State Legislators Elected To New Offices in Special Election

Municipal and Special Elections for Judge of Probate Courts were held across the state on Tuesday, November 7. Several current legislators sought new offices, including State Representative Laura Hoydick (R-Stratford) and State Representative David Baram (D-Bloomfield).

Rep. Hoydick was elected Mayor of the city of Stratford, and Rep. Baram was elected Judge of Probate, Tobacco Valley District Court.

Rep. Hoydick beat Democrat Stephanie Philips and unaffiliated candidate Sandra Zalik. She will succeed Mayor John Harkins, who announced in March that he would not seek re-election to a third term.

Rep. Hoydick serves as Ranking Member of the legislature’s Energy and Technology Committee, and as a member of the Banks, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, and Legislative Management Committees. Additionally, Rep. Hoydick serves in a leadership role as the Deputy House Republican Leader at Large.

First elected to the House from the 120th District in the March 2, 2010 Special Election, Rep Hoydick was most recently re-elected to a fifth term on November 8, 2016.

Rep. Baram won a Special Election to become the next Judge of Probate from the Tobacco Valley District Court. The Special Election was called to fill the anticipated retirement of the current judge, who is required to retire upon reaching the age of 70.

Rep. Baram, first elected to the 15th House District in a Special Election in 2009, currently serves as the House Chairman of the General Law Committee and as a member of the Judiciary and Banks committees. The 15th House District comprises the towns of Bloomfield and Windsor.

It is expected that both lawmakers will issue their resignations in the coming days. Under state law, the Governor is required to issue a Writ of Special Election within ten days of a vacancy in the General Assembly, and a special election must be held 46 days after its issuance.

Emergency Department Physicians Play Key Role at Opioid Symposium

At the Judicial Branch Opioid Symposium on November 3, Connecticut hospital emergency medicine physicians provided education and training for state employees on curbing the widespread use of opioids, as well as treatments for those with dependence and addiction.

The symposium, which was held at Gateway Community College in New Haven, featured a host of speakers, including a presentation on the impact of the opioid epidemic experienced by rural and urban hospitals by David Herr, MD, Chairman of the Emergency Department at Johnson Memorial Hospital, and Vivek Parwani, MD, Chairman of the Emergency Department at Yale New Haven Hospital. Their presentation was facilitated by Carl Schiessl, Director of Regulatory Advocacy, CHA.

In their presentation, the two doctors offered practical advice for judicial branch employees, including probation officers, court personnel, and support services staff. Dr. Herr noted that rural areas have the highest rate of opioid deaths, primarily due to longer transport times. Urban residents are more likely to have ready access to programs for treating people with opioid dependence, he said. Dr. Parwani highlighted the challenge of balancing clinical medical needs for pain management versus the risks of abusing pain-relieving medications.

Their presentation also featured an overview of the opioid epidemic in Connecticut, noting that the epidemic defies stereotypes for typical overdose victims in Connecticut because the majority of this population is male, white, and not homeless.

The symposium keynote speaker was Michael Saxe, MD, Chairman Emeritus of the Middlesex Hospital Emergency Department. Dr. Saxe led a discussion on the American opioid epidemic, and participated in a concluding panel.

Connecticut hospitals have been engaged for years in efforts to reduce inappropriate opioid use while ensuring patients have appropriate pain medication. CHA submitted testimony this year on legislation that will further the state’s efforts to combat the opioid crisis – PA 17-131, An Act Preventing Prescription Opioid Diversion And Abuse.

Among other things, the law increases data sharing among state agencies regarding opioid abuse and opioid overdose deaths, reduces the maximum opioid drug prescription for minors from seven days to five days, allows patients to file a voluntary non-opioid form in their
medical records indicating that they do not want to be prescribed or administered opioid drugs, and increases security of controlled substance prescriptions by requiring controlled substances to be prescribed electronically.

**UConn Health Collaborates with Duke for Brain Tumor Care**

UConn Health has formed a new clinical collaboration with Duke University to bring advanced brain tumor care to Connecticut patients.

In an effort to gain access to Duke’s world-renowned Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center (PRTBTC), the UConn Health Division of Neurosurgery is collaborating with Duke’s PRTBTC for the co-management of UConn Health’s brain tumor patients.

This relationship will provide UConn Health brain tumor patients access to very specialized brain tumor treatments available at Duke. UConn Health and Duke envision brain tumor services to be provided by the neurosurgery team led by Ketan R. Bulsara, MD, with evaluation for additional treatments by the PRTBTC team led by Henry S. Friedman, MD.

“Consistent with the personalized care goals of UConn Health, the collaboration with The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke will provide the residents of Connecticut and beyond access to novel and potentially lifesaving clinical treatments in collaboration with the premier brain tumor center in the world,” said Dr. Bulsara, UConn Health’s Chief of Neurosurgery.

“When it comes to patient care, especially the challenging treatment of brain tumors, medicine and science should know no boundaries or borders,” said Andy Agwunobi, MD, CEO of UConn Health and UConn John Dempsey Hospital. “Excellence always finds excellence. I am pleased to see Dr. Ketan Bulsara and our skilled neurosurgery team going the extra miles to bring nothing but the best to Connecticut’s patients.”

**Care Decisions Connecticut Conference to Feature Colin McEnroe**

WNPR’s Colin McEnroe will headline the Care Decisions Connecticut conference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University.

The event, which begins at 11:00 a.m., is free and open to the public, with pre-registration.

Care Decisions Connecticut is a statewide movement that aims to empower people to take an active role in healthcare decision making, beginning with conversations about the kind of end-of-life care they wish to receive.

Mr. McEnroe will be sharing personal stories about the different ways people approach the end of life. In addition to Mr. McEnroe, Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, BSN, MDiv, will discuss the importance of having value-centered conversations about end-of-life decisions with loved ones and healthcare providers. Rev. Lloyd is Advisor to Faith Communities for The Conversation Project at the Institute for Health Care Improvement. Additionally, the Honorable John J. McGrath Jr., judge of the Windham-Colchester probate district in Willimantic, will join Mr. McEnroe and Rev. Lloyd for the question-and-answer session.

The event is designed to raise awareness about end-of-life care planning and encourage people to discuss their healthcare wishes with their families and healthcare providers.

Care Decisions Connecticut, which includes representatives from hospitals, state agencies, insurance companies, as well as long-term, home, hospice, and palliative care, aims to increase public knowledge and awareness about advance care planning, and implement best practices for providers across Connecticut. It is led by Co-chairpersons Adam Silverman, MD, Chief Population Health Officer, Trinity Health Of New England; and Karen Mulvihill, DNP, APRN, WCHN Network Director of Palliative Care.

The program, which will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., is sponsored by the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home.

**CHA to Host Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Conference**

CHA will host a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) conference on Monday, November 20, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The conference will feature a keynote presentation on the role of opioid use during and after pregnancy, presented by Brian Bateman, MD, MSc, Chief, Division of Obstetric Anesthesia, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School.

NAS is a drug withdrawal syndrome in infants exposed to opioids in utero. The number of NAS hospitalizations has more than doubled in Connecticut from 2003-2014. The NAS initiative was developed to decrease risk of substance use disorder in reproductive-age women and improve care of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome. The conference is co-sponsored by the CHA’s Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC), which works to promote high quality maternal and newborn care across the continuum.

The conference will also include a presentation on Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center’s successful “One Mom at a Time” collaborative and Connecticut’s Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) legislation. The afternoon will begin with a presentation on sudden unexpected postnatal collapse.
Christopher Morosky, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UConn John Dempsey Hospital and University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and Co-Chairperson of the CPQC, will discuss CPQC initiatives. These include the 17-OH Progesterone initiative, which is intended to prevent recurrent preterm deliveries and the use of low dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia, and the Improving kNowledge to Decrease Early Elective Deliveries (INDEED) initiative to reduce the rate of early elective deliveries in Connecticut.

The afternoon will also include hospital presentations on their NAS work. Ilana Waynik, MD, Associate Director, Clinical Pathways Program, Assistant Professor Pediatrics, Division of Hospital Medicine, Connecticut Children’s Specialty Group, and Matthew Grossman, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine, Quality and Safety Officer, Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital, will lead the discussion.

View Brochure | Event Registration

**Education Updates**

**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.

**HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Training**
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
[Event Registration]

This two-day session will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 5 and December 6, 2017. Cause analysis teaches staff how to evaluate events, patterns of events, and causes of events, and then helps staff ascertain how to implement solutions. The sessions are for quality, safety, risk management, and other staff who respond to events.

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

**Lean Principles: Project Charter Preparation and Planning**
Thursday, December 7, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
[View Brochure] | [Event Registration]

Lean principles and methodology are valuable in improving healthcare, but evidence shows that learning about the principles and methodology is simply not enough. To get the desired results, the principles must be applied. This program—a follow-up to CHA’s two-part Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare—provides an overview of the methodology and tools needed for planning process improvement initiatives in your organization.

This is a “how to make it happen session” and will explain (and provide examples of) the elements of an effective project charter, a prerequisite to any successful improvement initiative. When properly prepared, the charter focuses the team on the business case, problems, objectives, and outcomes, and is a major factor in preventing project scope creep. Participants are asked to bring with them a process improvement opportunity currently under consideration at their facility, enabling them to create a draft charter as part of their actionable plan toward their process improvement initiative.

NOTE: This program is designed for those who attended CHA’s Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare—or those with a basic understanding of Lean principles and familiarity with the terminology. Clinical leaders, operational managers, continuous improvement coordinators, and other change agents will benefit from learning this methodology to plan team oriented improvement initiatives.

**HIIN: An Introduction to Microsystems: Change at the Unit Level**
Friday, December 8, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
[View Brochure] | [Event Registration]

Change is hard, and getting multiple people to adopt evidence-based models of care in healthcare has been shown to take 17 years, according to the National Academy of Medicine. But there is evidence that supports models of change. Join national speakers as they discuss how to use personality types, team models, and new processes to create and sustain change at the unit level.
The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.

**Changes in CPT/HCPCS for 2018**  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

CPT and HCPCS codes are the primary codes describing individual hospital services that are billed to all payers. These code sets are revised annually with codes that are added, deleted, or revised. This workshop will provide analysis of all CPT changes, including the 176 new, 60 revised, and 82 deleted 2018 CPT codes—including significant changes to high-volume diagnostic imaging services. Additionally, the new evaluation and management services, including collaborative care management and anti-coagulation management, will be covered at this workshop, along with continued bundling of code pairs, analysis of every change by body system, plus radiology, lab, and medicine. The workshop will also include information on new services and procedures, new and revised coding guidelines, and all changes to the HCPCS code set, which is maintained by CMS.

Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines all the key code changes in 2018.

**OPPS Final Rule for 2018**  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2018. The 2018 OPPS Final Rule contains a major payment reduction for 340B discount drugs, significant changes to the Inpatient Only Procedure List, changes to packaging policies, including drug administration packaging, and restructuring of radiology and other APCs. This workshop will cover final payment rates and status indicators for new and existing codes. As always, billing compliance will be an important part of this presentation.

Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines all the key code changes in 2018.