General Assembly to Meet in Special Session to Vote on Settlement Agreement

A Special Session will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, to allow members of the General Assembly to vote on the settlement agreement negotiated with the Lamont Administration, the Attorney General, and Connecticut hospitals. The Special Session is scheduled days after a public hearing before the Appropriations, Finance, Human Services, and Public Health Committees, which will be held on Friday, December 13, 2019.

If approved by the General Assembly, the settlement agreement will result in a withdrawal of all pending legal claims that hospitals filed against the state challenging the hospital tax and all of the rate appeals brought by hospitals challenging Medicaid payments.

The seven-year agreement represents a return of the hospital tax to its original purpose – a means to attract federal dollars to Connecticut without being a real net tax burden to hospitals. It is good for the state and good for hospitals, as it provides stability and predictability. The settlement eliminates $1.6 billion over the next seven years in real net tax burden to hospitals and attracts $4 billion in federal dollars for the general fund, while eliminating a $4 billion potential liability for the state.

The Connecticut Hospital Association urges legislators to pass both the settlement resolution and the accompanying legislation.

Marna Borgstrom Recognized by Modern Healthcare

Marna P. Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, has been recognized by Modern Healthcare on its list of 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare.

The award and recognition program honors individuals in healthcare who are deemed by their peers and the senior editors of Modern Healthcare to be the most influential individuals in the industry, in terms of leadership and impact.

Modern Healthcare noted that Ms. Borgstrom has been active in health policy. Earlier this year, the health system was awarded a contract to continue evolving the CMS hospital star rating program. The health system also recently announced a partnership with the Yale School of Medicine to launch Generations, a DNA sequencing project aimed at preventing and treating gene-related diseases.

Ms. Borgstrom has worked at Yale New Haven Health, beginning as a postgraduate fellow, for more than 39 years. She was promoted in 1994 to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Yale New Haven Hospital. In 2005, she became President and CEO of Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, and through a system reorganization in 2012, assumed her current role as CEO of the hospital and system. Ms. Borgstrom is Secretary of the CHA Board of Trustees, Chairman of the CHA Committee on Government, and is a past Chairman of the CHA Board. She serves on the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees and on its operations committee. Ms. Borgstrom is Chairman of the Boards of the Healthcare Institute and the Coalition to Protect America’s Health Care, and is Past Chairman of the Vizient Board. She also serves on several other boards including New Haven Promise and Cryolife.

Governor Announces Special Election for Greenwich-Based House Seat

On Friday, December 6, Governor Ned Lamont announced that there will be a Special Election held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. The Special Election was called to fill a vacancy in the state House of Representatives due to the resignation of Fred Camillo (R-Greenwich), who was elected to the office of First Selectman in the town of Greenwich on November 5. Former Rep. Camillo resigned from the House of Representatives on December 2.

He represented the 151st District, which encompasses a portion of Greenwich.

First elected in 2008, former Rep. Camillo was a member of the Commerce, Executive and Legislative Nominations, Higher Education, and Employee Advancement Committees.

Under state law, the Governor is required to issue a Writ of Special Election within 10 days of a vacancy in the General Assembly, and a Special Election must be held exactly 46 days after the date the writ was issued.


CHA Program Provides Guidance on Responding to Unexpected Harm

On Wednesday, December 18, 2019, CHA will offer HIIN: When Words and Actions Matter Most: Responding to Unexpected Harm, a program that will demonstrate how to respond to unexpected patient harm. The program is part of CHA’s statewide Communication and Resolution Program Collaborative, which was created in February 2019 to increase transparency and improve communication for patients and families who have experienced harm, and to acknowledge the impact that patient harm has had on patients and families, as well as on providers and staff. Please register here.

The program will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at CHA, and is being presented as part of the Partnership for Patients HIIN educational series.
The program, first offered by CHA in October, will include background on the Communication and Optimal Resolution (CANDOR) process, an approach to respond in a timely, thorough, and just way to unexpected patient harm events.

Bruce Lambert, PhD, Professor, Department of Communications Studies and Director, Center for Communication and Health, Northwestern University, will discuss best practices for empathetic communication.

Timothy McDonald, MD, JD, Director, Center for Open and Honest Communication, MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety, and Professor of Law at Loyola University, will lead participants in demonstrations of best approaches, providing opportunities to obtain hands-on practice.

Professional actors will provide guidance through experiential scenarios. The Communication and Resolution Program Collaborative is a multi-year engagement of CHA members working together to meet shared goals and implement routine processes to effect change.

Education Updates

HIPAA Privacy, Security & Breach Rules: Keeping Current to Remain Compliant
Thursday, January 9, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

HIPAA privacy, security, and breach rules will be addressed 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. Recent case law and enforcement activities by the Office for Civil Rights will also be reviewed. The program includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a discussion of necessary policies and procedures, and practical tips and solutions to address real-time situations.

MACRMI Simulation Training
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Event Registration

The Massachusetts Alliance for Communication and Resolution following Medical Injury (MACRMI) will conduct its first simulation training for disclosure and apology as part of CHA’s Communication and Resolution Program Collaborative.

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

2020 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Update
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

Diana Scott, Senior Director of Accreditation, Vizient, will present CHA’s annual full-day program outlining The Joint Commission’s (TJC) new standards and national patient safety goals for 2020 and challenges from 2019 with strategies for compliance. Ms. Scott will also review CMS focus areas, as well as best practices for a successful survey. Lisa DiBlasi Moorehead, The Joint Commission’s Associate Nurse Executive, will provide an overview of the changes implemented by TJC. Attendees will also receive information on compliance data on challenging accreditation standards in Connecticut hospitals.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
Monday, February 3, 2020
Monday, February 10, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
View Brochure | Event Registration

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Please note: this is a two-session program; participants should attend both sessions.