hartford Convention Center.

The annual award was presented to Mr. Brady for his support of GNEMSDC and his leadership in developing enhanced opportunities for certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) to work with Connecticut hospitals. CHA and GNEMSDC have been working closely together for the last four years through the CHA Diversity Collaborative, for which one of the three main objectives is to increase supplier diversity. GNEMSDC has been instrumental in the development of CHA’s Supplier Diversity Program, through which hospitals can access contracts for goods and services offered by certified MBEs.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Mr. Brady. “The Connecticut Hospital Association is grateful for our partnership and friendship with Dr. Fred McKinney and GNEMSDC. Increasing supplier diversity is a not only a critical component of the Diversity Collaborative, it is also just good business. We are looking forward to our ongoing collaboration.”

GNEMSDC, a regional non-profit organization dedicated to fostering business relationships between certified MBEs and potential buyers, certifies minority businesses that are 51 percent owned and controlled by a racial or ethnic minority and helps refer them to corporations looking to purchase the goods and services they offer.

Education Updates

Prevention of Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers (HAPU)

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

During this program with national and local content experts, participants will be instructed in the latest evidence-based interventions and data collection strategies that will help prevent pressure ulcers. Use of these strategies will lead to improvements in the quality of life for those impacted and reductions in the cost of HAPU care. Barbara Cass, Connecticut Department of Public Health, will present Innovations in Connecticut: Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Care. Kathleen Vollman, MSN, RN, CCNS, FCCM, FAAN, will present It's Not Just About Pressure Anymore: Eliminating Health Care Acquired Skin Injuries. Pat Posa, RN, BSN, MSA, will present The Forgotten Organ: A Team Approach for Skin Care of the Critically Ill Patient. Two panels of acute and sub-acute care Connecticut hospitals will discuss their experiences preventing HAPU.

[Event Registration](#)

Financial Skills for Managers

Thursday, October 17, 2013

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

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, will present the program.

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Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training

Friday, October 18, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council, 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. Diversity Collaborative team members are encouraged to attend as a way to help achieve the team goals in their organization. The second session date is Friday, October 25, 2013.

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

Prevention of Adverse Drug Events (ADE)

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

During this program with national and local content experts, participants will be provided with information on where to target medication safety interventions, evidence-based strategies to improve medication safety, and methods for utilizing your organization's ADE data to identify potential areas of risk and benefit.

[Event Registration](#)

Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium

Thursday, October 31, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CHA will present a full-day symposium to celebrate the second anniversary of the *CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact*. This multi-year, statewide initiative is designed to engage hospital teams in educational programs that involve implementing improvement strategies, sharing best practices, and measuring and tracking progress to achieve the Collaborative goals. The Symposium will feature sessions on leadership strategies and practices that hospitals can implement to achieve collaborative goals: increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity.

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