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## Happy Thanksgiving - Thank you to Connecticut's Hospitals and Caregivers

This Thanksgiving, we would like to express our thanks for the work hospitals and caregivers do each day to care for Connecticut residents. We are honored to have the opportunity to stand alongside you and support your efforts to improve the lives of patients, families, and communities. We would like to wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving. CHA Update will resume publication on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

## Governor Takes Action To Address FY 2015 Deficit



Earlier today, Budget Secretary Ben Barnes announced [a list](#) of \$54.6 million in rescissions from state agencies. The rescissions for Executive Branch agencies total \$47.8 million. Additionally, the Governor has asked Legislative leaders to cut \$900,000 from their budget and has asked the Judiciary to cut \$6 million.

Medicaid funding was not included in the rescissions. UCONN Health will experience a cut of \$1,348,865.

The cuts come one week after the Governor [announced](#) a projected budget shortfall of approximately \$90 million, and proposed actions to close the gap. The Governor has statutory authority to rescind up to 5% of any line item and 3% of any fund without seeking legislative changes to the state budget.

On Friday, Secretary Barnes will brief the General Assembly's Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees on budget projections for the next three years. Since last summer, nonpartisan analysts have been warning of a more than \$1.3 billion hole in the next state budget.

Next, the Malloy Administration and legislators will focus their attention on crafting the 2016-2017 two-year spending plan.

## CHA Hosts Forum on Behavioral Health Services Reimbursement



On November 18, more than 100 hospital employees attended a forum on reimbursement issues related to behavioral health services. Speakers included leaders from the Department of Social Services (DSS), ValueOptions Connecticut (VO), and the Community Health Network of Connecticut (CTCHN).

William Halsey, LCSW, MBA, Director of Integrated Care, DSS and Robert Zavoski, MD, Medical Director, DSS, discussed the implementation of the All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Group (APR-DRG) payment system, a methodology to modernize hospital reimbursement for health services. Ann Phelan, Vice President Clinical and Provider Support, ValueOptions Connecticut, and Annise Caro, Director of Inpatient and ED Utilization Management, CTCHN, shared data

collected by the organizations on patients with a need for medical detox. ValueOptions Connecticut also showcased a program to help hospitals make the transition from the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to the fifth edition (DSM-5).

This is another in a series of issue-based meetings that CHA is convening to foster the sharing of perspectives among multiple disciplines and departments. Individuals representing behavioral health, medical care, clinical care, nursing, utilization and case management, social work, health information management, patient accounts, quality improvement, and billing and reimbursement were encouraged to pose questions and express opinions and concerns to DSS and its administrative service organizations regarding these timely, important, and evolving issues impacting hospitals.

## Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro Fights for Ebola Funding in Washington



This week, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) released [a document](#) in support of President Obama's emergency Ebola funding request to Congress for \$6.18 billion to respond to the evolving crisis. Congress will debate the request, which includes \$4.64 billion for immediate response and \$1.54 billion for a Contingency Fund, over the next few weeks.

Last month, Congresswoman DeLauro led a CHA roundtable with 20 hospitals to discuss emergency preparedness needs. She acknowledged that this is a trying time for our hospital preparedness system, and said she is committed to fighting for resources those on the front lines need to confront all possible epidemics.

*Congressman Rosa DeLauro at CHA in October*

Meanwhile, Connecticut hospitals continue to work collaboratively on Ebola preparedness, participating in regular meetings and calls to coordinate approaches on issues ranging from pre-hospital care to screening protocols and PPE. Connecticut hospitals continue to work closely with DPH to ensure that efforts statewide are coordinated.

## Saint Francis Care Signs Letter of Intent With Smilow Cancer Hospital



Saint Francis Care, parent of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, has signed a Letter of Intent with Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven to explore a potential agreement to create an integrated oncology services program to serve the greater Hartford community.

This preliminary step allows the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven to explore an oncology services relationship that builds off of an existing partnership that has been collaborative and highly productive for many years. By combining the resources of two highly respected institutions, Smilow Cancer Hospital specialists will be able to provide expanded treatment options and research initiatives in collaboration with Saint Francis medical oncologists.

Teams from Saint Francis and Smilow Cancer Hospital will now begin the due diligence process to review policies, procedures, and practices with the goal of developing a definitive agreement. Specific terms of the Letter of Intent are confidential.

"Saint Francis will serve as the northern campus of Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center," said Thomas Lynch, MD, Director,

Yale Cancer Center; Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital. "This will mean that a full range of clinical trials will be available to patients in Hartford. Saint Francis doctors will join Smilow/Yale Disease programs. We will also bring the very latest clinical trial management, quality metrics, and molecular profiling."

"The current forces in the healthcare reform environment have created opportunities to make infrastructure, facility, and alliance investments to better serve our population," said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and CEO, Saint Francis. "We are taking progressive, innovative steps to capture opportunities such as this with Smilow Cancer Hospital that could create a model of integration and collaboration that will transform cancer care at state, regional, and even national levels. Consistent with our legacy of providing high-quality, low-cost clinical excellence, we are viewing this new strategic affiliation as an opportunity to capitalize on initiatives that are leading-edge, sustainable, and pioneer best-practice protocols. We are doing these things to ensure that we can continue to provide unmatched quality of care for generations to come, with a focus on amazing outcomes, delivered every day," added Mr. Dadlez.

Saint Francis treats more than 1,700 new cancer patients annually, providing disease-specific, specialized, multidisciplinary care. Saint Francis also offers access to numerous clinical research trials under the supervision of its medical oncologists.

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven operates 11 cancer care centers across the state. The care centers enable Smilow clinicians to deliver high quality healthcare to patients in ambulatory settings close to home. Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven is one of the most comprehensive cancer facilities in the country. It is affiliated with Yale Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center – one of only 41 in the nation and the only one in Connecticut with this designation.

### Marna Borgstrom Named Chair of the Coalition to Protect America's Health Care



The Coalition to Protect America's Health Care has selected Marna Borgstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer of Yale New Haven Health System, to serve as chair. In this role, Ms. Borgstrom will provide leadership on the Coalition's strategic direction and fundraising. Her term began this November. Ms. Borgstrom succeeds Jim Skogsbergh, President and CEO of Advocate Health Care, as chair.

Ms. Borgstrom began her career at the hospital 35 years ago and has served in her current role since 2005. Her varied roles have taken her from a post-graduate fellowship to various staff and management roles. She is the chair of the board of VHA and serves on the boards of CHA and the Healthcare Institute.

She has been the recipient of several awards recognizing her advocacy and community involvement. These include the American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award, the Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Award, and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Award.

Ms. Borgstrom is a graduate of Stanford University and received a master's of public health at the Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health.

The Coalition to Protect America's Health Care was created in 2000. It is a broad-based group of hospitals, businesses, and national, state, and local hospital associations dedicated to educating the public about issues affecting hospitals' financial situation and what this means for patients and their families.

### CHA Director, Legislators Honored at Domestic Violence Prevention Event



Carl Schiessi, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, was recognized by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) as a First 100 Plus Member of the Class of 2014. The honor recognizes male leaders working to improve the lives of domestic violence victims across Connecticut.

CCADV is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those organizations that serve them. Through CHA, Mr. Schiessi is working with CCADV to facilitate collaboration with healthcare providers and the development of best practices regarding identifying potential victims.

*(l-r) Former State Senator Mark Powers, Principal, Levin, Powers & Brennan, LLC; Kevin Hennessy, Vice Chair, CCADV Board of Directors; Joel Rudikoff, Deputy General Counsel, Senate Democrats, First 100 Plus, Class of 2014; Senate President-Elect Martin M. Looney, 2014 Recipient, CCADV Coalition Crusader Award; Senator-Elect Mae Flexor, 2012 Recipient, CCADV Coalition Crusader Award; Carl Schiessi, Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA, First 100 Plus, Class of 2014*

Senate President-Elect Martin M. Looney was the 2014 Recipient of the CCADV Coalition Crusader Award for his work to pass legislation to strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence. Senator-Elect Mae Flexor, the 2012 Recipient of the Crusader Award and an advocate for improving the lives of domestic violence victims, also attended the event.

### Education Updates

#### Coaching Skills to Improve Performance

Friday, December 5, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

What does it take for a manager to be an effective coach? Is there a difference between managing and coaching employees for improved performance? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging growth, providing constructive criticism, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

#### Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Monday, December 8, 2014

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

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

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is essential to continually step back to assess your knowledge of management practice and how well your critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills are keeping pace with the rapidly changing and challenging healthcare environment.

For those of you who attended the first program in our leadership development series—"Staff to Management: Starting the Transition" in or March or

October, and all managers who want to improve their skills and learn practical techniques for leading change initiatives, building team cohesiveness, coaching employees for better performance, and using time management strategies, this practical and interactive session will help you manage both the people and business components of your job more effectively.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

#### **Basics of Budgeting for Healthcare Managers**

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

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

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business financial training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and institutions.

This member-requested management development program provides managers with the skills and tools they need to prepare better budgets, identify problems and solutions, achieve the mission, and succeed in today's chaotic healthcare environment. Participants will gain a working knowledge of operating and capital budgets, as part of developing performance planning skills.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for more details.

#### **HRO Safety Coach Training**

Monday, December 15, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained 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.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

#### **HRO Fair and Just Accountability**

Monday, December 15, 2014

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This is a session for Human Resources Executives and anyone else who manages people. Fair and Just Accountability trains staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event, focusing on the behavior rather than the outcome.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

#### **HRO Ambulatory Kickoff**

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

[Event Registration](#)

As hospitals, to sustain our implementation of High Reliability, we need participation by our partners who take care of patients. High Reliability needs to be utilized at every point in the care continuum. Join us for this session to help us design the curriculum for ambulatory practices and long-term care. This session is open to High Reliability Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals

#### **Changes in CPT/HCPCS for 2015**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

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 go through annual revisions with codes that are added, deleted, or revised. This workshop will focus on the 266 new, 129 revised, and 147 deleted codes—including major changes by body system (significant changes to Lower GI coding), sweeping changes in Lab coding (many of which Medicare may not accept), and revisions to coding guidelines.

#### **OPPS Final Rule for 2015**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

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

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

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will publish the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2015 on or around November 1, 2014. The 2015 OPPS Proposed Rule contained implementation of comprehensive APCs and removal of device edits, a dramatic increase to the number of packaged services, and APC changes and payment rates. This workshop will cover how these changes impact hospital reimbursement and billing compliance.

