First-of-its-Kind Event Highlights Transitions of Care

On October 3, 2012, the Collaboration of Care Work Group, along with members from CHA, the Connecticut Association for Home Care and Hospice (CAHCH), the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, LeadingAge Connecticut, and the Connecticut State Medical Society sponsored a first-of-its-kind event, “Striving for System Success – Handling the Handoff.” Seven representatives from across the healthcare continuum participated in a panel discussion that highlighted the steps, challenges, and regulatory requirements of transitioning patients from one care setting to another.

More than 100 representatives from hospitals, physicians offices, nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice, and access agencies attended the event, which was designed to provide information about the roles, rules, and regulations involved at each phase of the care continuum.

“This is a critical time for healthcare leaders across the continuum to come together and lead the discussion on transitions of care, not only because of changes due to healthcare reform but also, and especially, because it will improve the quality and continuity of care for patients,” said Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, CHA.

“Each of the panelists expressed unique perspectives and challenges, and shared the common goal of providing quality care for patients throughout the transition process,” said Deborah R. Hoyt, President and CEO of CAHCH. “The dialogue raised unique opportunities for further collaborative exploration, which will result in future educational opportunities,” Hoyt added.

Panel members shared the process of handling patients through the healthcare continuum. They identified the need for all providers to focus their efforts on accurate and timely communication of information. Participants acknowledged that this event helped make strides in the effort to improve communication and the quality of care provided to patients.

“The event was an excellent example of efforts to foster an integrated and person-centered system of healthcare that will enhance efficiency and provide a positive experience for healthcare consumers,” said Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut.

CHA Honored for Blood Stream Infection Collaborative

The Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine presented CHA with an honorary statuette for its work with Connecticut hospitals to reduce central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) through the “On the CUSP: Stop BSI” project.

Fourteen hospitals participating in the first cohort of the project, beginning in 2009, reduced their rate of CLABSIs by nearly 50 percent – from 1.99 infections to 1.05 infections per 1,000 central line days, according to CHA data.

This reduction in infections was achieved through an approach focused on evidence-based care for the insertion, maintenance, and timely removal of central lines, as well as implementation of the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) that includes tools, checklists, and communications that foster the sharing of experiences, best practices, and results.

Connecticut hospitals continue to make progress in decreasing CLABSI rates through the Partnership for Patients initiative.
On October 3, the State Board of Education appointed two hospital leaders to a new Technical Governing Board. CHA Board President Susan Davis, EdD, RN, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent’s Health Services, and Robert Trefry, former Chief Executive Officer of Bridgeport Hospital and former state-appointed Chair of Bridgeport Board of Education, are among the nine appointees.

The independent board, dedicated solely to the operation of technical high school governance, will direct system policies designed to tailor technical education programming to the needs of employers and better prepare graduates for employment. Public Act 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform, called for the Board’s creation.

Connecticut’s technical high school system currently operates 16 degree-granting technical high schools, one technical education center, and two aviation maintenance programs serving approximately 11,200 full-time high school and adult day students and 2,000 apprenticeship students.

High school students receive a college preparatory curriculum and earn a Connecticut high school diploma as well as a certificate in a specific trade.

CHA Offers Cross Cultural Training and Presents Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium

As part of the CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact, CHA is offering programs to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity.

On October 15, 2012, CHA presents the first of a four-part series: Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training. The program, designed and delivered by the Hispanic Health Council (HHC), establishes the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, and skills participants need to interact effectively with patients and clients of diverse backgrounds. This is your last chance to register – only a few open spots remain.

The program comprises four training sessions, each three hours in duration, delivered twice a week over a two-week period. Participants must attend all four sessions, and registration for the October 15 session will automatically register attendees for the entire program. The curriculum is highly interactive and will be limited to 20 participants. Clinical leaders, operational and administrative managers, and professional support staff are all encouraged to register.

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. The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc., is pending designation of this educational activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for physicians.

The program will be held on October 15, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Additional dates are October 17, October 22, and October 24. View the brochure here. Register for all four sessions here.

On October 23, 2012, high-profile speaker Bernice J. Washington, MBA, will deliver the keynote address at the October 23, 2012, Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium. The Symposium will present sessions on strategies and practices that hospitals can implement to achieve the goals of the collaborative.

Mrs. Washington, President and CEO of BJW Consulting Group, is a nationally acclaimed speaker, television and radio talk show commentator, and healthcare advocate. She has served as the Board Chair for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, as Vice Chair of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources, and as a member of the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board.

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The Symposium will be held on October 23, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. View the brochure [here](#). Register [here](#).

## Education Updates

### The Healthcare Environment
October 19, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Healthcare Environment, presented by George Mills, Director of Engineering at The Joint Commission, will include an update on trends related to hospital survey experiences and lessons learned, as well as general interpretations related to the healthcare environment. This program will also include discussion related to risk assessments associated with behavioral healthcare units, fire safety (including the Life Safety Code), and equipment management.

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View the brochure [here](#). Click [here](#) to register.

### Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
October 24, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that eliminates road blocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waiting times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion. Please note: this is a two-session program, the second session will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2012.

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View the brochure [here](#). Click [here](#) to register.

### 2012 Nurse Leadership Forum
October 26, 2012  8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CHA's annual Nurse Leadership Forum will include a keynote presentation on the future of healthcare by Carl Hammerschlag, MD, psychiatrist, author, and nationally acclaimed speaker. The Forum will also include presentations on the financial aspects of delivering care, improving community health and population health management through collaboration with primary care, and developing culturally competent leadership.

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View the brochure [here](#). Click [here](#) to register.

### OSHA Compliance: Is Your Organization Ready?
October 30, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Two compliance assistance specialists from local OSHA offices will share the most common hazards found in a hospital setting in a routine OSHA enforcement inspection, and what corrective measures an employer can take to eliminate safety and health hazards.

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 (2.25 Contact Hours). Compliance Certification Board (CCB) has approved this program for 2.7 Compliance Certification Board (CCB) Continuing Education Units. This program is pending approval for
contact hours of continuing education credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of ASHRM designations of Fellow (FASHRM) and Distinguished Fellow (DFASHRM) and towards Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM) renewal, by the National Association for Healthcare Quality for CPHQ CE credits, and of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc., is pending designation of this educational activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for physicians.

View the brochure here. Click here to register.