



HASC Briefs

OC Board of Supervisors Slashes Hospital Funding for Indigent Care

Reacting to the loss of nearly \$50 million at the hands of the state, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a revised budget last Tuesday, cutting millions in planned appropriations for hospitals, public safety and others in order to obtain a balanced budget. \$3 million of \$4 million in appropriations to the MSI Hospital Pool, a portion of the \$29 million

total cut from the budget, would have increased average inpatient day payments to hospitals in the County's indigent care program, MSI, a program long acknowledged to be underfunded.

Hospitals are paid, on average, 33 cents to the dollar of the actual cost of providing services in the MSI program. Exacerbating the impact of these cuts for hospitals is

that County expenditures are matched, dollar for dollar, by the federal government to help counties expand access to health care. The actual loss to hospitals as a result of last week's Board of Supervisors action is therefore \$6 million.

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CareNow, Inc. Metropolitan Free Clinic Still In Need of Hospital Supplies

Hospital supplies are still needed for CareNow, Inc.'s upcoming free clinic Oct. 20-23 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

A variety of medical supplies are needed, including but not limited to: gloves, hand sanitizer, alcohol preps, tongue depressors, cortisone cream, bandages, needles, syringes, table paper, disposable stethoscopes and safety glasses. A complete list of supplies can be obtained from Brooks McEwen at

b.mcewen@carenowusa.org.

For the past two years, three free clinics have been conducted in greater Los Angeles to provide medical, dental and vision services to thousands of patients. The first two were produced in association with Remote Area Medical (RAM) and the third with Maria Shriver's Women's Conference. The local organizers of these events have formed CareNow, Inc., a new local 501(c)(3) non-profit, to continue

producing these events in Los Angeles.

Approximately 5,000 patients are expected to be treated at CareNow's upcoming free clinic. Follow-up care will be provided to patients who need it.

Hospitals interested in donating supplies can contact Brooks McEwen at b.mcewen@carenowusa.org.

Contact: Jaime Garcia
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Area Hospitals Seek Exemption from AQMD Rule

The governing board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) voted almost unanimously to return a proposed amendment to the stationary source committee. The proposed amendment would require all new emergency generators to have a particulate filtration device installed, and

the installation of the particulate filtration devices was a major concern to the health care sector.

At meetings regarding this issue, hospitals were defined as essential utility service providers and thus received a voluntary bypass exemption to utilize a pressure relief device to bypass the particulate filter during

an emergency. This would be allowed if the particulate filtration device were to interfere (become clogged) during emergency generator operations. The bypass exemption was intended to mitigate any undue risk associated with the failure of the particulate filter, which could

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Lean Practitioners Training Beginning Oct. 14 Will Offer Certification Opportunity

Register now for the four-week *Lean Practitioners Course*, which will begin Friday, Oct. 14. The first session of the course will focus on an overview of Lean and its application to health care enterprises.

The subsequent three weeks of the training will focus on the following topics:

- Oct. 28 - Introduction to process measures and performance metrics for Lean.
- Nov. 11 - In-depth overview of the Improve phase of Lean.
- Dec. 2 - Introduction to Kaizen events.

The workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to Lean methods and tools proven to eliminate waste, reduce costs, improve quality, and deliver greater value to

organizations. Qualified participants may enroll for the Lean Practitioners Certification Exam at UCLA Extension to become a Certified Lean Practitioner after completing the course.

The course is presented by HASC in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles, School of Public Health, and the Institute for Performance Excellence. Registration is available online at <https://www.cvent.com/events/hasc-s-lean-practitioners-october-course/registration-19977a0f490f430eb50789de0ff9cad6.aspx>.

The course will be taught by Jennifer Wortham, Dr.PH, a Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Dr. Wortham has previ-

ously held positions as managing director of American Health Management and service-line administrator for outpatient and post-acute care services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The full-day sessions will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys. The cost is \$1,250 for HASC members and \$1,500 for non-members.

Visit http://www.hasc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/7-28-11_lean_practitioners_oct_brochure.pdf for a complete program brochure.

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Save the Date: SCPSC Colloquium Jan. 19, 2012

Decrease medical errors, lower risk, save money, and align your physicians and professional staff to achieve your organizational goals. Save the date, Jan. 19, 2012, for HASC's Annual Southern California Patient Safety

Colloquium.

CEOs, COOs and medical directors are encouraged to attend this one-day, in-depth education event with clinical and QI professionals. The colloquium will offer the chance to implement three evi-

dence-based strategies learned from experts, and for your organization to take its place among the top 10 percent benchmark hospitals.

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HASC Welcomes New Members

HASC welcomes one new hospital member and one new associate member.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Healthcare Corporation, Torrance

The hospital expects to open for patient care in late 2013.

Melayne Yoccum, Interim Chief

Executive Officer

License Category: General Acute Care

Licensed Beds: 135

Buck Global Investment Advisors, Los Angeles

www.buckconsultants.com

Martha Spano, Principal

Al Scherlie, Principal

Buck Global Investment Advisors provides investment consulting to health care organizations.

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AQMD Rule from page 1 result in failure and interruption of the operation of the emergency generator under actual emergency conditions. This exemption was proposed by CHA/HASC and the Southern

California Society for Healthcare Engineering, and accepted by SCAQMD to allow hospitals a fail-safe device to keep them in business if the particulate filtration device were to become impaired during an

actual emergency situation.

This recent decision moves hospitals one step closer to being exempted from this rule amendment.

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