



# HASC Briefs

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## O.C. Staff Backs Mental Health Progress

HASC is advocating for more efficient care for patients experiencing mental health crises in Orange County. Like emergency departments (EDs) across the country, Orange County facilities were not designed to provide thoughtful therapeutic treatment for individuals in psychiatric crisis.

A first quarter survey of the 24 hospitals with EDs showed that thousands of patients with behavioral health issues spent nearly four times longer in the EDs than patients with medical emergencies.

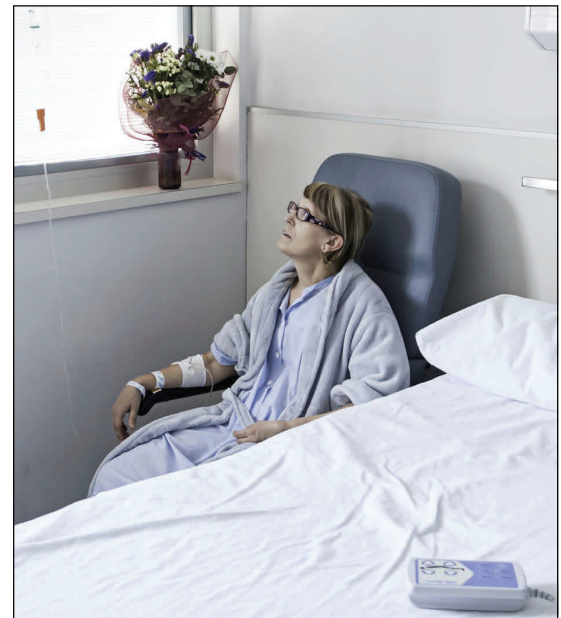
Last month, HASC CEOs sent a letter to the Orange County Board of Supervisors urging the implementation of no-cost regulatory solutions necessary to expedite patient disposition from EDs.

In addition, the association worked with the Orange County Medical Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Orange County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association to advocate for the addition of limited medical screening and expansion of beds at the county's only crisis stabilization unit.

In response to two Grand Jury reports and the hospital CEOs' direct engagement with the Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair Lisa Bartlett directed the county's health care agency to convene an ad-hoc committee to address the policy changes and long term system improvements for mentally ill patients.

At an Oct. 1 area meeting, HASC members will nominate two hospital CEOs to serve on the committee, HASC regional vice president Whitney Ayers said.

As the committee takes form, an association effort focused on new infrastructure — led by St. Joseph Hospital CEO Steve Moreau — will continue its work to identify long-term



People who experience a mental health crisis can spend close to four times longer in hospital EDs than other patients, a recent survey found.

solutions, including dedicated psychiatric emergency services facilities.

"The formation of the board's ad hoc committee signals a new level of political leadership necessary to direct public-private partnership solutions," HASC's Ayers said.

"Continuing engagement from hospital leadership is critical to ensure that we are prepared to offer solutions to match or augment the county's required investment," she added.

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## Patient Safety Attendees Break Record



Sharing experiences with other professionals is a high point of each Southern California Patient Safety First Collaborative. The program seeks to inject “joy and meaning into health care workplaces,” organizer Julia Slininger said at the event. (HASC photo)

The Southern California Patient Safety First (SCPSF) Collaborative convened on Sept. 15 and drew record attendance with 217 professionals from close to 70 hospitals. Co-sponsored by HASC, the event has previously invited only program participants — but this time rolled out the welcome mat for all association members.

The day-long session took place at the Pacific Palms Resort & Conference Center in the City of Industry. Speakers included J. Bryan Sexton, Ph.D., of Duke University’s Patient Safety Center. Among other insights, Sexton related an attention-grabbing fact — that nurses rank as high as military personnel on a stress index for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The afternoon included breakout sessions on sepsis care, perinatal safety, surgical safety and the prevention of health care-associated infections, or HAI. As always, networking and sharing experiences with industry peers were other event highlights.

The collaborative has documented measurable improvements in error and infection rates at hospitals since its founding in 2010. Program hospitals have brought down their average rate of sepsis mortality by close to 10 percent from 2012 baselines, and infection rates for *c. difficile* dropped by 10 percent during the same period.

Future sessions of SCPSF will be open to all HASC member hospitals, free of charge. New focus areas for

safeguarding patients and staff will be considered, event organizer and HASC Vice President of Quality & Patient Safety Julia Slininger said.

The next Patient Safety First Collaborative is being scheduled for a February date. The time and place will be announced in a future HASC Briefs and on the association’s website. The program is a collaborative effort supported by HASC, its partner associations and Anthem Blue Cross. Visit [www.hasc.org/southern-california-patient-safety-first-collaborative](http://www.hasc.org/southern-california-patient-safety-first-collaborative) to learn more and to download the participation agreement.

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## Research notebook



*A severe shortage of skilled nurses that was predicted 10 or more years ago has failed to materialize, a study published last week in the journal Medical Care asserts.*

*A national push to publicize nursing as a career choice following the 2008 recession dramatically boosted the number of nurses across the country, a research team led by Montana State University nursing economist Peter Buerhaus finds.*

*While the outlook is less gloomy than it once appeared, the country will likely see a deficit of close to 130,000 trained nurses by 2025, the researchers added.*

## Advanced LEAD Academy Invites Newcomers

Led by Marcey Uday-Riley, MSW, CPT, an expert facilitator trained in human performance, organizational development and human behavioral analysis, Advanced LEAD Academy® is designed for people with solid skills who want to boost their leadership abilities.

The fall session of Advanced LEAD Academy began on Sept. 11 with 31 attendees. It continues on Friday, Oct. 9 with the second meeting of the three-session, six-module training course.

Each meeting covers two modules. The modules completed this month examined emotions in the workplace and negotiation skills. The Oct. 9 modules are titled “Managing and Leading Effective Pro-



Facilitator Marcey Uday-Riley has led recent Advanced LEAD Academy sessions. (HASC photo)

jects” and “Planning Successful Change.” This season’s final modules, to be offered on Friday, Oct. 30, will spotlight “Coaching for Development” and “Organizational Politics and Building Trust.”

Participants can register for a single session or enroll in the complete pro-

gram to earn a certificate. Each session is \$305. Enrollment is limited to 40 participants per session.

Contact Karen Ochoa for more information.

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## Workshop Will Detail Labor Rules Changes

A set of rules implemented by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in April has altered the playing field for union organizing in hospitals and other workplaces.

“Winning Strategies: Responding to the New World of Union Organizing” is a day-long session designed to help HR professionals and others in health care respond to the changes.

The workshop will present a set of policies, plans and strategies that can pro-

vide an effective response to the organizing strategies that have followed the NLRB’s “ambush election” rules and related decisions. Its overall goal is to make a workplace “a best place to work” in the health care field.

The session will include interactive exercises designed to help participants develop effective communication tools and processes. These exercises will also help participants identify points of worker dissatisfaction. The day will

conclude with a panel discussion with health care HR professionals who have first-hand experience with union organizing and bargaining.

The workshop is scheduled to run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at the Quiet Cannon Conference & Event Center in Montebello. The event cost is not yet set.

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## Association Members Are Welcome in San Diego

The Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties is inviting HASC members to attend the group’s annual meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 4.



**HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**  
of San Diego and Imperial Counties

The meeting will be held at the Rancho Bernardo Inn and will include sessions on behavioral health and population health, and a briefing on state and federal legislation affecting area hospitals.

Registration is \$150 per person. Special overnight rates are available for stays the night before the event.

For more information, including a list of speakers, go to [www.hasdic.org](http://www.hasdic.org).

Interested parties are asked to make reservations by Friday, Sept. 25.

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## Homeless Patient Discharge Class is Oct. 15

In partnership with HASC, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles will offer a patient discharge workshop for new Southern California hospital workers and others who are interested in a refresher course.

The class will run Thursday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at HASC's offices in downtown Los Angeles, 515 South Figueroa St.

The workshop is tailored for hospital staff that serve homeless patients, including case managers, discharge planners, social service staff and emergency department personnel.

Program goals include an understanding of regulatory requirements, a working knowledge of community resources and social services, and an ability to assess needs and plan for discharge from the time an individual is admitted.

Registration information will be distributed to managers and directors of the above mentioned departments.

Members can also email questions or information requests to Nayra



Guillermo at the phone number and email address listed here.

mation requests to Nayra Guillermo at the phone number and email address listed here.

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## December Disaster Training Opens Doors

With space full for October's Hospital Disaster Management Training, registration is now open for the next two-day session, set for Tuesday, Dec. 1 and Wednesday, Dec. 2.

December's training is scheduled to take place at

LAC+USC Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The course covers responses to natural disasters and to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) incidents.

To register for the course,

visit <http://events.signup4.com/HDMT2015>.

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## On the Calendar



### Inland Empire Area CEO Meeting

8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 at San  
Antonio Community Hospital  
in Upland, Calif.

### Security and Safety Committee Meeting

9 a.m. to noon on Monday,  
Oct. 26 at St. Jude Medical  
Center in Fullerton, Calif.

### HASC Board Meeting

9 a.m. to noon on  
Wednesday, Nov. 11 in  
the HASC Board Room  
515 South Figueroa St.,  
Suite 1300  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Learn more about these  
and other HASC events at  
[www.hasc.org/calendar](http://www.hasc.org/calendar)