President’s Report ~ Jerry Jurena

This week I am devoting my space to the Texas Hospital Association and the Texas hospital employees. Hurricane Harvey was and is still impacting many people in Texas. I have been sent information on a fund to help Texas hospital employees. As I get additional information, I will share it. There will never be enough aid to put some of their lives back in place so, if you can help, please do so. Thank you for your consideration. I am sure the employees in Texas would be very appreciative.

Message from Jeffrey L. Canose, M.D., FACHE, Chairman, Texas Hospital Association

The devastation wrought by the storm known as Harvey is being described as epic, catastrophic, monumental and record-breaking. The words themselves aren’t big enough to describe the rainfall amounts and the scope of damage. For the nation’s fourth-largest city that 6.5 million people proudly call home, rebuilding will take not weeks, not months but years.

At this point, however, even beginning to think about rebuilding is impossible for many still struggling with an active storm and flooding of unfathomable proportion. The Texas coast and the Houston metropolitan area in particular still are very much in emergency response and crisis mode.

But, of course, being Texans, we all want to help with resources and manpower. The outpouring of offers of help are the bright silver lining in an otherwise extremely dark moment. These offers are coming not just from all corners of our great state but from all corners of the nation.

THA is working closely with all local, state and federal agencies involved in the emergency response and helping to coordinate supply management and distribution, staffing and evacuation plans. Current information on regulatory waivers and government alerts is available from www.tha.org/harvey, and THA is distributing regular information alerts as needs arise.

As focus begins to shift to rebuilding in the coming weeks, THA and the entire hospital industry will have the opportunity and responsibility to help our sister institutions rebuild their facilities and communities. THA has established the THA Hospital Employee Assistance Fund that will provide financial assistance to employees in hospitals in a FEMA-designated disaster area and who have experienced property loss or damage. Program details are being finalized, but as each of us looks for a concrete and meaningful way to help, I encourage us all to give to this fund today. THA will give 100 percent of the contributions to our hospital employees, many of whom have been providing care and services around-the-clock since the storm hit and haven’t yet been able to survey the damage in their own homes. Online donations may be made at www.tha.org/harvey, or checks may be sent to THA, 1108 Lavaca Street, Suite 700, Austin, TX 78701 (please put THA Hospital Employee Assistance Fund in the memo line).

While Texans never lack in fortitude or generosity, rebuilding after Harvey will take an unprecedented amount of time and resources. Let’s promise our colleagues with whom we share this sacred, humbling and heroic work that we won’t forget them and will be by their side throughout.
Support Texas Hospital Employees Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

The Texas Hospital Association established the THA Hospital Employee Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to employees of hospitals located in one of the currently 29 Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated disaster areas who experienced significant property loss during Hurricane or Tropical Storm Harvey or the ensuing floods.

By creating a centralized fund focused specifically on the needs of Texas hospital employees, THA will ensure that donations go where they are needed most.

In the coming days, THA will share programmatic details as well as materials hospitals can share with employees. In the meantime, donations can be made online on THA's website, and we encourage everyone to give generously.

For additional information on Hurricane Harvey and THA’s work to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies and support our members, visit www.tha.org/harvey. (Lance Lunsford/Stephanie Limb/Heather Parsons)

THA Coordinates Assistance for Hospitals Affected by Harvey

As hospitals along the Texas coast assess and respond to damage from Hurricane and Tropical Storm Harvey and its ensuing flooding, the Texas Hospital Association is coordinating assistance and support for affected facilities.

Since Harvey made landfall on last week, THA has been in daily contact with local, state and federal entities to provide timely support and information to members.

• THA is working with necessary stakeholders to coordinate the request of waivers that temporarily suspend certain financial and regulatory reporting and compliance for affected hospitals.
• The Texas Health and Human Services Commission distributed Frequently Asked Questions for Medicaid/CHIP MCOs.
• THA alerted member hospitals of critical information related to lawsuits resulting from property damage insurance claims filed after Sept. 1 as a result of legislation passed during the 85th Regular Legislative Session.
• THA assisted members in obtaining aviation clearance to reach inaccessible hospitals.
• Gov. Greg Abbott suspended certain rules to help hospitals fill workforce needs.
• State and federal governments have waived rules to help Texas hospitals provide care in their communities.
• THA continues to participate in preparedness and readiness discussions at state and federal levels.

Current information and resources related to the storm and recovery are available from www.tha.org/Harvey. Please contact Carrie Kroll at THA with any questions or needs related the storm and its aftermath. (Carrie Kroll)

NDHA Convention Sponsors

NDHA would like to recognize and thank the following sponsors of the 2017 NDHA Annual Convention & Trade Show:
NDHA is seeking your feedback regarding administrative rules proposed by the North Dakota Board of Medicine. These new rules will regulate the following:

1. The practice of telemedicine by physicians and physician assistants;
2. Requirements for the issuance of administrative medical licenses for physicians who do not choose to practice clinical medicine, but wish to be licensed for administrative or managerial purposes;
3. The situations in which a medical license may be issued to an applicant who does not meet all technical eligibility requirements and to outline the considerations the board shall make in issuing a special medical license;
4. Physicians with a DEA registration mandatory use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) when prescribing controlled substances in certain situations;
5. The supervision contract requirements for physician assistants to clarify the need for only the primary supervising physician to provide the supervision contract to the Board; and
6. The designation of a substitute primary supervising physician to clarify the need to have a substitute primary supervising physician designated and approved by the Board in the instances provided in the rule.

The proposed rules may be accessed in the attachments.

We would like to hear any comments, concerns, or questions you have about the proposed rules. Will these rules be workable for your facility? Are there any changes to the rules you would like to propose? Please submit your feedback to me by Monday, September 25. My email address is mhauer@ndha.org. We will prepare a letter to the Board summarizing the responses we receive from members.

You may also attend the public hearing that the Board will hold at 9:00 o’clock, a.m., September 27th, 2017, at 418 East Broadway Ave., Suite 12, Bismarck, North Dakota, if you wish to provide oral comments directly to the Board. You may also submit written or oral comments to the Board at the above address, by telephoning the Board at (701) 328-6500, or emailing your comments to bstorbakken@ndbom.org, by October 9, 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Who’s Who and Who’s New

NDHA is pleased to announce that Chris Albertson will begin as the new President and CEO of Presentation Medical Center in Rolla, ND, beginning October 1. Chris is currently enrolled in the SMP Health System Leadership Development Program, holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Management, and graduated from the University of Mary this past July with a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare. He has worked for the medical center since 2001.

NDHA would also like to congratulate Mark Kerr on his upcoming retirement. Thank you for your years of service in the healthcare profession.

Register for NDHA’s Annual Convention

It’s time to register for NDHA’s 83rd Annual Convention and Trade Show! Follow the link below to view the brochure and for the link to RegOnline for registration.

https://www.ndha.org/education/annual-convention-vendorsponsorship-information/
Physician Recruitment ~ Kevin Malee

Retaining Providers

Due to our mobile society, we need to do everything we can to retain our providers. More and more it has become onerous to keep our physicians once we have recruited and placed them in our communities.

Our campaign to retain physicians starts with the recruitment campaign and for our providers already in place; we need to always think about retaining them.

Here are some tips to keep our providers in our area:

1. Make sure that once they arrive in our community, we have ample media coverage;
2. Invite them to social events and involve them in community organizations;
3. Integration is key in retention;
4. In our orientation to the community, make sure you include several different people from the organization and community, making sure that this introduction campaign to our community is at least 3-6 months in duration;
5. Assign a mentor or buddy to the new provider to coach the new recruit on policy and procedures and unwritten expectations of the organization;
6. Make sure the new recruit has ample interaction with other healthcare providers;
7. Offer opportunities for presentations in our community such as at schools and the local hospital;
8. Performance appraisal is key both informally and formally and a professional critique should be done semi-annually with the Administrator and Medical Director;
9. Encourage professional development as this will keep the provider educationally motivated and current on new skills and knowledge in the medical field;
10. Offer memberships to local organizations and encourage networking with others in the community;
11. Recognition is critical in making the provider feel welcome and an important part of the community;
12. Most importantly, listen to the provider and address concerns and any problems he or she may encounter along the way;
13. Spouse or significant other and children are just as important when addressing needs and concerns - the entire family needs to be recruited and retained if we are to be successful; and
14. Finally, work-life balance is important. Be an advocate to all by your own life style, encouraging and promoting time off from work and promoting recreation.

If I can assist you in your physician recruitment efforts, please contact me at northdakotarec@comcast.net or 701-320-2109.

ND Department of Health - Emergency Preparedness & Response Section: ND Medical Facility Table Top and Full Scale Exercises

The Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) recently provided requirements for hospitals and long term care facilities that include one table top exercise (TTX) and one full scale exercise (FSE) to be completed by November 15, 2017. See the flyer in the attachments for more information.