



Thursday, October 3, 2019

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

In This Issue:

[St. Vincent's Medical Center Joins Hartford HealthCare](#)

[Deborah Weymouth Named New CEO of Eastern Connecticut Health Network](#)

[Members Participate in Second OSHA Safety Training](#)

[Law Raising the Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to 21 Takes Effect](#)

[Connecticut to Receive Federal Grant for Substance Use Disorder Programs](#)

[CHA Health Equity Symposium to Focus on Bias and the Impact on Disparities in Health Outcomes](#)

[Education Updates](#)

[Update Archives](#)

St. Vincent's Medical Center Joins Hartford HealthCare

On October 1, Hartford HealthCare completed the acquisition of substantially all of the assets of St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, and its related operations, from Ascension. During a special ceremony and celebration, employees and leaders noted the rich history of St. Vincent's in the greater Bridgeport area, and marked a significant milestone for its future.



"This is a historic day for St. Vincent's, Hartford HealthCare, and all the residents in the communities that we serve," said Jeffrey A. Flaks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hartford HealthCare. "Together we are dedicated to creating more ways for people to get and stay healthy — to live their healthiest lives through quality, compassion and greater access across our entire system of care."

With St. Vincent's, Hartford HealthCare now has more than 24,000 employees at its more than 350 locations across Connecticut.

Vincent DiBattista, President of Hartford HealthCare's new Fairfield Region, said Hartford HealthCare commits to improving access to physicians and health services, making investments in community-based programs, enhancing expertise in key clinical areas, and providing the best patient experience.

"We are honored to continue St. Vincent's faith-based mission of care. St. Vincent's brings a major presence in southwestern Connecticut to Hartford HealthCare, and Hartford HealthCare brings a wide range of resources to St. Vincent's," Mr. DiBattista said. "No matter how you look at it, the future is bright."

"St. Vincent's Medical Center has always been an important part of Fairfield County, and now it's an essential part of an integrated system of care," Mr. Flaks added.

Deborah Weymouth Named New CEO of Eastern Connecticut Health Network

Deborah Weymouth has been named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN).

Ms. Weymouth comes to ECHN from UMass Memorial Health Alliance-Clinton Hospital, in Massachusetts, where she served as President and CEO for the past five years. She has more than 28 years of executive leadership and healthcare experience in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York.

"I am pleased to welcome Deborah to ECHN and I am confident that she will be an outstanding addition to ECHN's leadership team," said Michael Collins, former CEO of ECHN, who retired on October 1. "I am especially pleased to hand over the leadership of ECHN to her at a time when our healthcare network is making significant strides in meeting our goal of providing our patients and community with the high-quality programs and services they need and deserve."

"I look forward to taking up this new challenge at ECHN," said Ms. Weymouth. "I'm excited at this opportunity to partner with our 3,000 employees and physicians, as well as with the leaders and residents of the communities we serve, to further ECHN's mission and build on the work that Michael and the talented ECHN leadership team have already accomplished."

Ms. Weymouth has worked with large health systems and directed operational and quality improvement programs for hospitals and services throughout the health continuum. She has served on the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Board, the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of North Central Massachusetts Board of Directors.

She received her bachelor's degree from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and earned her master's degree in business administration at Thunderbird Global Management School in Phoenix, Arizona. Ms. Weymouth also is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Members Participate in Second OSHA Safety Training

Members returned to CHA on Friday, September 27, for the second and final day of a workplace safety training program as part of CHA's [Safer Hospitals Initiative](#).

The *OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Outreach Training*, provided in conjunction with PMA Companies, focused on increasing healthcare workers' recognition, avoidance, and prevention of workplace hazards.

On the final day of training, participants received information about personal protective equipment, working in confined spaces, safe walking and working surfaces, performing an incident investigation, workstation and patient handling ergonomics, workplace violence, and bloodborne pathogens.

Hospital staff from employee safety, environment of care, workers' compensation, engineering, facilities, administration, clinical care, risk management, human resources, and others involved with safety programs at their facilities attended the program.

At the conclusion of the program, participants received a U.S. Department of Labor OSHA course completion card.



Law Raising the Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to 21 Takes Effect

Governor Ned Lamont, commissioners from four state agencies, and a bipartisan gathering of state legislators held a press conference heralding a new state law raising the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 that took effect on October 1. CHA and member hospitals and health systems provided testimony during the legislative session in support of the measure.

Over the last several years, 18 states have adopted laws raising the age to purchase tobacco products to 21. In addition to Connecticut, they include Arkansas, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. Additionally, nearly 500 municipalities throughout the country have adopted similar local ordinances.

The Administration estimates that the state is set to lose about \$6.3 million in annual tax revenue due to the implementation of the law; however, Governor Ned Lamont has said he feels that the health of young people needs to take priority. The biennial state budget that was adopted in June included adjustments to prepare for the revenue loss.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Renée Coleman-Mitchell said, "We know adolescent brains are particularly vulnerable to nicotine and nicotine addiction. This

new law will help support the Department of Public Health's ongoing effort to reduce nicotine and tobacco usage, especially among youth."



Connecticut to Receive Federal Grant for Substance Use Disorder Programs

Over the next 18 months, Connecticut will receive almost \$2.9 million from the federal government to increase the capacity of Medicaid providers to deliver substance use disorder treatments and recovery services.

The *Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act* grant, which is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will allow state agencies to complete a comprehensive assessment of the substance use disorder treatment and recovery needs of Medicaid patients, and develop a plan to meet those needs.

The latest funding comes on the heels of several other recently announced federal grants totaling more than \$21 million to address substance use disorder initiatives, including hiring peer navigators and training for recovery coaches.

In April, the CHA Board of Trustees endorsed the creation of a statewide initiative to expand the use of Recovery Coaches in Connecticut hospitals to address substance use disorders. In addition, every ED is participating in a state program making free Narcan® kits available to patients treated in an ED for an overdose or to those who may be at risk for an overdose. These efforts build on hospitals' longstanding commitment to stemming the tide of substance use disorders.

The state's Chief Medical Examiner has predicted the total number of accidental overdose deaths will rise to a record 1,088 after decreasing in 2018. In the first six months of this year, 544 people died of accidental drug overdoses. A total of 1,017 people died in 2018 of accidental overdoses, down 21 from 2017, when deaths peaked at 1,038. The number of fatal overdoses has nearly tripled since 2012, when 357 people died. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Connecticut ranks 9th in the country for opioid-related deaths.



CHA Health Equity Symposium to Focus on Bias and the Impact on Disparities in Health Outcomes

CHA's 8th annual [HIIN: 2019 Health Equity Collaborative Symposium: Bias and the Impact on Disparities in Health Outcomes](#) will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. Please register [here](#).

The day-long symposium will feature a keynote presentation from Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD, MPH, FAAP, the physician, scientist, and activist who uncovered the water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

Dr. Hanna-Attisha will deliver a personal account of her research and activism to identify, expose, and mitigate the effects of the Flint water crisis. Her story, from how she used science to prove that children in Flint were affected by high levels of lead to the aggressive backlash she faced after going public with her findings, will inspire participants to safeguard their communities.

Following Dr. Hanna-Attisha's keynote presentation, Jaymie Campbell, PhD, AccessMatters, will present a workshop on racial awareness and strategies to eliminate institutional racism. Through lecture, media, and experiential activities, participants will learn to recognize subtle, often unintentional negative racial messages, also known as microaggressions. Dr. Campbell will guide participants through the self-reflective process of evaluating how racial microaggressions impact maternal child health.

The program is aimed at healthcare leaders, including clinical and operational staff, social workers, and case managers from hospitals and community based organizations across Connecticut.

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

This conference has been approved for 5.0 continuing education units from AHIMA, 4.75 contact hours from ASHRM, 5.0 CEUs from AAPC, and is pending approval from NAHQ and HCCA for CCB credits.

Education Updates

HIIN: When Words and Actions Matter Most: Responding to Unexpected Harm

Thursday, October 17, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA is implementing a statewide disclosure, apology, and early resolution collaborative to promote transparency. This program will demonstrate best approaches and provide an opportunity to obtain hands-on practice.

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

Safe Patient Handling Forum

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

The *Safe Patient Handling Forum* is a full-day program offered in partnership with PMA Companies as part of CHA's statewide *Safer Hospitals Initiative*. The 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 in use at hospitals and available on the market.

Issue-Based Forum: FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness Health Sector Emergency Preparedness Training

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session is only offered to CHA members.

This day-long course is intended to assist healthcare providers and suppliers in achieving the four core emergency preparedness elements outlined in the September 2016 *CMS Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Rule*.

The course provides instruction, guided discussion, best practice tools, and resources to conduct a risk assessment; guidance on the development of an emergency plan, as well as associated policies and procedures; guidance on the creation of a communications plan; and best practices on the training and testing of the plans, policies, and procedures.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Thursday, November 7, 2019

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well one's problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended *Staff to Management: Starting the Transition* in March or last September, this is the second course in the two-part program and provides additional development for all managers—those who are new to the role and those who want to improve their skills.

Resiliency Training for Physicians

Thursday, November 7, 2019

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Physician burnout rates continue to rise at an alarming rate. On Monday, November 7, 2019, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the science behind burnout and effective strategies for combatting it.

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

Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact in the Workplace

Friday, November 8, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

Research has indicated that Emotional Quotient is an important leadership competency, and is essential to driving performance improvement -- beyond "book knowledge" alone. Understanding and improving personal and social competence will enable participants to develop new insights and key behaviors that improve organizational culture.

2019 Nurse Leadership Forum

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

Save the date for the 2019 *Nurse Leadership Forum*. This year's forum will focus on a range of issues impacting the transformation under way in healthcare, including a keynote presentation by author, researcher, and filmmaker Ron Galloway on *The Disrupters: How Amazon, Apple, CVS and Other Tech Companies Will Change Healthcare*.

Additional presentations will focus on dealing effectively with stressful situations and how best to develop an effective and engaged multi-generational workforce.

Lean Principles: Project Charter Preparation and Planning

Thursday, November 14, 2019

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

[Event Registration](#)

Lean principles and methodology are valuable in improving healthcare, but evidence shows that learning about the principles and methodology

is simply not enough. To get the desired results, the principles must be applied.

This program—a follow-up to CHA's two-part *Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare*—provides an overview of the methodology and tools needed for planning and implementing process improvement initiatives.

This is a “how to make it happen” session, and will explain (and provide examples of) the elements of an effective project charter, a pre-requisite to any successful improvement initiative. When properly prepared, the charter focuses the team on the business case, problems, objectives, outcomes, and is a major factor in preventing project scope creep.

Participants are asked to bring with them a process improvement opportunity currently under consideration at their facility, enabling them to create a draft charter as part of their actionable plan toward their process improvement initiative.

NOTE: This program is designed for those who attended CHA's Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare—or those with a basic understanding of Lean principles and familiarity with the terminology. Clinical leaders, operational managers, quality professionals, continuous improvement coordinators, and other change agents will benefit from learning this methodology to plan team oriented improvement initiatives.