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Connecticut Hospitals Respond to the Opioid Crisis



CHA, along with the Connecticut Poison Control Center and Department of Public Health, provided the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council with an update of measures and programs that have been implemented in Connecticut hospitals in response to the opioid crisis at the Council's October 16 meeting in Hartford.

Over the past year, Connecticut hospitals and health systems have introduced the use of recovery coaches in emergency departments to assist people who are admitted with opioid overdose and other alcohol- or drug-related medical emergencies and connect them with substance use disorder treatment and services. Also, hospitals and health systems have adopted voluntary opioid prescribing guidelines, which include limiting the quantity of opioids prescribed, prescribing alternates to long-acting opioids, and promoting coordination of prescribed opioids.

"We're doing as much as we can to get the solutions into the hands of patients and their families before tragedy occurs," said Carl Schiessl, CHA's Director of Regulatory Advocacy.

In addition, Connecticut hospitals are helping to get naloxone into the communities by facilitating donation of naloxone nasal spray to police departments, providing funding to supply communities with naloxone, prescribing naloxone inhalers to patients who overdose, and hosting free naloxone and opioid training sessions.

CHA also works, through the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC), on the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome initiative, which aims to improve the quality of care for mothers with substance use disorder and their babies.

In its most recent report, the CDC notes that Connecticut saw an increase in overdose deaths of approximately 6.6 percent from 2017, coming in second highest among New England states for overdose deaths.

To view the Council presentation, click [here](#).

Hartford Poised to Raise Legal Age to Buy Tobacco Products

On Monday, October 22, the Hartford City Council unanimously approved a city ordinance that increases the age to purchase tobacco products in the city from 18 to 21. Hartford is the first municipality in the state to increase the legal age to purchase tobacco.

Passage of the ordinance comes one week after city councilors held a public hearing - at which time Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, and Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center / Trinity Health Of New England, as well as CHA, [testified](#) in support of the proposal. Others testifying in support included several city residents, high school students, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association.

If signed by Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford would join other states and cities that have increased the age to purchase tobacco. Individuals must be 21 to purchase tobacco in New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, Portland (Maine), Albany (New York), and the two Kansas Cities (Missouri and Kansas), as well as in the states of Massachusetts, California, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, and Oregon. The mayor has seven days to take action on the passed ordinance.

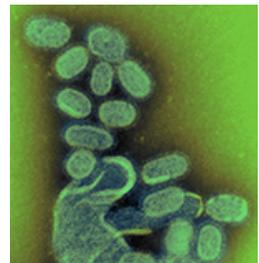
First Flu Virus Death of the Season in Connecticut

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has reported the first death in Connecticut from flu-associated illness, just weeks into the 2018-2019 season. DPH reports that the individual was more than 65 years old. Last year in Connecticut, 154 people died from complications from the flu.

In its weekly flu update, DPH notes that while flu activity is "sporadic," it has been increasing slowly over the past few weeks, with Influenza A viruses being reported as the predominant type circulating. Statewide emergency department (ED) visits attributed to the "fever/flu syndrome" are at 5.8 percent, which is above the level of 5 percent statewide, generally considered the minimum threshold when there are elevated influenza-associated ED visits.

Vaccination is a best practice for patient and healthcare worker safety. In 2011, the CHA Board adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory influenza vaccination for hospital personnel as part of CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety. To date, the vast majority of acute care CHA member hospitals in Connecticut have implemented a mandatory participation or mandatory vaccination program.

CHA is participating in the fifth-annual *United Against the Flu* campaign, which uses social media outreach to bring national attention to the need for flu vaccinations. The American Hospital Association is partnering with national healthcare, patient advocacy, and other like-minded organizations for a four-month campaign encouraging the public to get an influenza vaccination. The campaign will peak during the Center Disease Control and Prevention's National Influenza Vaccination Week, Dec. 2-8, 2018.



CHA Joins Trinity Health Of New England 61 Day Challenge



CHA has partnered with Trinity Health Of New England for its *61 Day Challenge*. The *61 Day Challenge* offers participants education about healthy eating, physical activity, and positive behavior changes.



Research shows most people gain roughly five pounds during the last two months of the year, with few ever shedding those added pounds in the New Year. The Trinity Health Of New England *61 Day Challenge* focuses specifically on the months of November and December, helping people prepare for the New Year in a healthy way.

Anyone can sign up online to participate and “take the pledge” to commit to eliminating soda, sweets, and cigarettes throughout the challenge. The *61 Day Challenge* also encourages movement and healthy choices. Participants will receive daily messages containing healthy living tips and educational information. For more information, or to sign up, click [here](#).

Save The Date - Nurse Leadership Forum: Tuesday, November 13, 2018

The *2018 Nurse Leadership Forum*, which will be held on Tuesday, November 13, will focus on issues impacting the transformation under way in healthcare, including strategies and practical tools to help nurse leaders not only survive but thrive in the constantly changing healthcare environment.

New York Times bestselling author, and star of MTV’s *The Buried Life*, Ben Nemtin will present the keynote address at this year’s Forum. Seeking to change the monotony of day-to-day life in college, Mr. Nemtin and his friends set out on a two-week road trip with a camera and a borrowed RV to complete a list of “100 things to do before you die.” For each item they accomplished on their list, they helped complete strangers cross something off their own list. Since then, Mr. Nemtin and his friends have crossed off nearly all 100 list items and they have encouraged millions to believe that anyone can achieve their dreams. His bucket list quest has taken him from the White House playing basketball with President Barack Obama (#95), to Oprah Winfrey’s couch (#61), to having a beer with Prince Harry in London (#82). Currently, Mr. Nemtin is crossing off #91: Make a Movie’, with *The Buried Life* feature documentary film set to release this year.



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

Education Updates

De-escalation Training

Tuesday, October 30, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA is approved by CPI to provide an abridged version of its Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® foundation course using a blend of online and classroom learning to its members. This program will provide attendees with CPI’s Blue Card™ confirmation. Included in this program is approximately **two hours of online pre-work and a pre-test**. *Please note:* the pre-work and pre-test must be completed prior to attending the classroom portion of the program at CHA.

HRO Leadership Method Training

Thursday, November 1, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Leadership Method Training is for organizations that are new to high reliability or for new management employees in organizations that are already on the high reliability journey. Both hospital and ambulatory organization leadership practices will be addressed. The leadership session is designed to teach hospital or ambulatory leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors. The sessions are structured for leaders at the manager level and above.

HRO Rounding to Influence

Friday, November 2, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

The program teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, mentor, and sustain high reliability habits and practices by interacting with front-line staff and medical staff.

HRO Safety Coach Training

Friday, November 2, 2018
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.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare

Monday, November 5, 2018
Monday, November 12, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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 improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait 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, participants should attend both sessions.

Create a Safer Hospital Initiative at Your Hospital

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Utilizing the principles of high reliability, participants will learn strategies and tools to enhance worker safety, minimize workplace violence, and facilitate the adoption of peer-to-peer support programs for healthcare workers and team members.

Hunger and Health in Connecticut

Thursday, November 8, 2018

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

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

CHA, in conjunction with the Connecticut Food Bank, will host a program on food insecurity. Connecticut Food Bank CEO Bernard Beaudreau will begin the program with an overview of hunger and food insecurity in Connecticut, drawing on the work of his organization in providing nutritious food to people in need through an extensive network of community-based food programs.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

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 your 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.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee

Thursday, November 15, 2018

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

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

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work. What is not so clear is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. How can people recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How can people reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?