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**Happy Thanksgiving - Thank You to Connecticut's Hospitals and Caregivers**

As Thanksgiving nears, we pause to celebrate our many blessings and offer our thanks to all those who care for Connecticut's patients. We are honored to support your efforts to improve the lives of patients. In recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday, *Update* will not be published next week. We wish you and your families a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

**CHA Receives Grant from Connecticut Health Foundation to Address Social Determinants of Health**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation to create a Connecticut Social Health Initiative (CT-SoHI), which will focus on addressing social determinants of health that exacerbate healthcare disparities.

"We are grateful for the support of the Connecticut Health Foundation as we continue our work together to improve health equity," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Through the Connecticut Social Health Initiative, we will collaborate to address the social determinants that negatively affect health outcomes."

The CT-SoHI will provide support for hospitals and collaborating organizations to identify and address the social determinants of health for patients at the point of care. Key objectives of the initiative include the creation of a broad-based advisory group, which will include experts in community health, population health, and advocacy; training for healthcare providers on social determinants of health, as well as clinical-community linkage models to improve health outcomes; and the creation of a data collection and performance tracking tool.

The Connecticut Health Foundation previously supported CHA's Connecticut Asthma Initiative, which was created to improve access and appropriate care by partnering with the community, reduce asthma hospitalizations and ED visits, and significantly advance progress toward health equity for asthma care and outcomes.

The Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) is the state's largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in 1999, the Foundation has supported innovative grantmaking, public policy research technical assistance, and convening to achieve its mission – to improve the health of the people of Connecticut. Over the past 17 years, CT Health has awarded grants totaling close to \$59 million in 45 cities and towns throughout the state.

**CHA's Senior Director of Population Health Presents At Connecticut Public Health Association's 2016 Annual Meeting**

Elizabeth Beaudin, RN, PhD, Senior Director of Population Health at the Connecticut Hospital Association, participated in a panel entitled "Bridging the Gap Between Community and Healthcare" during the Connecticut Public Health Association's 2016 Annual Meeting and Centennial Celebration in New Haven on November 10,

2016.

Dr. Beaudin gave a presentation on the clinical and community collaborations that are the foundation of the Connecticut Asthma Initiative (CAI), which began in 2015 and involves a broad-based group of more than 200 people from 62 organizations across the continuum of care – including hospitals, community organizations, commercial payers, state government and more – who are collaborating to improve asthma outcomes.

Components of the CAI have included a focus on staff training and patient teaching on the correct use of medications, the implementation of system-wide asthma ED discharge plans and asthma action plans, and the establishment of a "warm hand-off" from the ED to primary care providers. Dr. Beaudin also explained how the CAI has now turned its attention to the exploration of systems change to address social determinants as the next phase of its work.

Joining Dr. Beaudin on the panel were Bruce Gould, MD, FACP, Associate Dean for Primary Care at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and Luisa Casey, CHW, Southwestern Connecticut Area Health Education Center, who gave a presentation on the importance of community health workers; and Alycia Santilli, MSW, Director of the Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), and Sandy Bulmer, PhD, Dean of the School of Health and Human Services at SCSU, who spoke about how to leverage university-community partnerships to effect change.



The conference, *Back to the Future – 100 Years of Public Health in CT and Beyond!*, featured dozens of presentations on a wide range of issues, including healthy aging, approaches and topics related to regional health, the opioid epidemic, and infectious diseases. It marked the centennial anniversary of the Connecticut Public Health Association, which advocates for policies and programs on health promotion and disease prevention.

Representatives from Connecticut's hospitals were among the presenters, including Catherine Rees, MPH, Director of Community Benefit at Middlesex Hospital, and Matthew Raider, MD, Middlesex Hospital, who participated in a panel on geriatrics outreach and training; a team of nurses and practitioners from Hartford HealthCare who gave a presentation about the population health management model developed by the Connecticut Center for Healthy Aging; Jeryl Topalian, MS, Administrative Director of Planning at Western Connecticut Health Network, who participated in a panel examining cross-sector approaches to regional health; Nkemdilim Chi Anako, MPH, Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity at Saint Francis, who presented on the importance of language services to achieve health equity; Gina Smith, MA, CHES, Community Health Improvement Coordinator, Yale New Haven Health, who gave a presentation on the *Know Your Numbers* campaign; and Amber Butler, MPH, Lead Research Associate, Danbury Hospital, who participated in a panel examining collaborative efforts to address Lyme Disease prevention and education.

## State Senate and House Caucuses Elect Their Leaders



State Democratic and Republican caucuses met separately on November 10, 2016 and elected their leaders for the next two years. The Speaker and President Pro Tempore will be formally elected by the House and Senate after their respective members are sworn into office on the first day of the 2017 Legislative Session – January 4, 2017.

As expected, House Democrats elected Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin) as Speaker of the House. Representative Aresimowicz, an Education Coordinator for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council, previously served two terms as House Majority Leader.

Most recently, Rep. Aresimowicz participated in a healthcare conversation with CHA and its Collaboration of Care Partners. He provided his vision of leadership and partnership, saying, "I see all of you as partners in the legislation, and you should be partners in the process." He also praised hospital advocacy during the 2016 Legislative Session by saying, "The most e-mails I received during the last legislative session were all from your employees, and I think that made a difference. It gave legislators a sense of the scope of the problem."

House Democrats also elected Matthew Ritter (D-Hartford) as Majority Leader. Representative Ritter, an attorney and former member of the Hartford City Council, was first elected to the General Assembly in 2010 and represents the 1st House District. He previously served as Co-chairman of the Public Health Committee.

House Republicans reelected Representative Themis Klarides (R-Derby) to a second term as Minority Leader. Starting her tenth term in January, Rep. Klarides represents the 114th House District, which includes the towns of Woodbridge, Orange, and Derby. She has served on the Public Health Committee and is now leading an expanded House Republican caucus with 72 members.

Senate Democrats, who also caucused on November 10, reelected Martin M. Looney (D-New Haven) as Senate President Pro Tempore. Senator Looney, a member of the Senate since 1993, now enters his second term as the highest ranking Senator. Prior to his election as Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Looney served as Majority Leader.

Senator Bob Duff (D-Norwalk) was elected to serve a second term as Senate Majority Leader. Previously, Sen. Duff served as the Chairman of the Energy Committee, Vice Chairman of the Children's Committee, and as a member of the Appropriations and Regulations Review Committees.

The Senate Republican Caucus reelected Len Fasano (R-North Haven) and his deputy Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) to their respective positions as Minority Leader and Minority Leader Pro Tempore. Sen. Fasano was first elected in 2002; he has served as the Senate GOP leader since 2014 and as Minority Leader Pro Tempore prior to being elevated to the top leadership post. Sen. Witkos, a retired police officer, was first elected to the House in 2002, and was elected to the Senate in 2008.

## Education Updates

### HRO Cause Analysis - Two-Day Training

Session I: Monday, December 5, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session II: Tuesday, December 6, 2016

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

[Event Registration](#)

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.

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

**Overview of USP Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs—Handling in Healthcare Settings (for Quality Professionals and Infection Preventionists)**

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

This half-day program will provide a history and overview of the <800> standards. This session is intended for the accreditation, regulatory, and quality/infection prevention experts who oversee survey preparedness at hospitals, as well as anyone else who wants an introduction to the standards.

This training will be provided by Jennifer Osowiecki of Cox & Osowiecki, LLC, a Hartford law firm representing all levels of healthcare institutions and providers in regulatory, litigation, licensing, and business matters.

**Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training**

Session I: Wednesday, December 7, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session II: Wednesday, December 14, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

In partnership with the Hispanic Health Council and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, CHA is again pleased to offer Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training (CC&DIT)—a unique, comprehensive, and interactive program to achieve the goal of improving cultural competence in the delivery of care and addressing healthcare disparities.

The CC&DIT curriculum was developed in direct response to member requests for help in providing health equity education and is structured as a two-module program, each session five hours in duration—delivered once each week over a two-week period. Training content is based on current research that emphasizes the idea that cultural competence is not achieved through a single training event—but is a lifelong commitment to learning and professional skills development.

The program provides an opportunity for hospitals that have taken the *AHA #123for Equity Pledge to Act to Eliminate Healthcare Disparities* to meet the requirement for training staff in cultural competence.

**IG Boot Camp: From Principles to Practice**

Thursday, December 8, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Now, more than ever, education is important not only to move Information Governance (IG) forward, but also to lead the organizational effort. AHIMA's [IG Boot Camp](#) comprises six webinars and a one-day, hands-on, intense, exercise-based deep dive into the application of IG tools and resources to help participants create their organization's IG plan. Attendees will leave the boot camp with an understanding of the IG discipline, IG principles, competencies, tools, and an IG plan. It is recommended attendees complete the six webinars prior to the in-person boot camp.

**HIIN: Learning from PFACs in Other Settings**

Thursday, December 15, 2016

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

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

Please join CHA and its second annual Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) Conference. This year's conference is focused on learning from PFACs in non-hospital settings, and co-sponsored with Qualidigm, the Connecticut Partnership for Patient Safety, and the Connecticut Center for Patient Safety.

Morning sessions will include information on statewide and regional models and strategies for implementation from colleagues in North Carolina and from Qualidigm, and practices shared by the Connecticut State Ombudsperson for skilled nursing facilities, as well as by residential councils in long-term care settings. The afternoon will include a workshop conducted by patient safety advocate Randi Oster and her team, and will highlight innovative practices that support a patient-directed care strategy and methods for ensuring that patient-centric care resonates with all caregivers and providers.

The program is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.

**Changes in CPT/HCPCS for 2017**

Friday, December 16, 2016

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

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

CPT and HCPCS codes are the primary codes that describe 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 focus on the 148 new, 498 revised, and 81 deleted 2017 CPT codes—including major changes for moderate sedation, physical and occupational therapy, bundling of code pairs and laboratory drug tests (AGAIN). The workshop will also cover 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 2017.

**OPPS Final Rule for 2017**

Friday, December 16, 2016

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

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

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will soon be publishing the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2017. The 2017 OPPS Proposed Rule contains proposed implementation guidance of Section 603 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) related to provider based departments, expansion of C-APCs, consolidation and re-numbering of APCs, and changes to pass-through policies. This workshop will cover how these changes impact hospital reimbursement, and help to underscore the need for capturing all reportable costs. As always, billing compliance will be an important part of this presentation.

Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines the final changes for 2017.

