CHA Diversity Collaborative Kickoff Symposium to be Held Next Week

It's not too late for CHA members to register for the October 25 Kickoff Symposium of the innovative CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact. Healthcare executives and community leaders from across Connecticut are scheduled to attend this day-long event, which launches the statewide CHA Diversity Collaborative.

Based on the highly-successful IHI clinical collaborative model, this multi-year initiative will:
- increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management,
- improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and
- increase supplier diversity.

The Kickoff Symposium begins with a keynote address by Roslyn Brock, Vice President of Advocacy and Government Relations, Bon Secours Health System in Maryland; Member, American Hospital Association Equity of Care Committee; and Chairman of the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Her address, Changing Systemic Imbalances in Healthcare Delivery, draws on her 25 years of leadership and advocacy in healthcare and in the NAACP.

Click here for information on other distinguished speakers and session topics.

The CHA Diversity Collaborative is sponsored by Premier Sponsor Aegis Group and Program Sponsor Wiggin and Dana.

CHA 2011 Nurse Leadership Forum a Success

Nearly 150 healthcare executives from across Connecticut participated in CHA’s 11th Annual Nurse Leadership Forum on October 13. Participants heard from nationally-recognized speakers about leadership, the essential ingredient to transforming organizational culture to meet the demands of the rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

The Heart of Leadership: Transformational Leadership in Action
Barbara Balik, RN, MS, EdD
Principal of Common Fire Healthcare Consulting, and Senior Faculty for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement

The Symposium, provided at no cost to CHA members and invited guests, will begin at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and registration; the program will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Click here for program brochure and registration information.
There was a flurry of activity at the State Capitol today as the Governor and members of the Legislature prepare for the October 26 legislative special session, which is focused on jobs. The Commerce and Labor Committee held an informational forum on jobs, with presentations by Tim Bannon, Governor Malloy’s Chief of Staff, and Catherine Smith, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Bannon shared a presentation outlining the items contained within the bi-partisan Jobs Special Session legislative package, which was released by Governor Malloy today, and Ms. Smith provided an overview of the recent job tours and noted that the just-released jobs legislative package was to be considered a draft since work continues on refining the provisions. The Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee also held a hearing today on the Jackson Laboratory’s proposal to create a new research institute in Connecticut. Among the key questions raised about this proposal were the level of the State’s financial commitment and the lab’s commitment to growing jobs in the state. The day ended with a joint public hearing where members of the public offered praise for a bi-partisan approach to jump-starting the Connecticut’s economy, and provided comments on wide ranging issues related to the upcoming jobs session, protection of Connecticut workers, and strong state oversight of tax and financial incentive.

At today’s meeting of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange Board, the Board members were updated on activities to date and provided with the schedule of anticipated deliverables. A copy of the presentation given by Tia Cintron, Under
Secretary, Health Care Reform, Office of Policy and Management, is available here. Among the items discussed were the progress being made on the various tasks assigned to the working groups, which is being led by the consulting group, Mercer; the establishment of an Interagency Exchange Group to review all federal requirements and regulations, including integrating the state's Exchange benefits with the federal Essential Health Benefit package for ultimate approval by the legislature; the selection of a law firm for establishing the Exchange as a quasi-public agency; the process for recruiting and hiring a CEO by February; the selection of a Consumer Outreach vendor contract shortly to aggregate stakeholder input; and an RFI and vendor fair to allow potential vendors, in a neutral setting, the ability to showcase their services such as enrollment, eligibility determination, support system call centers, and COBRA administration.

During the Exchange meeting a group of consumer advocates conducted a silent protest in opposition to what they claim is an Exchange Board without any consumer representation. Organized by the Universal Health Care Foundation, the protesters are asking for the Board to be expanded to include a consumer advocate.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for November 17.

Education Updates

Root Cause Analysis—Identifying and Fixing Problems  Monday, October 24, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities spend considerable time improving processes and investigating adverse events and near miss incidents, yet repeat events still happen. Why? Because often process changes are not directed at the root causes and latent failures that set people up to make mistakes. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is a proven tool for building a culture of safety to replace a culture of blame. This program is designed for participants to gain critical skills for uncovering and fixing the underlying causes of adverse patient events. It will be a workshop, not a theoretical discussion or general overview of RCA; you'll learn how to employ practical incident investigation tools that can immediately be put to use to improve performance in your organization.

Co-sponsored with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, this program is presented by Patrice L. Spath, a Healthcare Quality Specialist, teacher, and author, who over the last 25 years has presented more than 300 training programs on quality improvement, case management, outcomes management, and patient safety improvement topics for hospitals and healthcare organizations, including past programs at CHA. She has also authored numerous books and journal articles on these subjects for the American Hospital Association, Health Administration Press, and the American Health Information Management Association.

This program is approved for 6.0 hours of Category II continuing education credit from the American College of Healthcare Executives, 6.0 CPHQ CE credits from the National Association for Healthcare Quality, and 6.0 contact hours for nurses.

For brochure, click here. To register, click here.

Save the Date: Fourth Learning Session of the Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative

Please save the date for the fifth learning session of the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative. Scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011, this session will feature presentations from regional and national experts on best practice strategies to improve transitions of care and reduce preventable hospital readmissions.

The keynote speaker will be Karen E. Joynt, MD, MPH from the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Department of Health Policy, Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Joynt will discuss her research on the study of hospital readmissions and share her findings on this complex and multifaceted subject.

Other program topics include one physician's experience in improving the care delivery process across the continuum of care, trialing an innovative hospitalist program model, and an update on recent health policy changes. The learning session will be open to participating teams and other members of the hospital community. For more information please contact CHA Education Services at educationservices@chime.org.