Happy Thanksgiving

CHA is thankful for the dedication of caregivers throughout Connecticut this Thanksgiving. Your tireless work improves the lives of patients and their families, and benefits the communities in which we all live. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work together with you to accomplish greater health for Connecticut residents.

Wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday. We will resume a normal publishing schedule for Update next Thursday.

CHA VP of Health Equity Gives Keynote Address at NAACP Banquet

Marie Spivey, EdD, RN, MPA, Vice President of Health Equity at CHA and Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, gave the keynote address at the Norwalk branch of the NAACP's 12th annual Freedom Fund Banquet on November 16.

Dr. Spivey discussed issues affecting the African American community, including healthcare and education. She encouraged people to focus on eliminating health inequities and overcoming health disparities.

“There is no time like the present for us to begin focusing on the goal of health equity – a goal that is not only consistent with the American promise of opportunity, but is in our long-term economic interest as well,” said Dr. Spivey.

She advised the community to develop a plan to collaborate and close the healthcare gap, thus making the population healthier and eliminating the many costs associated with providing care to a sicker, more disadvantaged population. Simultaneously, Dr. Spivey said that the community needed to focus on education and infrastructure that will improve health across the board.

“We know there is a direct relationship between education and health. Better educated individuals tend to be healthier. To make dramatic improvements in the health and welfare of our community, we must also plan how we will address housing, workplaces, the environment, recreational opportunities, and other social factors that influence and determine health and healthy outcomes.”

Community leaders were honored at the event. Marguerite Fuller, the first African American teacher in Norwalk public schools, received the Barbara Jean Edmonds Penn Memorial Award for Community Service. The Reverend J.P. Ball Award for Leadership was awarded to former Police Chief Harry W. Rilling.

Special Advisor to the Gov. on Health Reform and Dir. of the Office of Health Reform & Innovation to Depart Position

Jeanette DeJesús, Special Advisor to the Governor on Health Reform and Director of the Office of Health Reform & Innovation, will leave her position with the Malloy administration in January to become Senior Vice President of the Wheeler Clinic.

“For the past two years, Jeanette has worked closely with our administration on finding smart, strategic, and cost-effective ways to implement federal healthcare reform in Connecticut, with the goal of increasing affordability and access,” said Governor Dannel Malloy. “As a result, Connecticut has become one of the leading states in implementing these critical reforms, and we are committed to continue working with President Obama and our Congressional delegation to ensure that our state’s residents benefit from the increased coverage and savings that these new federal laws provide. Jeannette’s leadership and contributions helped guide our state to maximize these efforts. While we understand why she is seizing this new opportunity, her contributions to the state will long pay dividends.”

The Office of Health Reform & Innovation was established within the Office of the Lt. Governor and is responsible for coordinating the state’s approach to federal healthcare reform.

Ms. DeJesús previously served as a Vice President at CHA. We look forward to working with her in her new role at the Wheeler Clinic.

Education Updates

Medicare Update: Audit, Reimbursement, and Other Related Issues
Monday, November 26, 2012
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Representatives from the National Government Services, who serve as a Medicare contractor with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and representatives from the CMS Regional Office in Boston will be at CHA in Wallingford to discuss pertinent issues on Medicare audits and reimbursement.
OSHA Compliance: Is Your Organization Ready?
Thursday, November 29, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Two compliance assistance specialists from local OSHA offices will share the most common hazards found in a hospital setting in a routine OSHA enforcement inspection, and what corrective measures an employer can take to eliminate safety and health hazards.

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

Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training
Monday, December 10, 2012
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Monday, December 17, 2012
Wednesday, December 19, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

An important goal of the CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact is improving cultural competence in the delivery of care. Based on positive feedback from the first cohort of participants who completed this training in October, CHA is pleased to again present Cross Cultural and Diversity Inclusiveness Training, a program designed and delivered by the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) that establishes the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, and skills participants need to interact effectively with patients and clients of diverse backgrounds. Clinical leaders, operational and administrative managers, and professional support staff are all encouraged to register.

The program is structured to present four training sessions, each three hours in duration, delivered twice a week over a two week period. Participants must attend all four sessions. Registration for the December 10, 2012 session will automatically register attendees for the entire program.

The curriculum is highly interactive and will be limited to 20 participants. Because so many members have indicated strong interest, this is the second series being held at CHA; there is a possibility of adding more if supported by member interest.

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

View the brochure here. Register here.