

Thursday, October 19, 2017

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)**In This Issue:****Lawmakers Remain in Talks to Resolve Budget Stalemate****Grant Awarded to Further Community Care Teams****Connecticut Joins Multistate Lawsuit Defending Affordable Care Act****Norwalk Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Enter Cancer Care Collaboration****California Hospital Association Establishes Fire Relief Fund****CHA Program Addresses Social Determinants of Health****Education Updates**[Update Archives](#)**Lawmakers Remain in Talks to Resolve Budget Stalemate**

Legislative leaders announced on October 18 that they have reached a tentative bipartisan agreement that would end the state's budget impasse and close a two-year \$3.5 billion deficit, but details of the plan still need to be resolved before it can be brought to a vote.

Connecticut has been without a budget since the start of the state fiscal year – July 1, 2017.

In a press conference following their closed-door negotiations on Wednesday, Republican and Democratic leaders said their plan resolves outstanding major issues but does not yet include details about municipal aid. They will meet in caucus with rank-and-file members of the House and Senate starting today (Thursday).

Governor Dannel Malloy also released his fourth budget proposal this week. The Governor's new proposal reduces spending and tax increases by making deeper cuts to town aid, education, and social services.

The Governor said he will reserve judgment about the latest legislative budget agreement until he sees it. He has indicated to the press that implementing the hospital agreement is not contingent on a settlement of all outstanding hospital issues, but must be part of a budget that he can agree to adopt.

If enacted, the hospital agreement would leverage federal dollars to help the state, hospitals, and the patients they serve.

Legislative leaders say they anticipate that next week would be the earliest a vote could occur on a budget.

**Grant Awarded to Further Community Care Teams**

The Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA), a quasi-public agency that issues tax-exempt bonds to healthcare organizations, educational and cultural institutions, and childcare organizations, has received the Urban Institute's Pay for Success Administrative Data (PFS-AD) grant, which is a training and technical assistance services grant. The grant, which was supported by CHA and Middlesex Hospital, will explore the feasibility of using social impact bonds to fund the establishment of community care teams (CCTs) in all Connecticut hospitals.

A social impact bond is a contract between an investor and a public agency, whereby the agency pays for measures intended to improve social outcomes in certain areas and passes on part of the savings achieved to investors. CCTs are teams of hospitals, community providers, and agencies that employ a wraparound approach to providing patient-centered care with the specific goal of reducing emergency department usage by adults with chronic medical, mental health, and addiction issues, which will ultimately lead to significant reductions in Medicaid costs.

The grant represents the culmination of efforts spearheaded by CHEFA, CHA, and Middlesex Hospital. These institutions, as well as the Department of Social Services, Beacon Health Options, and the Partnership for Strong Communities, will be involved in implementation over the next two years.

**Connecticut Joins Multistate Lawsuit Defending Affordable Care Act**

Connecticut has joined 17 other states and the District of Columbia in a lawsuit against the Trump administration concerning its decision to halt healthcare cost-sharing reduction (CSR) subsidy payments required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Governor Dannel Malloy and State Attorney General George Jepson said the administration's decision will jeopardize health coverage for more than six million Americans.

"Trumpcare is an unmitigated disaster for quality, affordable healthcare," said Governor Malloy. "President Trump continues to take deliberate steps to sabotage healthcare insurance markets throughout the nation.

That's why Connecticut is joining other states to take legal action and hopefully put an end to this administration's assault on access to affordable healthcare."

"President Trump cannot actually reform or improve our healthcare system, so instead he is seeking to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and healthcare in this country piece by piece, this time by ending the CSR payments," Attorney General Jepsen said. "Withholding these subsidies is a direct hit to many families who will see their healthcare costs rise – and, make no mistake, his action will significantly increase costs for many Connecticut consumers."

The ACA's mandatory cost-sharing reduction payments help working families access more affordable healthcare coverage by assisting individuals with annual incomes between \$11,880 and \$29,700 enroll in health plans with lower deductibles, copayments or coinsurance, reducing their out-of-pocket costs. Approximately 44,000 Connecticut residents benefit from the CSR deductions.

According to the Governor's office, the state Insurance Department has already approved rates for 2018 that assumed no CSR payments would be made, designing rates in a way that will make some Connecticut families eligible for tax credits that would offset the higher premiums. Many other Connecticut residents will not be eligible for those tax credits, however, and the federal government's decision to stop CSR payments for the remainder of this calendar year will harm Connecticut insurers who relied on those payments.

In addition to Connecticut, other states joining the lawsuit against the Trump administration are California, Delaware, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

## Norwalk Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Enter Cancer Care Collaboration

Norwalk Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) have announced [MSK Physicians at Norwalk Hospital](#), a new cancer care collaboration that will integrate MSK medical and radiation oncologists and care practices with the existing cancer program at the C. Anthony and Jean Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital.

This is a unique model of collaboration through which Norwalk Hospital's current team of oncologists, nurses, surgeons, and pathologists will be practicing alongside MSK doctors.

The innovative relationship between the cancer program at Norwalk Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering will give residents of Fairfield County accelerated access to the newest cancer treatment options in the comfort of their local community setting. Patients treated at Norwalk Hospital will remain Norwalk Hospital patients; additionally they will have access to MSK for more complex cases and hundreds of clinical trials.

As part of this collaboration, three Memorial Sloan Kettering experts have joined the Norwalk Hospital staff and will lead the medical oncology, radiation therapy, and medical physics cancer services at Norwalk Hospital. All six of Norwalk Hospital's current medical and radiation oncologists have also joined MSK's medical staff. These oncologists are well-known for their expertise in breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, and gynecologic cancer care. With support from the new relationship with MSK, they will now expand and deepen opportunities to treat a greater range of cancers. They will participate in MSK disease management teams and work closely with their MSK colleagues to share perspectives and best practices, all with the goal of providing cancer care tailored to the unique needs of each patient.

"Even though the majority of cancer care in the United States is delivered in the community, cancer care advances can sometimes take years to reach patients there," said Memorial Sloan Kettering medical oncologist Linda T. Vahdat, MD, MBA, who is the new Chief of Medical Oncology and Clinical Director of Cancer Services at Norwalk Hospital. "MSK Physicians at Norwalk Hospital aims to bridge this gap and ensure the best outcomes for Norwalk Hospital's patients by bringing leading medical and radiation oncology experts to Norwalk Hospital, implementing Memorial Sloan Kettering's clinical practice in medical oncology and radiation therapy, and maintaining an environment of consistent cancer care."

Dr. Vahdat will lead the comprehensive cancer program at Norwalk Hospital, including medical oncology. The radiation therapy practice will be led by Memorial Sloan Kettering radiation oncologist Daniel Shasha, MD. MSK's Hsiang-Chi (Gary) Kuo, PhD, will oversee medical physics, essential for delivering precise radiation therapy. Drs. Vahdat and Shasha will provide full-time patient care on site at Norwalk Hospital.

"We are very excited to enhance our cancer care program by having our exceptional oncologists formally collaborate with Memorial Sloan Kettering to provide the Fairfield County community access to a world-class team of physicians specializing in chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiation therapy — right here at Norwalk Hospital," said Michael Daglio, President of Norwalk Hospital.

"Part of Memorial Sloan Kettering's mission is to improve cancer care everywhere, not just within our walls, and to bring high-quality, personalized treatments to patients in their own communities," said Richard R. Barakat, MD, Director of MSK's Regional Care Network. "We expect Memorial Sloan Kettering's new relationship with Norwalk Hospital will help do exactly that for residents of Fairfield County."

## California Hospital Association Establishes Fire Relief Fund



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The California wildfires that have killed at least 41 people, destroyed more than 5,000 structures, and burned 213,000 acres over the last 10 days have also affected many of the hospital employees who worked around the clock to respond to the emergency effort.

The California Hospital Association and its regional partners have established a Hospital Workers' Fire Relief Fund to help the more than 100 hospital employees affected by the wildfires. All donations will be disbursed to hospitals that request assistance for their affected employees.

For more information or to donate, [click here](#).

## CHA Program Addresses Social Determinants of Health



On Thursday, November 2, 2017, CHA will host *Improving Health Equity: Addressing Social Determinants of Health*. The sixth annual health equity symposium will feature a keynote presentation by Rishi Manchanda, MD, MPH.

Dr. Manchanda, a physician, healthcare leader, and author of *The Upstream Doctors*, is an advocate and expert in improving care by addressing patients' health-related social needs. He is the Founder and President of HealthBegins, an enterprise that provides healthcare professionals and organizations with tools and methods to look for the social and environmental sources of patients' illness as part of their assessment and care. Dr. Manchanda will discuss how developing an "upstreamist" mindset will be critical to improving and transforming healthcare in the future.

Health equity is a component of the work CHA is doing with all Connecticut hospitals and healthcare systems to advance population health strategies through data analysis, care coordination, and health improvements across the care continuum. The work began in the 2011, when CHA launched a statewide Diversity

Collaborative to focus on three goals:

- Increase the diversity of hospital governance and senior management
- Increase cultural competence in the delivery of care
- Increase supplier diversity

Hospital teams began a regular process of sharing strategies and best practices, participated in educational sessions, webinars, and team conference calls, and developed policies, procedures, and education for all staff to work toward the goals.

As the work evolved, the focus on improving health equity has taken center stage and CHA has transitioned the original diversity initiative to a focus on health equity. CHA's work in health equity has recently expanded to include the creation of the Connecticut Social Health Initiative, which will assist hospitals and collaborating organizations to identify and address the social determinants of health for patients at the point of care.

The *Improving Health Equity: Addressing Social Determinants of Health* program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.

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

## Education Updates

### Surgical Fire Prevention, Suppression, Evacuation: What You Need to Know

Monday, October 30, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Consulting firm Russell Phillips & Associates will review surgical fire procedures and OSHA and TJC's requirements for a fire risk assessment program. Darren Osleger, Fire and Emergency Management Consultant, will discuss causes of surgical and special care fires, prevention strategies, and training programs for hospital staff.

### 2016 CMS Emergency Preparedness Standards and Designing a Hospital Emergency Management Program

Monday, October 30, 2017

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

Andrew McGuire, Fire & Emergency Management Consultant and Connecticut Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan Project Manager, Russell Phillips & Associates, will discuss best practices for designing infrastructure and specific disaster response and recovery plans, as well as the importance of training and testing these plans. Mr. McGuire will review the four core elements of the 2016 CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule: Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) and Mitigation Plan, Communications Plan, Recovery Plan/Continuity of Operations Tools, and Plan training and testing (training/exercises/drills).

### CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Friday, November 3, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

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

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside.

CHA's Nurse Preceptorship Program features a curriculum developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing, and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, and evaluating competence.

The program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

### **Creating Sustainability for High Reliability Organizations**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session is designed for drivers of change in the organization, and covers techniques to ensure the changes resulting from high reliability approaches are ongoing.

Medical, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

### **HRO Safety Coach Training**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts.

Medical, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

### **HRO Train-the-Trainer**

Thursday, November 9, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

The model for spreading the training to the rest of the staff is a train-the-trainer model. The training is scripted. It requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within the organization. Other hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of the training contingent. Train-the-trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices.

Medical, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.

### **Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?**

Monday, November 13, 2017

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

[View Brochure](#) | [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 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.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

### **Leading Through Change**

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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

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

The scope and pace of change in healthcare is unrelenting. Sarah Campbell Arnett, Manager of Organizational Change at Cone Health, will discuss the distinction between change and transition, as well as provide tools for effectively leading during these changing and challenging times. This workshop will blend didactic and experiential material, giving leaders practical tools to engage their employees in shaping organizational culture and achieving outcomes that drive operational excellence.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for details.

### **CHA Care Decisions Connecticut Conference**

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

The Care Decisions Connecticut conference will be held at the Frank H. Netter, MD, School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. Featuring a presentation by WNPR's Colin McEnroe, an author, playwright, professor, columnist, and blogger, the conference is designed

to raise awareness and provide an opportunity for people to discuss their healthcare wishes when facing serious illness.

The conference also includes a session by Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, BSN, MDiv, Advisor to Faith Communities for The Conversation Project at the Institute for Health Care Improvement. Rev. Lloyd organizes, educates, and supports clergy and congregations in having values-centered conversations with loved ones and healthcare providers about crucial end-of-life matters. Attendees will also have an opportunity to network with vendors who will answer questions and assist with end-of-life preparations.

### **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome**

Monday, November 20, 2017

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

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

Join us for a Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative conference at CHA on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). The conference will include a presentation by Brian T. Bateman, MD, MSc, Chief, Division of Obstetric Anesthesia, Department of Anesthesiology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, on the role of opiates in post-delivery pain relief. It will also include a presentation by Victoria A. Flanagan, RN, MS, Perinatal Outreach Educator, Regional Program for Women's and Children's Health, and Director of Operations, NNEPQIN, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, on Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's successful "One Mom at a Time" collaborative. The morning's agenda also includes a session on the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The afternoon will be spent working with hospital teams to develop their hospital-specific plans for treating this patient population.

Continuing education credits will be provided.

