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## State Receives $20 Million to Fight Opioid Epidemic

Connecticut will receive more than $20 million in federal funding to enhance the state's efforts in fighting the opioid epidemic, including funding for additional Emergency Department recovery coaches at hospitals across the state.

Last year, Connecticut hospitals and health systems introduced recovery coaches in Emergency Departments to assist people who are admitted with opioid overdose and other alcohol- or drug-related medical emergencies. The recovery coaches connect them with substance use disorder treatment and services. The program, a partnership between the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery, is serving as a national model.

The federal funding includes two $11 million grants over two years from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that, in addition to the expansion of the recovery coach program, will support a number of activities to prevent addiction and overdoses, as well as treat and support the recovery of those living with opioid use disorders.

In addition, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) will receive a $3.6 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that will be used for capacity building and structural changes to aid DPH's efforts to fight the opioid epidemic.

According to the CDC, deaths from overdoses in Connecticut continue to rise. In its latest report, the CDC notes that Connecticut saw an increase in overdose deaths of approximately 6.6 percent from 2017, coming in second highest among New England states for overdose deaths.

Earlier this year, CHA released an updated set of voluntary opioid prescribing guidelines to help Emergency Department medical staff treat patients with chronic pain conditions. The new guidelines lower the recommended dose of prescribed opioids from 30 pills to a three-day supply; respond to current clinical recommendations for pain treatment by recommending that alternative, non-opioid therapies be administered or prescribed whenever possible for ED patients; recommend that ED personnel request and review their patients' voluntary non-opioid directive form; and specify that opioids be prescribed electronically in accordance with state law.

## Michael Ivy, MD, Named Interim CEO at Bridgeport Hospital

Michael Ivy, MD, Bridgeport Hospital's Chief Medical officer (CMO) since 2012 and deputy CMO of Yale New Haven Health since 2016, has been named Interim Chief Executive Officer of the hospital. The announcement was made by Marna Borgstrom, CEO of the health system, and Newman Marsilius III, Chairman of the hospital Board of Trustees.

Dr. Ivy was named to this position after current Bridgeport Hospital President and CEO William Jennings accepted a role as president and CEO of Reading Hospital in Pennsylvania, effective October 9, 2018. Mr. Jennings joined Bridgeport Hospital in 2010 and served concurrently as Executive Vice President of Yale New Haven Health.

In addition, Ryan O'Connell, MD, will serve as Interim Chief Medical Officer beginning in October. He has been Vice President of Performance and Risk Management for the last six years.

Dr. Ivy began his medical career in the U.S. Navy and joined Bridgeport Hospital more than 20 years ago as Chief of Trauma, Burns and Surgical Critical Care. In 2007, he became Vice President of Performance and Risk Management.

Dr. O'Connell earned his medical degree from New York University and completed an Internal Medicine residency and Medical Informatics fellowship at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was a primary care physician before joining Bridgeport Hospital to lead medical informatics initiatives. He has also been a member of the hospital medicine team, and most recently cared for patients in the primary care clinic.



## 15 Cases of West Nile Virus Identified in Connecticut

The number of human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Connecticut has grown to 15 after the state Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that nine additional residents have tested positive over the past two weeks.

The patients range in age from 40-70+, and six required hospitalization, according to DPH. Two patients are from Bridgeport, along with one each from Danbury, Durham, Norwalk, Stamford, Southington, Thompson and Westbrook.

"It is very unusual for us to have this many people seriously ill with West Nile Virus infection in September," said DPH Commissioner Dr. Raul Pino. "More warm weather is forecast for this weekend and many Connecticut residents will be outdoors enjoying the state's country fairs, family gatherings, and other events, especially in the early evening when mosquitoes are most active. Please take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. West Nile Virus infection is preventable."

West Nile Virus has been detected in the state every year since 1999. Before 2018, 134 human cases of West Nile Virus were diagnosed in Connecticut residents, including three fatalities. Last year, three Connecticut residents were diagnosed with the infection. For more information on West Nile Virus human cases in Connecticut, [click here.](#)

## ChimeNet Shares Technology Update

ChimeNet was among the presenters at the quarterly meeting of Hamden-based Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) Regional Technology Council.  ACES has been a ChimeNet client for more than 10 years.

Senior Account Executive Tim Poler provided technology coordinators, technology leaders, and library media specialists from schools and districts in the ACES region with an update on ChimeNet products and solutions.

ChimeNet, the technology affiliate of the Connecticut Hospital Association, is a premiere data networking Managed Services Provider offering innovative information technology solutions with around-the-clock support. ChimeNet provides Cloud, Co-location, Business Connectivity, Managed IT, Managed Wireless, and Network Security solutions to meet a wide range of business technology needs.

## Education Updates

**HIIN: Improving Health Equity: Bias and the Impact on Disparities in Health Outcomes**
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Celebrating its seventh anniversary, CHA will host *Improving Health Equity: Bias and the Impact on Disparities in Health Outcomes*, an inspiring and informative health equity symposium focused on bias and its impact on disparities in health outcomes.

This year's symposium features a keynote by David R. Williams, PhD, the Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies and Sociology at Harvard University.  Dr. Williams served on the faculty of Yale University for six years and 14 at the University of Michigan.  He holds an MPH from Loma Linda University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.  Dr. Williams is an internationally recognized social scientist focused on social influences on health.

The symposium also includes presentations by: Dorothy Roberts, Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor and the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology, the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, and Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania; and Michael S. Brownstein, PhD, Associate Professor of Philosophy, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY).  There will also be a panel discussion on healthcare experiences in the Latino, African American/Black, and LGBTQ communities.

Continuing education credits are available.

The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.

**Create a Safer Hospital Initiative at Your Hospital**
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Event Registration

Utilizing the principles of high reliability, participants will learn strategies and tools to enhance worker safety, minimize workplace violence, and facilitate the adoption of peer-to-peer support programs for healthcare workers and team members.

**Designing the Healthcare-Community-Based Organization Connection of the Future**
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Event Registration

A key component of CHA's Statewide Collaborative to Address Social Determinants of Health is the development of a technological platform through which hospitals/healthcare providers and community-based organizations communicate to manage patients' social determinants of health related needs effectively.  This program will focus on designing the referral and communication process for the future.

**Safe Patient Handling Forum**
Thursday, October 25, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As part of the statewide Safer Hospitals Initiative, CHA, in partnership with PMA Companies, is hosting a *Safe Patient Handling Forum*.  This Board-driven initiative is focused on providing healthcare staff with strategies and practices to improve worker safety, minimize workplace violence, and facilitate the adoption of peer-to-peer support programs.

The Forum will feature data-driven best practices, industry standards, and new strategies for reducing patient handling injuries.  Attendees will have an opportunity to view and learn more about safe patient handling equipment currently on the market.

Continuing education credits are available.

**De-escalation Training**
Tuesday, October 30, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Event Registration

De-escalation training will equip participants with proven strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage.  CHA is approved by the Crisis Prevention Institute to provide an abridged version of its Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® foundation course using a blend of online and classroom learning to its members.  Participants will receive CPI's Blue Card™ confirmation.  The program includes approximately two hours of online pre-work and a pre-test.  Please note: the pre-work and pre-test must be completed prior to attending the classroom portion of the program at CHA.