

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Building a Healthier Connecticut

As healthcare undergoes significant transformation, hospitals and health systems are focused on providing the leadership necessary to ensure the health and well-being of every Connecticut resident. The four key aspirations for healthcare in Connecticut will be met when: individuals, communities, and the economy are healthy; quality and patient safety are paramount and patients are engaged in their care; providers, payers, community partners, and policy leaders are aligned; and healthcare financing is sustainable and linked to outcomes.

Improve the Health of Our Communities

Building Blocks:

- Reduce healthcare disparities and improve health equity
 - Address social determinants of health and reduce the disparities that lead to poor clinical outcomes
 - Support community partnerships that advocate for population health priorities, especially those that target improving social determinants of health
 - Foster care continuity through the use of technology and best practices
- Advocate for vulnerable populations to receive needed access to appropriate care
- Strengthen behavioral healthcare for children and adults
 - Expand coalitions and partnerships to combat alcohol, opioid, and other substance use disorders
 - Support community-based initiatives and partnerships, such as Community Care Teams
 - Ensure patients have timely and appropriate access to short- and long-term beds

Enhance Quality and Safety

Building Blocks:

- Coordinate federal and state requirements, as well as align regulatory oversight, through evidence-based practices and approaches that improve care
- Protect and strengthen the hospital infrastructure in Connecticut by ensuring a level playing field in care delivery through Certificate of Need and other regulations that recognize hospitals' unique role in the delivery system, and by preparing for new competitive entrants into the healthcare system
- Enhance statewide commitment to high quality care with zero harm, and satisfied, activated, and engaged patients; promote worker satisfaction through the cultivation of safe and supportive workplaces

Shape a Sustainable Performance-Based Reimbursement System

Building Blocks:

- Phase out the hospital tax
- Seek an equitable supplemental payment distribution for the biennial budget

- Partner with state officials and advocates in restructuring Connecticut's Medicaid system with a focus on outcomes and quality, while balancing cost containment with adequacy of reimbursement
- Support value-based payments, which link reimbursements to performance

Promote Transparency

Building Blocks:

- Support efforts that provide communities and patients with access to meaningful quality and pricing data

Ensure a Workforce for the Future

Building Blocks:

- Stabilize Connecticut's medical malpractice liability environment
- Allow healthcare professionals to work to the full extent of their education and training
- Support scope of practice initiatives including the use of telehealth, which will provide hospitals with flexibility in providing care and improve quality and patient safety
- Ensure hospitals have the ability to manage human resources appropriately to meet ever-changing patient care needs
- Develop and sustain a robust, highly trained, and culturally competent healthcare workforce, and strengthen the health careers pipeline to ensure that Connecticut has the workforce necessary to meet the needs of a rapidly changing healthcare system

Approved by the CHA Board of Trustees at its December 12, 2018 meeting