

CONNECTIONS

A message from Bill Leaver to our leaders across Iowa Health System | June 2010



Staying Connected

Welcome to Iowa Health System Connections, a monthly e-newsletter to share news from throughout the health system. Please forward this to others who may find it of interest. Thanks for all you do to help us achieve our Vision of delivering the Best Outcome Every Patient Every Time.



Trinity Featured Among Best in Illinois for Low Infection Rate

Trinity Regional Health System is one of six Illinois hospitals – and the only one outside of Chicago – featured in an online supplement to a front page Chicago Tribune article about "Tracking hospital infections" that ran in May. In the print version, readers are directed to see how their hospitals are doing by [visiting The Tribune's site](#). Some of the other hospitals mentioned include names like Adventist, Loyola and Northwestern.

Simply click on "Read about hospitals with low rates – some have zero infections – and what they are doing right." Trinity is featured for its zero ICU infections in 2009 and the same rate thus far in 2010.



[See where Trinity is featured.](#)

Cedar Rapids Group Discusses City's Health Care System in Washington

Insurance giant AEGON USA finds it easier to provide health care to its 4,000 employees in Cedar Rapids than thousands of other workers the company has in Baltimore, Atlanta, Los Angeles and other U.S. cities.

That is the message AEGON Chairman Pat Baird brought to a meeting in May on how to grapple with one of the nation's top questions – spiraling health care costs and eroding care.



Left to Right - Ted Townsend,
Tim Charles and Dr. Don
Berwick

"As far as cost and quality, Cedar Rapids is the best deal we have," Baird said. Cedar Rapids' uniquely collaborative health care system is the reason Baird is so pleased. It is also why Baird, Ted Townsend, CEO of St. Luke's Hospital, Tim Charles, CEO of Mercy Medical Center and Jim Levett, chief medical officer at the Physicians; Clinic of Iowa, were invited to Washington by Donald Berwick, a doctor who heads the non-profit Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Berwick is also President Barack Obama's nominee to head the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"We believe Cedar Rapids may be an important source of testing and learning for the country as a whole, Berwick wrote in his invitation. Tim Quinn, a doctor who heads MercyCare Physician Services and Marcia Rogers, a board member of the Iowa Department of Economic Development, are also part of the Cedar Rapids team.

The city was chosen by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement last year as one of 10 communities that are reaching a goal of better care, broader coverage and lower costs. The Cedar Rapids delegation shared its ideas with other communities attending the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's annual conference. Tallahassee, Fla., Portland, Maine, Grand Rapids, Mich., Rochester, N.Y. and Everett, Wash., were among the 13 communities represented at the event.

"One of the things we're hearing here is people are clamoring for what we have," Townsend said. "The secret of Cedar Rapids' success seems to be its large number of primary care physicians, the sharing of expensive medical equipment – including MRI services – and specialists among hospitals and a strong system of charity care."

Rogers said the city's health care system "is a powerful economic development tool." Despite Cedar Rapids' achievements, it faces challenges discussed at the conference that face all other communities including the problem of low payments from Medicare and Medicaid to doctors and hospitals as well as rising health care costs and limited medical resources.

One issue raised at the conference is the impact of recently approved health care reform and whether its changes will jeopardize the Cedar Rapids' collaborative spirit. "It's uncertain," said Townsend of the impact of reform. "What we're trying to do is find out how to anticipate the changes."

Deb Moyer has joined Iowa Health – Des Moines as their Chief Nursing Executive and Vice President, Nursing Services

Deb Moyer returns to Iowa Health – Des Moines with a passion for nursing and a diverse background in healthcare and leadership. She began her career with Iowa Methodist as a staff nurse, moved into management and then to the role of Executive Director of Surgical Services. Her career branched into various arenas such as clinical quality, case management, medical staff office, performance improvement and integrated services.



Deb Moyer

In 2005, Deb became the Vice President of Operations for ARAMARK Healthcare, the contracted management provider for non-clinical support services for many healthcare clients in the Midwest, including Iowa Health – Des Moines. In that role, Deb stayed connected to nursing as she collaborated with leadership at various hospitals on many initiatives including the introduction of AONE's "Guiding Principles for Relationships among Nursing and Support Services in the Clinical Setting"; AONE's "Aspiring Nurse Leader Workshop"; implementation of Studer principles to hardwire excellence; and site preparations for the Magnet journey.

Deb has a Bachelor's in Nursing from the University of Iowa and a Master's in Public Administration (healthcare focus) from Drake University. From 2008- 2009, she completed a National Patient Safety Fellowship sponsored by the Health Research and Educational Trust and the American Hospital Association.

Clinicians Receive Continuing Education at Iowa Health Physicians Conference

During the month of May, Iowa Health Physicians hosted four, one-day sessions of the 2010 Clinical Conference entitled "Grow Your Passion for Patient Care". There were approximately 450 attendees present over the four day span, earning a total of 700 Continuing Education Units credits. Guests at the conference included nurses, certified medical assistants, clinical assistants, radiologic technologists, medical lab technicians, diagnostic technicians and ultrasound technicians.

The day consisted of informational sessions, learning activities and networking with Iowa Health Physicians colleagues from across the system. The conference included a welcome from Executive Vice President and COO, Robin McNichols; Accountable Care Organization/Medical Home/Healthcare Reform Overview by Dr. Brad Archer and Dr. Mark Barnhill; and Practicexcellence Overview and Focus on Communication by Monica Aunan and Brandi Larsen.

In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to attend two break-out sessions sharing Electronic Health Record Tips by Patty Shissler and Adaptive Design by Kim Walters. They were divided out by region for a region specific update by the respective Director of Operations. Attendees were also treated to an uplifting presentation by motivational speaker, Brenda Clark Hamilton.

Kids Safety Fair Draws Record Audience of 1,500 in Sioux City

Health and safety intertwined for another successful Kids Safety Fair, held in early May in Sioux City. Organized jointly by St. Luke's - Sioux City and Mercy Medical Center, this is the third year the event has brought safety awareness to local families and offered important information on health, safety, fitness and education.



Nearly fifteen hundred Siouxlanders attended this year's event which included live performances from local entertainers, vendor booths offering engaging activities for kids and helpful tips for parents. The event featured a free car seat safety check and several safety vehicles on display including a fire truck, ambulance and police car. Admission to the event was free of charge, and families received a free nutritional snack during the day.

The attendance of fifteen hundred this year has been the largest so far for Kids Safety Fair; each year the event has experienced significant growth over the previous year.

Oh Baby! Four Sets of Twins Born at Allen Hospital

The Allen Birthing Center nursery looked like something off the set of a TLC baby show.

Four newborn hospital-style baby beds were pushed together with eight tiny newborns in all stages of sleep nestled inside. Many of the babies squeezed their eyes closed or even threw an arm dramatically across their face to shield them from the bright camera lights. New mothers and anxious nurses all kept a close eye on the young charges as members of the media bustled around with still and video cameras.

"This is very exciting, very unusual," said Theresa Pagel, the center's nurse manager. Since April, the Allen doctors and nurses have delivered eight sets of twins.



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Trinity Regional Medical Center – Fort Dodge Employees Get Hands on Fire Training

Taking advantage of a close working relationship with Iowa Central Community College and the Homeland Security Training Center, Trinity was able to provide hands-on training with fire extinguishers to almost 200 employees.

"It's one thing to talk about how to use a fire extinguisher, but quite another to actually use one to put out a fire," stated Greg Porter, a Registered Surgical Nurse with Trinity Regional Medical Center and also the Assistant Fire Chief in his community of Callendar. Greg and Security Officer, Mark Gargano, provided the hands-on mandatory training for Trinity's employees. During the training participants were reminded of the RACE and PASS methods. RACE is Rescue the patients. Alarm-sound the alarm. Confine the fire. Extinguish the fire. PASS pertains to the use of fire extinguisher. Pull the pin. Aim at the base of the fire. Squeeze the handles together. Sweep from side to side.



Instead of the costly dry-chemical or CO2 extinguishers, the extinguishers used for this training were filled with water and compressed air. This much cheaper than recharging extinguishers, considering the training session used dozens of canister.

Finley Celebrates Opening of the Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine

The Finley Hospital celebrated the opening of its new Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine earlier this month.



The center features state-of-the-art hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), a treatment in which the patient breathes 100 percent oxygen inside a pressurized chamber. HBOT quickly delivers high concentrations of oxygen to the bloodstream and assists in the healing process of wounds. It is also effective in fighting certain types of infections, stimulates the growth of new blood vessels and improves circulation.

Karissa Kelleher, program director said, “Our community is ready for a comprehensive center for wound care and we are ready to provide it to them. We wanted to make our wound care program the center of excellence in the community. To accomplish this, we have partnered with nationally known Diversified Therapy, a company that is a market leader in the clinical treatment of chronic wounds and the adjunctive use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.”

David Arnold, D.O., FACOS will serve as the center’s medical director, along with Piper McCrea-Egan, B.A., RN, CWOCN, who will serve as the center’s clinical coordinator.

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