



HASC Briefs

Recuperative Care Program Expands to San Gabriel Valley

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National Health Foundation (NHF) is set to open its third recuperative care center, in the San Gabriel Valley, in October. The site joins two others already operating in Los Angeles and Orange counties, which have been set in converted motels to house patients transitioning from acute care treatment. A grand opening event will be held at the new San Gabriel Valley location to acquaint area hospitals with the program.

The Recuperative Care program aims to provide hospitals a discharge option for homeless patients who are not sick enough to remain in the hospital, but too sick for a shelter. The availability of recuperative care beds answers the needs of homeless patients who are otherwise kept in the hospital for up to four extra days to allow for full recuperation from injury or illness. Hospitals participate in the program with a letter of agreement with NHF.

NHF, an independent, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to improving and enhancing the health care of the underserved, began its recuperative care program in 2008, in part as a response to the challenges hospitals faced in treating homeless patients post hospitalization. Today, both patients and hospitals benefit from the unique program design. Nearly 1,500 homeless patients have been admitted to the program

from private hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties; 44 percent were discharged to some form of housing option; and only 11 percent were readmitted to the hospital. Hospitals have so far saved more than \$11 million.

The homeless population in LA County has gone up from 51,000 to 58,000 at last count. Homeless patients who are attached to the geographic center of the San Gabriel Valley will get a quiet, stable recovery setting, healthy meals, connections to vital social services and housing, and a supportive community atmosphere. They obtain basic medical oversight and are connected with necessary supportive services and housing options. An average length of stay at recuperative care has been 11 days.

Beyond the cost savings, the NHF recuperative care programs offer unique administrative procedures that create a successful program. The program not only lowered the daily cost of care for homeless patients by almost 90 percent, most get placement notification within four hours, and the length of stay is established up front.

For more information, visit <http://www.nhfca.org/Recup/Home.aspx>.

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Inland EMS System Evaluation to be Determined

Tom Lynch, director of Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), announced earlier this month that The Abaris Group has voluntarily withdrawn as the consultant tasked with conducting an EMS system evaluation.

The Abaris Group entered into an agreement with ICEMA on March 26, 2013, to conduct an evaluation of the San Bernardino County ground medical transportation system. That evaluation was also to have included the potential redesign of the EMS transportation plan and consideration for the potential impact of health care reform. The system evaluation is the first step in the process of what was planned to then

put the ambulance contract out to bid. The next step has yet to be determined.

ICEMA will meet with the County Administrative Office and County Counsel to determine what direction the evaluation takes. There is an important upcoming deadline in December for the potential renewal of the one-year extension in the contract with the current 9-1-1 provider, which is AMR.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a two-year extension to the current contract in May 2012, with the possibility of a one-year extension at that time.

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HASC HR Services Upcoming Education Programs

Four dynamic educational programs presented by HASC's Human Resources Services Department are aimed at improving the leadership skills of hospital and health system executives and clinical staff alike.

Sept. 26 - *Managing Change*, a half-day program focusing on initiating change in a positive way and leading the team to a higher performance, is scheduled for tomorrow, Sept. 26. This course is part of the all-new *Charge Nurse* series, a collection of courses designed to provide the direct training and development necessary to effectively manage a department in a clinic, hospital or health care facility.

Oct. 2 - *LEAD Academy 2* debuts as the next level of training for Level 1 participants and for those who want to en-

hance their current leadership skills. Three dynamic training modules highlight continued self-assessment, coaching employees, and how to navigate the politics of an organization to get things done.

Oct. 4 - Session 2 of the original LEAD Academy program introduces new and previously untrained managers and supervisors to leadership skills and features exercises on communication and coaching employees to higher performance.

Oct. 17 - HASC presents *Sherlock Holmes or Inspector Clouseau: How to Conduct Effective Internal Investigations*, a half-day seminar for HR personnel, risk managers, security and others on conducting investigations of employee misconduct.

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Katherine Bullard Receives HASC NLC Recognition Award

The HASC-facilitated Nursing Leadership Council (NLC) was successful for many years, providing a forum for educational events, the discussion of management strategies for nursing departments, and the exchange of ideas for improvement. This work was carried out within several regional chapters of the NLC.

On Sept. 6, Katherine Bullard received the recognition award that each outgoing chairperson receives for their service to NLC, but Bullard's award also acknowledged her extraordinary leadership, courage and insight. When she took on the voluntary role in 2012, participation in the regional chapters, and in the NLC Board meetings, was waning. In her first meeting, she helped the NLC Board (leaders of the various chapters) to:

- Debate some difficult questions around the perceived value of NLC membership (to our member nurses)
- Identify what services they are accessing elsewhere (e.g., the Association of California Nurse Leaders,



Outgoing NLC Chair Katherine Bullard, left, receives award from new NLC Chair Judith McGurdy, for outstanding service to the organization.

ACNL)

- Re-define our purpose for the future

Through several more facilitated discussion sessions, the NLC successfully reengineered itself, folding chapter membership into the coexisting ACNL regional chapters where much of the education and strategic exchange also takes place, and refocusing its efforts on

strategic initiatives such as:

- Advocacy
- Representation
- Analytics
- Scope of practice
- Integrated delivery
- Performance improvement

The NLC is now a formal HASC committee with a voting seat on the HASC Board of Directors, incorporating nursing leaders' input into decisions made by hospital CEOs and association executives. Though only in its first year, remarkable projects are already commissioned to meet its strategic objectives to support and strengthen the nursing profession in Southern California. We are grateful to Bullard for shining a light on the road behind, refocusing that light on the road ahead, and for rolling up her insightful sleeves to set us on that road.

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Free Lean Webinars Provide Data Management Training

The last free Lean webinars for the year are scheduled for Oct. 15 and Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m.

Introduction to Data Management for Lean Six Sigma establishes basic competencies in data analysis using MS-Excel. Designed for health care professionals, the two-session course will revisit data principles of data type and basic graphing techniques. Students will apply the tools and

techniques in a tutorial format for the first portion, then work on a case study and report out for the second portion of each section.

This free course is presented by HASC in partnership with Healthcare Performance Partners. Leslie Gold, vice president, Professional Data Services, a HASC subsidiary, will lead the online workshops. Gold has more than

20 years of experience related to the design, programming, and implementation of health care decision support tools and software solutions.

Read more about the course online: www.hasc.org/lean-event/introduction-data-management-lean-six-sigma-1.

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Thank You, Associate Members

More than 50 HASC Associate Members attended the annual luncheon at the HASC Los Angeles offices on Sept. 19. Representatives from 30 companies currently in HASC's associate membership listened as Jim Barber, HASC's president/CEO, provided an overview of the organization. Marty Gallegos, senior vice president, Health Policy & Communications, also presented a government affairs update.

Associate membership offers opportunities for non-hospital organizations—such as consulting firms, architectural groups, law firms and education organizations—currently serving the health care industry to expand their network and access essential industry resources. Thank you to all who attended:

- AlliedBarton Security Services

- American Health Connection
- Arent Fox LLP
- Bernards
- Buchalter Nemer
- Cannon Design
- Davis Wright Tremaine
- ECS
- Edmund Carlson Associates
- HFS Consultants
- HMC Architects
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman
- James + Gable Insurance Brokers, Inc.
- Jensen + Partners
- Keenan HealthCare
- King Medical Supply
- Korn/Ferry International
- Lancaster Pollard
- Marsh
- McGladrey
- MDS Consulting
- Moss Adams
- Musick Peeler & Garrett LLP
- Nixon Peabody LLP
- OneLegacy
- Southland Industries
- The Camden Group
- The Peira Group
- Time Warner Cable Business Class
- TTG
- UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
- Venbrook Insurance Services

For more information on associate membership, please contact Pat Wall or visit www.hasc.org/associate-membership.

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Conference on Aging Drawing Close

Registration is still available for the 2013 HASC Conference on Aging, Oct. 15, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Anaheim. The conference is designed to highlight the needs of the senior population and the ways in which hospitals and senior programs and services can prepare for the greater demands on their resources. Attendees will learn about new service delivery models providing quality care and successful outcomes for older patients.

Leading innovators in the field of aging will present new ideas and strategies for approaching the changing landscape and demonstrate the positive impact such programs can have on outcomes and costs. The conference will feature three tracks focused on clinical innovation, financial planning and caregiver/community resources with speakers from a variety of public and private settings.

Scheduled topics include:

Keynotes

- *The New Age of Aging: Promise and Peril in our Changing World*
- *ADRCs: Making Community Connections*

Track 1: Financial Support

- *Elder Abuse Victim – What the Public Guardian Can Do*
- *Detecting and Responding to Suspected Elder Abuse and Neglect*
- *Incapacity Planning: What are the Best Legal Tools?*

Track 2: Clinical Innovation

- *Teaching Good Bedside Manner to Nursing Home Staff*
- *Innovations in the Healthcare of Older Patients: The Use of Remote Monitoring Technology*
- *Hospitals Profit by Keeping Chronic Patients at Home—For Life*

Track 3: Caregiver Support & Community Resources

- *Beyond Walls: Partnering with Patients, Caregivers, and Community Providers for Better Outcomes*
- *California's Caregiver Resource Centers: Supporting Family Caregivers through Innovation and Consumer-Directed Services*
- *How Do I Give Compassion and*

Not Be Overwhelmed with Emotion?

The conference is expected to draw attendees from a variety of disciplines including executives/administrators, physicians, nurses, social workers, case managers, and more.

Register today for a discounted rate. Contact Maria Velez, (714) 750-2688, mvelez@hasc.org for more information.

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Save the Date for the 2014 Palliative Care Transitions Conference. Visit <http://www.hasc.org/palliative-care-2014>.