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CHA Works with State Agencies, FDA, and CDC to Address the Fungal Meningitis Outbreak

During the last two weeks, CHA has been working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Drug Control, State Department of Consumer Protection, to ensure a coordinated and swift response to a national outbreak of fungal meningitis among patients who received an injectable product purchased from or produced by the New England Compounding Center (NECC). As of October 3, 2012, NECC has voluntarily shut down. To learn more about the fungal meningitis outbreak, click [here](#).

CHA has been coordinating the distribution of important and up-to-date information to hospitals throughout the state. This morning, CHA hosted a conference call for member hospitals with officials from these state agencies to share information about recent developments.

The FDA is recommending that healthcare professionals and consumers not use any product that was produced by NECC at this time. In addition, the FDA requests that healthcare professionals retain and secure all remaining products purchased from NECC until the FDA provides further instructions regarding the disposition of these products. In addition, the FDA is advising regular checks to its [website](#) as the investigation continues. Click [here](#) to check the [FDA's list of recalled products related to the fungal meningitis outbreak](#).

Connecticut Hospitals Provide Testimony on Behavioral Health Prevention, Treatment, and Coverage



On Wednesday, October 17, Connecticut hospitals provided testimony before the Office of the Healthcare Advocate on issues impacting access, prevention, and coverage for behavioral health services in Connecticut. Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri held the informational hearing to gather information from consumers, providers, advocates, and invited guests about barriers to mental health and substance use prevention services, treatment, and coverage for needed services.

In his [testimony](#), Carl Schiessl, Director of Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, provided a statewide overview of the utilization of hospital inpatient units and emergency departments by Connecticut's residents seeking treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. Dr. Sabina Lim, Executive Director of the Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital, provided [testimony](#) that highlighted the day-to-day challenges the facility faces as an acute care provider of psychiatric services. Additionally, Dr. Lim highlighted the work that Yale-New Haven Hospital has engaged in to provide family and patient-centered care for those seeking psychiatric care. Kieran Delamere, LCSW, Western Connecticut Health Network, [testified](#) that the inadequate reimbursement rates and the lack of appropriate support and community services are barriers to appropriate services and care.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn) also testified at the hearing, calling for the U.S. Department of Labor to promulgate regulations supporting the federal *Mental Health Parity Act*, which will ensure that the congressional intent of the law is carried out.

Other testimony was given by private providers, consumers, and advocates. Among the topics focused on were: lack of an appropriate workforce, issues related to child and adolescent care, the lack of supportive and community-based care, and the denial of coverage for services by private payers.

The Office of the Healthcare Advocate is statutorily charged with helping consumers make informed decisions when selecting a health plan, helping them resolve problems with their health plans, and identifying and advocating on issues, trends, and problems that may require executive, regulatory, or legislative intervention.

CHA Submits Comments to the Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection on Air Quality



On October 11, CHA submitted comments to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) supporting amendments to proposed air quality regulations. Proposed by DEEP, the regulations provide an exemption to hospitals and other healthcare facilities, allowing them to use certain emergency engines under specified circumstances. For example, a healthcare facility may be permitted to use an emergency engine to meet standards for emergency electrical power systems of The Joint Commission or the National Fire Protection Association.

CHA noted that this exemption is another step in the right direction, eliminating the need for hospitals to have to reschedule the operation of an emergency engine for routine, scheduled testing, or maintenance on days with unhealthy air levels. CHA is urging the adoption of the DEEP regulations.

Several years ago, changes to federal and state environmental standards increased the number of unhealthy air days for the state of Connecticut by nearly half. Emergency engines are not allowed to be operated on days forecasted to have unhealthy ozone levels. When the environmental standard changes were first implemented, CHA successfully advocated for informal waivers with The Joint Commission and the Department of Public Health, accomplished through documentation practices, to assist hospitals in meeting their requirements for generator testing during the ozone season.

CHA Partners with Hispanic Health Council on Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training



Thirteen hospitals participated in the first two sessions of a four-module education program, which is designed to help members achieve the goal of addressing healthcare disparities by improving cultural competence in the delivery of care – a major element of the statewide CHA Diversity Collaborative: *From Intent to Impact*.

Participants were challenged to recognize that becoming culturally competent means more than learning about regulations and diverse cultures, but rather requires lifelong learning to examine attitudes, expand self awareness, and develop skills to treat each person and patient with respect and compassion. Participants explored personal beliefs, heritage and cultural values, the dimensions of diversity beyond ethnicity, race, and culture, and examined the source of health disparities, stereotyping, and responses to biases.

The remaining sessions will be held on October 22 and October 24, with a focus on socio-economic influences and their interface with health, and reducing barriers through effective communication and cultural brokering. CHA plans to repeat the program as one of multiple resources and educational offerings it will provide to help hospitals address this critical area.

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital One of Top Contenders for Pink Glove Dance



Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (L+M) is one of more than 260 hospitals, and the only hospital in Connecticut, seeking the title of national champion of the Pink Glove Dance Competition, sponsored by Medline. First prize is \$10,000, which L+M would donate to breast cancer research.

"We're representing Connecticut well," said Mike O'Farrell, L+M spokesperson. "We're confident we can bring victory to Connecticut. We just need help to make that happen!"

More than 400 L+M staffers – including 16 breast cancer survivors – were filmed in a music video set to the hit song "Evacuate the Dance Floor." The video was shot in more than 30 hospital departments, as well as around the main campus and on the beach on Pequot Avenue.

"It was a great experience to have so many employees – at all levels – come together to produce something fun," Mr. O'Farrell said. "And, more importantly, it is something that could have positive results for a very deserving cause."

If L+M wins the national competition, the prize money will be donated to The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation, a Connecticut non-profit organization that funds breast cancer research. Terri Brodeur, in fact, was born at L+M.

Designed by Medline to increase breast cancer awareness, the contest is located online at www.pinkglovedance.com. Voting is live until November 2.

To vote specifically for L+M, follow these instructions:

1. Go to www.pinkglovedance.com.
2. Select "start voting."
3. About halfway down, there is a drop-down menu that says "select an organization." Choose the letters L-M and then search for the L+M Hospital entry (it's on the third row down, far left side).
4. Once there, click VOTE.
5. It will then ask you to log in via Facebook. Please "like" the video on Facebook, too. Doing so will automatically post the "like" it in your

newsfeed and increase awareness.

"We appreciate the support of our hospital colleagues in Connecticut," Mr. O'Farrell said. "With everyone's help, we can work to provide a significant amount of funding to the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation."

Connecticut Hospitals Attend Healthcare Performance Improvement Safety Summit 2012

On October 9 and 10, Connecticut hospitals joined the more than 400 hospital representatives from across the country who attended the Healthcare Performance Improvement (HPI) Safety Summit 2012 in Marietta, Georgia. Connecticut hospitals are working with HPI on an ambitious statewide initiative to eliminate all cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety.

During the conference, Steve Kreiser, HPI Senior Consultant, and his colleagues shared their experiences improving reliability in nuclear power, transportation, and manufacturing, and described how to translate those experiences to healthcare. HPI has worked with more than 300 hospitals to achieve reductions in serious safety event rates of up to 90 percent. Additionally, meeting participants and speakers shared best practices, methods for engaging staff and leadership in error reduction, and leadership methods for performance reliability.

The initiative to eliminate all cause preventable harm in Connecticut, introduced in November 2011, was formally launched on March 23, 2012, at the CHA Annual Patient Safety Summit. Hospitals are working toward becoming High Reliability Organizations (HROs) – organizations that operate under high risk conditions but have decreased the probability of an accident by creating consistently reliable processes, making their systems ultra-safe.

Register Now: CHA Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium



Time and space are running out to join the CHA Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The event, marking the first year of CHA's statewide Diversity Collaborative, is a celebration of work being done in Connecticut hospitals to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, eliminate healthcare disparities, and increase supplier diversity.

The Symposium begins with a keynote address, *Delivering Results in a Culturally Diverse Healthcare Environment*, presented by Bernice J. Washington, MBA, President and CEO of BJW Consulting Group. During her presentation, she will explain the coaching that is necessary for hospitals, Boards, and healthcare administrators, clinicians, and other professionals to make the transition from a "Standard Culture" model to the "New Diverse" paradigm. Mrs. Washington will also share the skills and tools needed to improve performance, increase productivity, and enhance the patient experience of quality care.

Other speakers and topics for the day include:

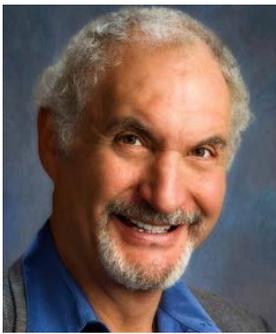
- *Diversity, Cultural Competence, and Equity: Our Story and Our Journey*, presented by Juana S. Slade, CDM, CCF, Director, Diversity and Language Services, AnMed. AnMed is one of the first systems in South Carolina to dedicate full-time resources to effective diversity management.
- *Culturally Competent Healthcare: Confronting Disparities and Achieving Equity*, presented by Alexander R. Green, MD, MPH, Associate Director, The Disparities Solutions Center, Massachusetts General Hospital; Senior Scientist, Institute for Health Policy; and Co-chair, Cross Cultural Care Committee, Harvard Medical School.
- *The Leader Challenge*, presented by Brenda H. Oneal and Carlton L. Oneal, Managing Partners at Light Speed, an executive consulting firm specializing in leadership dynamics.

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. This program is pending approval of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

View the brochure [here](#). Register [here](#).

Future of Healthcare Main Topic at Upcoming Nurse Leadership Forum

On Friday, October 26, Carl Hammerschlag, MD, psychiatrist, author, and nationally acclaimed speaker, will kick off CHA's 12th Annual Leadership Forum with a keynote presentation on the future of healthcare. Dr. Hammerschlag's presentation will focus on how healthcare in the future will be provided through innovative approaches – in schools, after-school programs, and community and senior centers designed to keep people healthy. Weaving the language of science with real stories, Dr. Hammerschlag will present a paradigm-shifting model of preventive healthcare that saves



billions of dollars, provides better care, and promotes the importance of sustaining connections and building community.

The Forum, which runs from 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., will also include presentations on improving community health and population health management through collaboration with primary care, developing culturally competent leadership, and nursing's role in transforming healthcare from a business perspective.

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.

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

Education Updates

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.

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.

