

the Reporter

May 28, 2010

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House Adjourns, Senate Stalls on State Budget

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The Illinois House adjourned its spring session on Thursday after passing its version of a state budget earlier in the week, including approving nearly \$4 billion in borrowing for the state's pension systems and emergency budget powers for the Governor. However, the Senate this week was unable to complete its work on the budget, with majority Democrats unable to muster enough votes on their own to pass the pension borrowing plan.

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As the *Reporter* went to press, it was not clear whether the Senate would return to the state capitol as soon as next week to try to pass the borrowing plan or vote to delay the payments to the pension systems. Many observers anticipate that the Senate will return to take up the issue of pension borrowing within the next several weeks. If the Senate takes no action, the state would automatically make the pension payments, taking billions of dollars away from state services and

programs.

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Jobs Bill Delayed in Congress

The U.S. Senate this week missed its deadline to act on its version of a jobs bill before the Memorial Day recess, with Leader Harry Reid saying the chamber will not act until the week of June 7. Meanwhile, Democratic leaders in the U.S. House were still trying to generate enough support for the House jobs bill for a possible vote today (May 28). Because of concerns raised by centrist “Blue Dogs” in the House about the costs of the bill adding to the budget deficit, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other leaders were considering scaling back the bill to strip out extensions of additional federal Medicaid funding to states provided under the 2009 economic stimulus law and COBRA health insurance subsidies for jobless workers.

IHA members are urged to continue contacting their members of Congress to push for a six-month extension of the temporarily enhanced FMAP rate to be included in the jobs bill. To send an email, [click here](#).

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Fed Approval Means Some Reduction of Medicaid Backlog

The Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services announced late last week that the federal government has approved a policy change to generate more than \$900 million for the state’s Medicaid program over the next few months. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) approved a plan amendment for the FamilyCare Program, enabling the release of \$365 million to the state previously withheld pending approval of the amendment. When the funds are spent to pay Medicaid bills and matched under the state’s enhanced FMAP rate of 62%, the state will be able to leverage a total of more than \$900 million in federal funds for outstanding Medicaid claims.

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IHA Board Approves Quality Care Institute

At its May 25 meeting the IHA Board of Trustees accepted the recommendations of the IHA Quality Care Institute Steering Committee and approved the development of the Institute’s advocacy, education, and performance improvement agenda.

A key performance improvement initiative of the Institute will be a campaign to reduce hospital readmissions and hospital-acquired conditions and infections. The campaign, “Raising the Bar: Call to Action,” will be introduced, along with the formal launch of the

Institute, at IHA's Quality Leadership Conference next week.

IHA will send members further information about the Quality Care Institute and its new initiative next week.

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"Raising the Bar" on Quality at June 3 Conference

Join your colleagues at IHA's Annual Quality Leadership Conference, "Transforming Care, Changing Lives," on June 3 in Lisle. More than a dozen experts from Illinois and around the country will focus on the rapid-cycle performance improvement requirements and increased public scrutiny regarding quality. For the full conference agenda and registration information, [click here](#). For more information, contact [Pat Merryweather](#) at 630-276-5590.

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CDC Releases National and State CLABSI Data

For the first time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week released a report on state-specific health care infections, focusing on central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) in hospital medical-surgical intensive care units. According to the report, for the period Jan.-June 2009, Illinois had 301 observed cases of CLABSI, below a predicted level of more than 333 cases. The new CDC report puts Illinois 12th among the 17 states in terms of the ratio between the number of CLABSIs that occurred versus those that were expected.

The information, published in the CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), covers 17 states, including Illinois, that require reporting of CLABSIs to the CDC's health care-associated infection monitoring system, the National Healthcare Safety Network.

Over the past several years, hospitals across Illinois have been working to reduce CLABSIs. More than 180 Illinois hospitals were part of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Central Line Bundle initiative, and IHA continues to work with more than 50 members on reducing CLABSIs through its Patient Safety Collaborative. The participation of many Chicago-area hospitals in the Collaborative is being made possible by a grant from the Washington Square Health Foundation.

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IHA Health Reform Task Force Completes Its Work

The IHA Health Reform Task Force held its final meeting on May 25. Guest speaker Lynn Nicholas, President of the Massachusetts Hospital

Association, shared with the Task Force the lessons learned from her state's experience in substantially expanding health care coverage. Massachusetts is the first state to attempt to implement comprehensive health care reform.

The Task Force approved recommendations for the IHA Board to consider on priorities for IHA's advocacy strategy and for resources to help members regarding health care reform. Based on the Task Force recommendations, IHA will continue to work to address hospital concerns and issues as the process of implementing health care reform begins in Illinois.

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Small & Rural Leaders Will "Team Up for Success" in June

IHA's Small & Rural Hospitals Constituency Section will hold its annual meeting June 22-24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. "[Small & Rural Leaders: Teaming Up for Success](#)" will feature a wide array of excellent presentations and inspiring speakers. The focus this year is on hospital and board leadership, service and quality, community benefit and technology trends. Early bird discount ends May 28. For more information, contact [Anne Stilwell](#) at 217-541-1163.

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Hospitals Urged to Complete Profiles for Workforce Web Site

IHA members are urged to submit workforce profiles for IHA's [Illinois Health Care Careers](#) web site, which is aimed at encouraging students to consider health care careers, with information on hospitals, schools, and financial aid. The site features a section on individual "Hospital Workforce Profiles" – a resource for young people interested in local health care careers, as well as an advocacy tool for hospitals in their work with community members and legislators. **Pinckneyville Community Hospital** and **St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital**, Effingham, are the first hospitals to post profiles in their respective regions. For more information, go to www.ilhealthcareers.org or contact [Marsha Curtis](#) at 630-276-5504.

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Deadline Approaching on AHA Health and Wellness Survey

IHA member hospitals are encouraged to participate in AHA's short online survey on hospital employee health and wellness activities. This is a great opportunity to look at best practices throughout our state and highlight our hospitals as leading employers in their communities. IHA has arranged to obtain aggregate results for Illinois that we will share with members and the media. AHA's Long Range

Policy Committee will publish a national “snapshot.”

AHA recently distributed hospital-specific ID numbers and passwords to members. For more information, contact [Kevin Van Dyke](#). The deadline for completing the survey is June 9.

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Briefly Noted

- | The Illinois Supreme Court has decided not to rehear the case of *Lebron v. Gottlieb Memorial Hospital*, where it ruled that limits on non-economic damages in medical liability cases are unconstitutional. The Feb. 4, 2010 decision is now final.
- | June 4 is the deadline for nominations for IHA’s Excellence in Service, Excellence in Public Service and Distinguished Service Awards. [Click here](#) for details to nominate your deserving colleagues or legislators.
- | “[Beyond the Yellow Ribbon II](#),” a conference for health care professionals, will be held June 5 in Burr Ridge. Sponsored by the Illinois Dept. of Veterans Affairs and **Alexian Brothers Hospital Network**, Arlington Heights, the program will focus on diagnosing and treating anxiety, traumatic brain injury and PTSD in returning veterans.
- | Anthony Armada, president of **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital**, Park Ridge, has been named one of *Modern Healthcare's* "2010 Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare," his second consecutive inclusion on the magazine's biennial list of minority health care executives making a positive difference in the industry.
- | Sister Bonaventure Kusek, C.R., 91, former CEO of Chicago’s **Resurrection Medical Center** and first President of **Resurrection Health Care**, died on May 22. Sr. Bonaventure served on a variety of IHA committees and task forces between 1980 and 1987.
- | D. Chet McKee, 71, died May 19 after a short battle with cancer. He was formerly president and CEO of **Rush-Copley Medical Center** in Aurora. He served on IHA’s Policy Council and other committees between 1992 and 1998.
- | *IHA Daily e-Clips* will not be published on Monday, May 31, as IHA offices will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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