On Tuesday, October 25, CHA officially launched the Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact with a kickoff Symposium attended by more than 150 healthcare professionals and community leaders. Informative and thought-provoking, the Symposium marked the first step of a multi-year, statewide initiative to meet three key goals: increasing diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improving cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increasing supplier diversity.

Christopher Dadlez, Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees and President and CEO of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, hosted the full-day event, and made clear his personal commitment and that of all CHA members to accept the challenge of eliminating health disparities and affirming the values of diversity and inclusion as strategic imperatives for Connecticut hospitals.

The event began with a compelling keynote address by Roslyn Brock, Chair of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP and Vice President of Advocacy and Government Relations for Bon Secours Health System in Maryland. She noted that she had come to Connecticut to “spark the conversation” for this long-term initiative, challenging hospitals, CHA, and all community members from across the state to work as partners in the long journey of addressing equity and diversity—noting “we have great disparities, which means we have many opportunities to fix the problems…you have the passion and the power—make the promise.”

Throughout the day, speakers provided participants with insights and new perspectives about cultural competence, inclusion, recruitment and retention, expanding supplier diversity, effectively communicating with multicultural communities, and the tools and resources available for strengthening the delivery of culturally-appropriate healthcare services. Based on the highly successful Institute for Healthcare Improvement clinical collaborative model, the Diversity Collaborative will engage hospital teams in regular, sustained education and best practice sharing—including webinars, educational sessions, and conference calls—on strategies and interventions for increasing diversity and improving cultural competence, utilizing metrics to measure and track progress toward the primary goal: improved patient care.
Governor Malloy to Sign Jobs Legislation This Evening

This evening, Governor Dannel P. Malloy is expected to sign one of two pieces of legislation passed yesterday during the General Assembly’s Special Session. The Governor’s office has indicated that he will sign the “Jobs Bill” that is aimed at creating and retaining jobs in the state. It has not yet been announced when he plans to sign the other bill, which is focused on providing incentives to allow the Jackson Laboratory to move to Connecticut.

The “Jobs Bill,” HB 6801, An Act Promoting Economic Growth And Job Creation In The State, was passed almost unanimously in both the House and Senate. It offers $701 million in state borrowing for a variety of programs, including job creation tax credits, manufacturing assistance, a small business express program, and job training. In addition and of special note, the bill broadens the options for establishing captive insurance companies in Connecticut and it establishes processes to accelerate state agency decisions on occupational licenses, including licenses to perform electrical work, plumbing and piping work, heating, cooling, and sheet metal work, elevator work, and fire protection sprinkler systems work.

SB 1401, An Act Establishing The Connecticut Bioscience Collaboration Program, also known as the “Jackson Labs Bill,” passed the House and Senate after debate on the financial underpinnings of the bill and the jobs expected to be created. The bill provides $291 million to Jackson Laboratory to build a 173,000 square foot research facility on the UCONN Health Center campus in Farmington. The lab is expected to partner with UCONN, Yale University, and other research and academic institutions in genomic medicine and other bioscience-related research.

The Governor will be joined at this evening’s signing of the “Jobs Bill” by Department of Economic & Community Development Commissioner Catherine Smith and a bipartisan group of legislative leadership, including Senator Williams, Speaker Donovan, Senator McKinney, Representative Cafero, Senator Looney and Representative Sharkey.

Connecticut Stop BSI Project Teams Celebrate Success, Stop CAUTI Initiative to Begin in November

This October, the CHA PSO celebrated the achievements of the Stop BSI project teams, which have been participating in the national Stop BSI project initiative since January 2009. Fourteen hospitals enrolled seventeen intensive care units (ICUs) that have been actively engaged in the national Stop BSI initiative, which is aimed at eliminating central line-associated infections (CLABSI) in ICU settings by standardizing processes around the insertion, maintenance and removal of central lines, and measurably improving the culture of safety on the participating unit utilizing the Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP). During the final meeting, the teams celebrated their accomplishments and reviewed tools that will assist them as they move into the sustainability and spread phases of their work. Melinda Sawyer, RN, project faculty from the Johns Hopkins Quality and Safety Research Group, congratulated the teams on their commitment to patient safety over the past two and half years and facilitated a session on best practices to sustain the improvements made.
Building on the successful Stop BSI project model, Connecticut hospitals are joining the national Stop CAUTI project, which is designed to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) by implementing evidence-based interventions and CUSP. Teams from Connecticut hospitals will begin their participation with a series of national conference calls beginning in November; the active portion of the project is scheduled to begin in January 2012.

For more information on the project or to participate please contact Alison Hong, MD, hong@chime.org.

Education Updates


Two years and counting… is your hospital on its way to ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation by the October 1, 2013 deadline? Are you planning for the significant financial and clinical impact this will have on your organization? Do you have a strong inter-functional team and timeline in place to achieve “ICD-10 readiness”?

This four-part webinar series focuses on helping hospital leaders and their ICD-10 implementation leaders and teams understand and plan for the magnitude of the ICD-10 implementation, the financial and clinical impact of this transition on your hospital, and the challenges of on-time implementation.

Speakers for this webinar series include Andrea Clark, RHIA, CCS, CPC-H, president and founder of Health Revenue Assurance Associates (HRAA) and a past presenter at CHA, and Keith Siddel, MBA, PhD(c), Chief Marketing Officer at Health Revenue Assurance Associates, Inc. Ms. Clark, a nationally prominent health information management expert, will focus specifically on revenue integrity of outpatient coding and billing systems; charge capture; coding and billing; data transference, and outpatient compliance training services. Mr. Siddel has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare finance, information systems, operational, and compliance training expertise, which includes hospital-based and free standing day surgery sites, emergency room, hospital-based clinics, and ancillary diagnostic services areas.

For the series brochure, click here. To register, email educationservices@chime.org.
Getting to the Heart of Conflict—Skills for Healthy Conflict Management,
Monday, November 21, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in our 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 we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, will present this full-day, highly interactive program, frequently requested by supervisors and managers attending prior management development programs. Ms. Arnett, a Certified Coach, has worked in healthcare for almost 25 years. She is certified as a corporate coach through CoachU. Ms. Arnett is a colleague of Joan Evans who has also taught this program, and currently works as an Organizational Specialist at Cone Health in Greensboro, North Carolina. She facilitates executive leadership training and coaching for teams and individuals, and specializes in team development and conflict resolution.

For more information, click here. To register, click here.

Fifth Learning Session of the Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, Friday, November 4, 7:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

There’s still time to register for the fifth learning session of the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative. Scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011, 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.