



[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

In This Issue:

[Hospitals Care for Communities in Wake of Shooting](#)

[Hospital Funding Cut During Special Session](#)

[Connecticut Health Council Launches](#)

[Happy Holidays from the Connecticut Hospital Association](#)

[Update Archives](#)

Hospitals Care for Communities in Wake of Shooting



Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's tree dedicated to the shooting victims

In the wake of last week's school shooting, Connecticut hospitals cared for their communities in many ways – from responding with emergency medical support to providing valuable ongoing resources to help their communities recover.

Our friends and colleagues at **Danbury Hospital**, **Yale-New Haven Hospital**, **Bridgeport Hospital**, and **Norwalk Hospital**, as well as so many first responders and crisis workers, have been particularly touched by this tragedy. They have noted that despite the overwhelming sense of loss, they have found goodness in the kindness of others, and have expressed gratitude for the concern and support for the families, first responders, healthcare providers, and communities affected. Both Danbury Hospital and Norwalk Hospital held memorial services today.

Several members of **Middlesex Hospital's** Behavioral Health and Family Advocacy staff went to Newtown last weekend to provide psychological and emotional support to those affected by the tragedy. One staff member continues to work with the town's elementary schools to support counseling efforts.

The clinical manager of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at **Saint Mary's Hospital** has been providing crisis counseling in Newtown through her volunteer role with the American Red Cross. The hospital's pastoral care team has been collecting prayer requests and established a memorial in the hospital's chapel. The hospital held a special Mass this week to remember the victims, and will observe a moment of silence on Friday morning.

The St. Vincent's Behavioral Health, Westport Campus, has offered Westport Public Schools and the Westport Department of Human Services mental health assistance to students and the town as needed. Employees of **St. Vincent's Health Services** and each of its affiliates will gather together Friday morning to observe a moment of silence. In the afternoon, they will hold an interfaith prayer service for employees and volunteers. They are also planning a memorial to honor the lives of the victims.

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department hosted memorial services throughout the week and is providing ongoing support to the hospital community. The hospital has dedicated one of its Christmas trees to the lives lost in Newtown, and adorned it with 27 green ribbons in remembrance. The tree is part of the hospital's annual tree lighting and carol singing ceremony that celebrates the lives of loved ones.

Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) offered resources for parents on how to talk to children about tragedy. ECHN's chaplains have held services at **Rockville General Hospital** and **Manchester Memorial Hospital**. ECHN is sharing more information via its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

The William W. Backus Hospital produced an informative video for parents with a clinical psychologist who discussed when and how to deliver the news to children, at what age it is appropriate, and how to answer their questions. A column containing the information was published in the Norwich Bulletin. Both the video and column are available on the [Backus Hospital website](#).

We suggest that people and organizations interested in providing help review the list of local charities included in [this article](#) and select the charity of their choice.

Hospital Funding Cut During Special Session

On December 19, the General Assembly met to vote on a deficit mitigation plan that eliminates the current year's \$365 million budget deficit. In total, the plan passed by both chambers of the General Assembly will cut hospital funding by about \$103 million.

"While we understand the difficulty of the decisions faced by legislators, and appreciate their willingness to listen to hospital concerns, we are extremely disappointed that hospitals and the patients they serve will bear the heaviest burden in carrying the cuts made to balance the state budget," said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of CHA. "This



will have very real implications for patients and staff, and the impact will be felt across the state.”

Because of these cuts, critical hospital programs – many that help Connecticut’s neediest people – may need to be eliminated. Investments in infrastructure will have to be deferred or eliminated and, unfortunately, hundreds of hospital jobs are now on the chopping block.

Hospitals have solutions that will create a more viable healthcare delivery system. CHA is committed to working with legislators and the administration to address the state’s budget needs in a way that protects hospitals, patients, and

communities.

Connecticut Health Council Launches



On December 12, the Connecticut Health Council held its formal launch in Hartford. The Council, founded by MetroHartford Alliance, is an association of health sector leaders who will work together to foster collaboration, education, entrepreneurship, and networking. The Council’s goal is to make Connecticut a hub for healthcare businesses, initiatives, and technology, leveraging and promoting the state’s considerable health sector assets as a primary driver of economic and employment growth.

The Connecticut Hospital Association is a founding partner of the Council.

The keynote speaker, Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., the Richard L. Menschel Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Policy Translation and Leadership Development at the Harvard School of Public Health, discussed the impact of the election on federal and state health policies. Marty Gavin, President and CEO of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and Co-chair of the Connecticut Health Council, also spoke, as did Oz Griebel, President and CEO of MetroHartford Alliance, Bob Patricelli, Chairman and CEO of Women’s Health USA and Co-chair of the Connecticut Health Council, and Mickey Herbert, Interim Executive Director of the Connecticut Health Council. Governor Dannel Malloy addressed the group, expressing his desire to grow the state’s economy through opportunities in healthcare.

In the coming year, the Connecticut Health Council will hold a series of talks and events focused on health policy and trends.

Happy Holidays from the Connecticut Hospital Association

Update will return on January 10, 2013.

Thank you for caring for Connecticut communities throughout the year.

We wish you a peaceful holiday season.

CHA CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

