

TIDINGS!

Newsletter of the Catholic Health Association of Minnesota

DECEMBER 2013

Believing in the worth and dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God, the Catholic Health Association-Minnesota assists its members to fulfill the healing mission of the Church.

Mark Your Calendar

February 11, 2014

World Day of the Sick

February 25, 2014

MN State Legislature Session

March 4, 2014

CHAMN Board Meeting
Carondelet Center, St. Paul

FFI: 651.503.2163

CHA-MN Annual Meeting: Impact of ACA

Understanding the moral implications of the Affordable Care Act was central to Tom Kopfensteiner's presentations at the CHA-MN's Annual Meeting last month in Edina. As Vice President of Mission for the Catholic Health Initiatives, Kopfensteiner brought a unique perspective to the audience of local health care leaders, as a part of one of the larger Catholic healthcare systems that is only getting larger. "Many providers are considering consolidation with one of the bigger fish in order to navigate the challenging waters of the Affordable Care Act," stated Kopfensteiner. "There is an increasing need for capital investment, scale

and size, in order to thrive."

Catholic healthcare leaders gathered on November 7th to hear from national presenters on current healthcare issues, much of the content focusing on current reform. Kathy Curran, Senior Director of Public Policy from the CHA-USA provided a concise summary of the current landscape in Washington. She specifically addressed the partisan challenges with the rolling debt ceiling, sequestered budget reductions, and ultimately the impact on ACA and Medicare in the midst of these challenges.

Visiting scholar M. Therese Lysaught was able to provide highlights of her recent white paper, "Caritas and Communion" which addresses the theological foundations of Catholic identity, the principle of moral cooperation, and the for-profit question in healthcare. She considers her project a continued "work in progress" and was grateful to further explore questions that ultimately center around Catholic identity within healthcare.

Tom Kopfensteiner provided an assessment of many of the unanticipated outcomes of health reform including:

- Program and service cuts by providers, related to profitability;
- Employers choosing to drop coverage for employees based upon incentives;
- Capital shortfalls among providers with the massive IT infrastructure needs;



CHA PRESIDENT DAVID NELSON WITH KATHY CURRAN AND TOM KOPFENSTEINER.



TOBY PEARSON WITH TOM KOPFENSTEINER AND M. THERESE LYSAUGHT



TOM KOPFENSTEINER

CHA-MN Welcomes New Board Members

Paul Harris from CentraCare-St. Cloud Hospital and James Garvey of Essentia-St. Mary's Medical Center of Duluth were recently appointed to the Catholic Health Association's Board of Directors.

Paul Harris is Vice President and General Counsel for CentraCare Health System. He also serves as the System's Corporate Secretary and Corporate Compliance Officer. In these positions, Mr. Harris is responsible for oversight of the legal, regulatory, compliance and governance matters of CentraCare. Prior to joining CentraCare, Mr. Harris was in private practice with Hughes Mathews P.A. and a Law Clerk for the Minnesota Supreme Court. Mr. Harris is a member and past Chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Health Law Section and a past Delegate to the Association's Assembly. He is a member of the American



PAUL HARRIS

Health Lawyers Association, the Stearns/Benton Bar Association, and past member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. Mr. Harris received his Bachelor of Arts from St. John's University, and his Juris Doctor from Marquette University Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review.



JAMES GARVEY

Earlier this year James Garvey joined Essentia Health as Executive Vice President of Hospital Operations and Administrator of St. Mary's Medical Center. For the previous three years, Garvey had been director of the Healthcare Consulting Practice at Wipfli, LLP. Before that, he was vice president of Operation/Specialty Care Services at North Memorial Health Care. His background also includes eleven years in operations with Mercy Health Services (now Trinity Health), a large Catholic health system based in Farmington Hills, Mich. Garvey is part of the Senior Leadership Team at Essentia, with a primary focus on St. Mary's Medical Center operations. He also oversees and has accountability for Essentia Health-Duluth and St. Mary's Hospital of Superior. ■

ANNUAL MEETING *cont. from page 1*

- Mergers among providers due to scope and scale;
- Employee downsizing within providers to again improve profitability.

Kopfensteiner focused his attention on the moral implications of such outcomes. Of particular and obvious concern was how Catholic healthcare would address potential services that may or may not be mandated, and specifically how material cooperation would play out with the new 'ecclesial climate'. He addressed the fact that many programs and services are being cut for undocumented immigrants, identifying how in Washington State, the Medicaid program will no longer reimburse for services provided to undocumented immigrants.

A fascinating discussion ensued around the impact of technology in non-traditional settings. What is the impact on healthcare when we start to eliminate or minimize the 'human encounter' and the need to work with our sacramental tradition to address this challenge? While 'reductions in force' are at times inevitable how have the market realities impacted our traditional bias towards organized labor? Are the incentives to improve individual health coercive or fair and just (e.g. non-smoking hiring policies)? Do our employed physicians understand the Catholic preferential option for the poor?

Content for the day was substantial and timely in this intimate discussion of Catholic health leaders last month, and those present recognized the need for further discussion and education within their own organizations. ■

Benedictine Health System names Rocklon B. “Rocky” Chapin, as president/CEO

The Benedictine Health System Board of Directors has named Rocklon B. “Rocky” Chapin, FACHE, as president/CEO of Benedictine Health System effective Jan. 1, 2014. Chapin replaces Dale M. Thompson who announced his retirement in March 2013.

Chapin joined the Benedictine Health System in January 2013 and currently serves as senior vice president, business development and strategic planning. He has been a leader in the management and health care industry for more than 35 years with experience in operations improvement, board and physician relations, managed care negotiations, strategic planning and business development. During his time at BHS, he has led System growth and partnership efforts with a specific emphasis on post-acute care initiatives and relationships with major hospitals and health systems.

“Rocky brings a balance of skills and experiences that will move BHS forward,” said Brian Lassiter, chair, BHS Board of Directors. “His deep knowledge of acute care is valuable to BHS’ strategy of providing post-acute care with our hospital partners, and his vision for new care models will be helpful in shaping the future for BHS. He is the right leader at the right time for our System, building on our strengths, history, and culture but bringing fresh ideas and energy from outside long-term care. The BHS Board is thrilled that he has agreed to lead BHS.”

“I am honored and humbled by the trust placed in me by the BHS Board and our sponsors, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery,” said Chapin. “The Benedictine Health System is poised to lead the transformation of senior care to the creation of communities in which health, independence and choice come to life. This vision for the future is shared by the 6,000 employees who work with our residents, patients and guests every day, and it is their commitment to those we serve that gives me confidence we will, indeed, make a difference in their lives.”



ROCKLON B. “ROCKY” CHAPIN

“We have every confidence that Rocky will carry forward and grow the precious legacy of leadership being left by Dale Thompson,” said Sister Lois Eckes, OSB, prioress, Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery. “Rocky Chapin is a man of incredible integrity, goodness, and compassion, fully committed to the Catholic health care ministry of the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery and the mission and core values of the Benedictine Health System. It is with deep gratitude and joy that we welcome Rocky as the new CEO of BHS.”

Prior to his appointment at BHS, Chapin was the executive vice president and senior officer of Essentia Health’s (Duluth, Minn.) hospital division where he was instrumental in setting overall strategy for their system. His past positions include national director, health care services with Ryan Companies, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.; executive vice president and chief operating officer, St. Luke’s Methodist Hospital, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; president and CEO, VHA Iowa/Health Enterprises of Iowa, Cedar Rapids; and senior administrator, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis.

Chapin has extensive governance experience having served on many health care and not-for-profit organization boards and is active in the American College of Healthcare Executives both nationally and in Minnesota. He holds a master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. ■



Catholic Health Leader’s Conversation with the Minnesota Bishops

(December 4, 2013 postponed due to weather.)

To be rescheduled soon.

Watch for further announcements.

Dale Thompson Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Dale Thompson, president/CEO, Benedictine Health System, was recently honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement award from a statewide association of senior care professionals.

Thompson, who is retiring Dec. 31, was recognized at Care Providers of Minnesota's annual convention held earlier this month in Minneapolis. The Lifetime Achievement award is presented to an individual in appreciation for their years of service to the long-term care profession and their impact of the lives of residents and caregivers. Thompson was chosen due to his more than 30 years of health care industry leadership and has helped shape legislative and regulatory policy at

the state and national levels.

Thompson has served BHS as President/CEO for 10 years. He brings more than 30 years of health care industry leadership to his position at BHS, including executive vice president of business development and advocacy at BHS, and president/CEO of Benedictine Health Dimensions, the former long-term care division of BHS. He has been affiliated with BHS since 1996. ■



DALE THOMPSON

CHA-USA Advocacy Agenda

IMPLEMENTING AND IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

CHA advocates a health care system that serves everyone. The Affordable Care Act takes a significant step toward expanding



access to health insurance coverage and improving our delivery system. During the 113th Congress, we will work to:

- Ensure adequate funding for implementation of the health care law in accordance with CHA's Vision.
- Support policies to improve the current delivery system and reduce costs, including health technology; telemedicine; care coordination; and prevention and wellness.
- Continue to expand health care access and coverage, including coverage for undocumented immigrants.
- Strengthen the health care workforce to ensure the availability of primary care services in underserved areas, including rural and urban communities.
- Ensure that health insurance exchanges, Medicaid coverage expansion and insurance reforms achieve the promise of coverage and high-quality integrated care for millions of uninsured individuals through outreach, enrollment and education efforts.

[This is one of five stated priorities of CHA-USA for the 113th Congress.] ■

CHA Urges All to Spread the Word About Health Insurance Exchanges

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC, CHA president and chief executive officer, has been encouraging hospital leaders and their community partners to educate the uninsured about historic new opportunities to enroll in affordable health insurance coverage. New state-based insurance exchanges began a six-month open enrollment period starting Oct. 1 that could give millions of Americans access to health insurance coverage.

Hospitals worked hard to pass the Affordable Care Act to reform health care and expand health insurance in the U.S., Sr. Carol said. Now, she said, the time has come to close the public's awareness gap about the law and to help people navigate the enrollment process and secure affordable, meaningful health care coverage.

"This is a historic opportunity for our country and the people in our country, both those who have insurance and those who don't have insurance, for us to have a much more intelligent health care system that's worthy of the dignity of the people of this nation," Sr. Carol said.

CHA has also been working with its members and other organizations to help enroll individuals and families for health insurance over the past few months. The CHA video, "Ready, Get Set, Enroll" found on www.youtube.com a user-friendly process for health care enrollment. ■

Challenging the HHS Mandate: Ruling a significant victory for conscience rights

In a significant victory for conscience rights, a federal district court in Pennsylvania November 21 handed down the first decision on the merits in a case by Catholic non-profit organizations challenging the final HHS mandate. The Court found that the mandate's "religious employer 'accommodation' places a substantial burden on Plaintiffs' right to freely exercise their religion," determined that the plaintiffs, the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Erie and related organizations, are "likely to succeed on the merits" of their claim under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and issued a preliminary injunction preventing the government from enforcing the HHS mandate against the plaintiffs.

In reaction to the decision, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said "Just recently the U.S. bishops issued a unanimous message reaffirming our resolve to resist the HHS mandate and protect our religious freedom. The court's decision vindicates that approach and we fully expect more decisions like this to follow." In particular, Archbishop Kurtz noted, "I'm strongly encouraged by the Court's rejection of the government's attempt to reduce freedom of religion to freedom of worship, as well as the Court's recognition that service to those in need is at the heart of our faith."

The preliminary injunction stops the government from

imposing heavy fines against the plaintiffs, including Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh, St. Martin Center, and Prince of Peace Center, for refusing to violate their deeply held beliefs.

Catholic dioceses, schools, and social service ministries around the country continue their efforts in the courts and support efforts in Congress to prevent the government from imposing significant fines against them when the final HHS mandate takes effect on January 1. ■

NEWS and NOTES

- The CHA-MN Reception and Conversation with the **Catholic Bishops** of the State of Minnesota scheduled for December 4 was postponed due to inclement weather; a rescheduled date is still being determined and will be communicated when finalized.
- The American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) recently announced the five care centers that have earned a 2013 Gold – Excellence in Quality National Quality award, including **St. Mary's Care Center-Benedictine Health System of Winsted, MN**. The award is the final of three distinct awards possible through the National Quality Award program presented by AHCA/NCAL. The competitive award program highlights select facilities across the nation that serve as models of excellence in providing high-quality long term care. Since the inception of the National Quality Award program in 1996, only 18 care centers have achieved this level of quality recognition.
- The new **CentraCare Health** website launched in September has been named an Interactive Media Awards (IMA) Best in Class award winner. IMA recognizes the highest standards of excellence in website design and development.
- Three **Benedictine Health System** participating organization staff members received awards by Care Providers of Minnesota at its annual statewide senior care convention Nov. 19 in Minneapolis. Mike Schultz, administrator, Koda Living Community, Owatonna, Minn.; Sherry Poppler, St. Gertrude's health & Rehabilitation Center, Shakopee, Minn.; Diane Kiel, St. Clare Living Community of Mora, Minn., were each honored with individual awards during the ceremony.
- The **HealthEast Kidney Stone Institute** (KSI) announced its first-in-the-nation certification by The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care program. This is first time The Joint Commission has awarded certification for disease specific care for kidney stone disease.
- **St. Cloud Hospital** has received redesignation as a Magnet hospital, the second Minnesota hospital and one of only 60 hospitals worldwide, to achieve three or more Magnet designations. Magnet status, granted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, is the highest international recognition for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice. St. Cloud Hospital received its initial Magnet designation in 2004. At that time there were just 100 Magnet hospitals in the country, and one in the state of Minnesota. There are currently three Magnet hospitals in Minnesota: St. Cloud Hospital, Mayo Clinic Hospitals and Abbott Northwestern Hospital. ■



Catholic Health Association of Minnesota

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**Updates
from our
membership...**

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