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**Conference Focuses on Eliminating Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes**



The Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative (CPQC) held its third annual conference on November 19, with four guest speakers focusing on disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

CPQC Co-Chairperson Christopher Morosky, MD, Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology at UConn Health, opened the conference by noting that preventing premature birth continues to challenge physicians and scientists, and that a solution may come through other avenues such as addressing the social determinants of health affecting women.



Pediatrician Sarah Taylor, MD, Yale New Haven Hospital, spoke about eliminating disparities through education around the benefits of breastfeeding. She told the group of more than 90 participants that breastfeeding can improve maternal and infant outcomes. "Breastfeeding is the cornerstone of health equity," she said. "By starting with breastfeeding, we're going to see a benefit in other health outcomes. We have to find better ways to educate women during their pregnancy about the benefits to themselves and their babies, follow up on that education while they are in the hospital, and find ways to support their breastfeeding efforts post discharge."

Heather Burris, MD, MPH, Neonatologist, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, highlighted the social and environmental contributors to racial disparities in birth outcomes. In her research on epigenetics, she found that there are numerous contributing factors to birth outcomes – genetic, social, environmental, physical, lifestyle, access to healthcare, education, and economic.

Connecticut Department of Children and Families Deputy Commissioner Kristina Stevens discussed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the notification process that will be implemented when a baby is born after being prenatally exposed to alcohol or other drugs. She reinforced the collaborative effort required and detailed information regarding the Plan of Safe Care to address the needs of both the infant and parents.

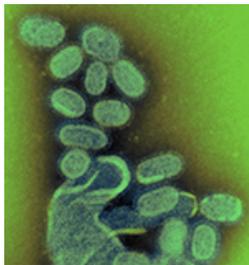
Through her research on maternal mortality, Andreea Creanga, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of International Health and Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University, has focused on severe morbidity measurement and assessment of the quality of obstetric care both domestically and internationally.

While maternal morbidity has declined worldwide, it has increased in the U.S., said Dr. Creanga. African American women in the U.S. are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related conditions, she said. She noted that there may be various reasons for the increase – the recent implementation of ICD 10 codes in the U.S., changes in reporting in medical records, disparities in care, and social determinants of health.



CPQC Co-Chairperson Marilyn R. Sanders, MD, Attending Neonatologist at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, thanked participants for attending and emphasized the importance of working collaboratively to improve mother and infant health outcomes.

**Flu in Connecticut Not Widespread**



Reports of outpatient visits for influenza-like illnesses are rising slightly in Connecticut, according to the Department of Public Health (DPH). However, outbreaks are still classified as "local," meaning the virus is not widespread. Next week, December 2-8, 2018, is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Influenza Vaccination Week.

Vaccination is a best practice for patient and healthcare worker safety. In 2011, the CHA Board adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory influenza vaccination for hospital personnel as part of CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety. To date, the vast majority of acute care CHA member hospitals in Connecticut have implemented a mandatory participation or mandatory vaccination program.

As of November 17, 124 people had tested positive for the flu — up from 100 the week before — and 44 had been hospitalized with the illness, according to DPH. There has been one flu-associated death this season.

CHA is participating in the fifth-annual United Against the Flu campaign, which uses social media outreach to bring national attention to the need for flu vaccinations. The American Hospital Association is partnering with national healthcare, patient advocacy, and other like-minded organizations for a four-month campaign encouraging the public to get an influenza vaccination.

**Connecticut Adds Fourth Level I Trauma Center**



This fall, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center was verified as a Level I Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). It becomes the fourth Level I Trauma Center in Connecticut, joining Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, and Yale New Haven Hospital.

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center was previously a verified Level II Trauma Center. To attain verification, the ACS conducts a rigorous onsite review and requires specific criteria be met in every trauma-related subspecialty. According to the ACS, a Level I Trauma Center is a comprehensive regional resource that is a tertiary care facility central to the trauma system. A Level I Trauma Center is capable of providing total care for every aspect of injury – from prevention through rehabilitation.

## Upcoming Financial Training Programs at CHA



In today's healthcare environment, resources are limited. Managers are challenged to get the most out of their budgeted resources and comply with budgetary constraints. The need for sound budget management tools is paramount. Managers must understand revenue and cost behavior, how to analyze their departmental performance, and how to modify performance to achieve their budgeted operational and financial objectives.

Throughout the year, CHA provides cost-effective, high-quality education programs designed to meet the ongoing and emerging needs of healthcare professionals. Next month, CHA is offering two finance-focused training programs presented by William Ward Jr.

[The Basics of Budgeting](#) will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018. The full-day CHA management development program, the first of a two-part series, provides managers with an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, and salary and supply budgets, as well as information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Part two of this program is planned for March 7, 2019.

The second program, [Healthcare Financial Management—an Overview](#), will be held on Friday, December 14, 2018. This program, targeted to those with limited exposure to financial management concepts, focuses on planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential for managers to achieve the institution's mission and financial results.

Mr. Ward has presented highly rated healthcare finance programs at CHA for several years. He is the director of the Master of Health Science in Health and Finance Management program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he teaches accounting and finance. In addition, he is a principal with Healthcare Management Resources, a Baltimore-area consulting firm. Mr. Ward is a former senior healthcare executive with more than 20 years' experience in healthcare finance and operations.

## Education Updates

### HRO Train-the-Trainer

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Connecticut hospitals and health systems have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of the training contingent to become High Reliability Organizations. Train-the-trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practice participants who are willing to make time to train others within the organization. Continuing education credits will be offered for this program.

### HRO Fair and Just Accountability

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

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

[Event Registration](#)

Designed for Human Resources executives and others who manage people, this session focuses on training staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event – to focus on the behavior rather than the outcome. Continuing education credits will be offered for this program.

### HRO Worker Safety and Worker Engagement

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

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

[Event Registration](#)

CHA's Committee on Patient Care Quality has endorsed worker safety and worker engagement as a priority in building a High Reliability Organization. This curriculum focuses on methods to incorporate worker safety into high reliability activity and help contribute to the sustainability model. Continuing education credits will be offered for this program.

### HIPAA Privacy, Security & Breach Rules: Keeping Current to Remain Compliant

Monday, December 10, 2018

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

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

This program will cover current HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules, with an emphasis on patient access rights, and emerging issues in cyber security, devices and technology issues, social media considerations, and the enforcement and liability risks for HIPAA-covered entities and business associates. Particular attention will be paid to recent case law and enforcement activities by the Office for Civil Rights. The program information includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a discussion of necessary policies and procedures, and practical tips and solutions to address real-life situations.