July 2018

Teamworks, February 10, 1998

Aurora Health Care

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Elected officials, health policy experts and Aurora employees will be discussing how the latest legislative trends affect health care at a Democracy in Action session from 8 to 11:15 a.m. on Monday, March 9, at the Aurora Conference Center.

“Public policy is constantly changing and evolving,” says Tom Reilly, civic affairs coordinator. “Even if you have participated in a past session, this one will provide all new issues and speakers.”

Topics on March 9 will include the government crackdown on fraud and abuse, health care for the uninsured, women’s health issues and caring for the elderly and disabled.

The government initiative on fraud and abuse will be addressed by Nadine Gratz, director of public policy for the Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association, who has been helping to shape the debate on fraud and abuse in Washington, D.C. and Robert O’Keefe, Aurora’s vice president of treasury services and corporate compliance officer.

Federal investigators have recently stepped up efforts to uncover questionable health care billing. Find out how these investigations are carried out and what Aurora employees need to know to avoid problems.

Women’s health issues will be addressed by State Rep. Sheldon Wasserman, who also is an obstetrician-gynecologist in private practice, and State Sen. Mary Panzer, a member of the Joint Finance Committee, who helped shape the Women’s Health Initiative. Learn about new government policies on women’s health, from mandated insurance benefits to new prevention initiatives.

Caring for the elderly and disabled will be addressed by Mike Eaton, Aurora’s director of government affairs, and Stephanie Sue Stein, director of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and a leader in helping redesign Wisconsin’s program to assist the elderly and disabled. She and Mike have worked closely to pilot a new long-term care program with Aurora Health Care.

Health care for the uninsured will be addressed by State Senator Gary George, who championed Healthy Start, and Milwaukee County Board Chair Karen Ordinans, a leader in reforming county programs that provide health care to the indigent. BadgerCare and other new programs to provide health care for the uninsured will be discussed.

Call Theresa Baumgartner, government affairs secretary, at (414) 647-3072 to register for the program.
Four Aurora employees at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center received Golden Moment awards in December. Recognized were Anita Anderson, RN, NICU; Courtney Hunter, laboratory office coordinator; Tracy Johnson, pharmacy technician; and Janel Novak, MSW, lead social worker.

Anita is the sparkplug behind the Tenderhearted Volunteer Program. She involves community volunteers in contributing infant caps, blankets and quilts to the NICU.

Courtney, who's known as a positive person, goes out of her way to make sure that patients are taken care of in a timely manner and get the help they need with transportation arrangements.

Tracy was in the right place at the right time with the right attitude. She'd gone to the department one evening after work to drop off a Christmas donation, saw the department was working short with multiple, unusual, time-consuming, urgent demands — so she took off her coat and pitched in.

Janel was honored by her co-workers at “Janel Novak Appreciation Day” recently. She works hard to see that each patient has the best care and best follow-up and is available at home to consult evenings and weekends.

Congratulations to Anita, Courtney, Tracy and Janel, all of whom know that a moment can be golden.

To mark Heart Month, the Karen Yontz Center is holding a drawing for a gift that promises to match women's clinical needs and personal preferences to put prevention into practice for a lifetime.

Call (414) 649-5767 or visit the center to receive a free Heart Health Appraisal. Filled out, this also acts as the entry for the drawing for an in-depth Cardiac Risk Assessment, private counseling with a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist, and a cookbook. This heart-smart package has a value of $125. Entries must be received by Feb. 28.
Sinai Samaritan celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"The time is always right to do right." That was the theme of this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center. This holiday has been called a national day of service.

Organizing the event were (from left) Robinette Hunter, food service; Cathy Lampkin, environmental services; Linda Jefferson, patient relations; and Shellas Green, telecommunications.

Offering musical praise at the celebration was the Sanctuary Choir of the Holy Cathedral Church of God in Christ.

VNA prepares for Great Icescape for Kids

The Great Icescape for Kids is an annual fund-raising event that benefits children served by the Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin in both pediatric home care and pediatric hospice programs.

The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at the Pettit National Ice Center. For a donation of $20, each participant receives admission to the Pettit Center, skate rental, a T-shirt and a chance to win one of several terrific door prizes donated by community businesses. Family and group rates also are offered.

The VNA began providing pediatric home care in 1994. The littlest patients come to the VNA for many reasons, but premature infants and children with cancer make up the majority. The VNA also cares for children with asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and those suffering from abuse and neglect. Children 17 and younger are 26% of the VNA's patient population.

To request a registration form, call (414) 647-6335 or stop by your local YMCA. Your participation in this event can make a difference in the lives of the VNA's youngest patients.

"Gold medal" sponsors are M&I Bank, Wisconsin Energy Corp. and Quad/Graphics Inc. WMIL and WOKY radio stations are the broadcast media sponsors, and the YMCA is helping to promote the event.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin provides health care solutions that enable 9,000 patients a year to remain independent within their communities. The VNA's 255 nurses and 127 other caregivers make 264,000 visits a year, making the VNA the largest home care provider in eastern Wisconsin.
Computerized Patient Records team has opportunities for clinicians

Information Services’ Computerized Patient Records (CPR) team is currently recruiting new team members for CPR system analyst positions. The new team members will have clinical, technical or information services backgrounds, including nursing, laboratory, radiology, medical records and general administration.

The CPR system analyst position requires people who understand the workflow requirements of ambulatory and hospital settings, including patient record access and confidentiality requirements. Best suited to the job will be people who are interested in a career change, have a comfort level with computers and possess strong analytical thinking skills. No formal computer training is necessary because training is provided on the job.

Aurora’s CPR project is a major investment in the technological tools necessary to improve the efficiency and quality of health care delivery. It is part of a planned system-wide, patient-focused computer system that is expected to link most Aurora physicians and facilities by the turn of the century.

CPR has been successfully piloted in Hartford, and that pilot now has been expanded to Waukesha and Racine. Now phase two is ready to be launched. This will involve installing the latest version of CPR on a common architecture and providing it to more than 90 ambulatory and inpatient facilities during the next five to 10 years. To accomplish its goal, the team will need more than 20 additional staff members.

To learn more about the CPR project and opportunities in Information Services for people with clinical backgrounds, attend one of these meetings at the Aurora Conference Center: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, Sycamore Room; 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, Sycamore Room; 8 to 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, Ash Room; and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, Sycamore Room. For information, call Lisa Turba, human resources, at (414) 647-3432.

Polish visitors are Packer fans

Mark Wiener (center), administrator-St. Luke’s Medical Center, with two members of Poland’s National Committee for Quality and Accreditation, Michal Bedlicki (left) and Dr. Jaroslaw Surowiec. The visitors came to St. Luke’s to observe Joint Commission readiness activities, and because their visit was just before the Super Bowl, they became staunch Packer fans. Mark gave them each a Packer T-shirt and mug.
March 1998 Nursing Education Classes

These classes are held at the Aurora Conference Center and are free to Aurora employees unless a different location or fee is indicated in the course or class description. Courses or classes may be canceled if the minimum registrations are not received. Preregistration is required for every class and course in March. For more information and to register, call nursing education, (414) 647-6370, or fax the registration to nursing education, (414) 647-4878, or send e-mail on cc:Mail to nsg_ed or to nsg_ed@aurora.org on the Internet.

March 3 Chemotherapy administration course begins, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Two-hour chemo exam will also be required after course completion.

March 4 ANA/APCA course begins, 7:15-11 a.m., SLMC.

March 5 Options for wound and skin care management, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. This program is designed to train staff to become resources in the areas of wound and skin care. Free to all aurora affiliate employees.

March 6 Neonatal resuscitation program, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., SLMC.

March 9 Complications of pregnancy, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 12 Differentiating wide QRS tachycardias using a 12 lead, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 17 Differentiating wide QRS tachycardias, 12 noon-3 p.m.

March 18 Cardiac transplant overview, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

March 25 Basic IV therapy review: fluids and medications, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Enrollment is limited so register early.

March 26 12 lead ECG: what's normal and what's not, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

March 31 Preceptor workshop for health unit coordinators and nursing assistants, 12 noon - 4 p.m.

March 31 Building Bridges to Research Based Practice: Enhancing outcomes related to nursing practice, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Pfister Hotel, $20 fee to Aurora affiliate employees. Register via flyer or call Peggy Wipplinger, (414) 647-3347. Presently calling for research abstracts. For information, call Sue Truchan, (414) 647-3597.

West Allis Memorial

Let the games begin

The West Allis Memorial Hospital Wellness Council invites you to join in the spirit of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games, Feb. 23-March 24. Activities begin Feb. 23 with an employee fitness walk. Hot refreshments will be served. Enjoy prizes and special activities during this month long event. Organize your five-member team now. Cost is $5 per person. For details contact Mary Beth Thays, cardia rehab, ext. 7000.

St. Luke's

St. Luke's Medical Center hall closure

The Diagnostic and Treatment Center is participating in continuing medical education during which live closed-circuit television of gastrointestinal procedures will be transmitted to physicians in the auditorium. During these live transmissions, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, the second floor hallways between the Center and Schroeder elevators will be closed. Please use the first floor hallways during this time. Thanks for your cooperation!

Aurora Behavioral Health Services

upcoming community education

Feb. 14 Inner Messengers of Wellness: The power of dreams to heal mind, body and soul
Feb. 18 Breaking Out of the Obsessive-Compulsive Dilemma
Feb. 23 Depression Busters: How you can help yourself
Feb. 24 What Parents Need to Know About Attention Deficit Disorder
Feb. 25 Eating Disorders Screening

Programs are offered in Wauwatosa and Cudahy. To register, call the toll-free 24-hour registration line: (888) 771-ABHS (2247).

Natural healing for you and your family, you can do it, too!

7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23
Greenfield Avenue
Presbyterian Church
1455 S. 97th Street, West Allis
Presented by Elise McKinch, RN
Elise, a parish nurse, and her family have complemented their health care with natural healing and herbs.

Be Still My Heart

7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19
Hartford Senior Center,
730 Highland Ave.
Cost: $3

Learn more about living a heart healthy lifestyle. Arrhythmias, pacemakers and defibrillators are also topics. Heart rhythm monitoring will be offered. To register, call (888) 841-8454.
**Eat Right, Be Light**
*Weight Loss Program*
6-7 p.m.
Wednesdays, Feb. 25-April 29
Cardiopulmonary Classroom
St. Luke's Medical Center
Call St. Luke’s nutrition services at (414) 649-6757 for information or to register.
The fee is $100 for the class, plus $69 for individual diet instruction, which is required before the first class meeting.

**Pike Lake State Park**
*Candlelight Ski/Hike Evening*
6 to 9 p.m. Saturday Feb. 14
At this annual Department of Natural Resources cross country ski event, the rehabilitation fitness team of Hartford Memorial Hospital is offering free before and after stretching instruction, sports injury assessment, answers to sports training questions and a free sports massage. The event is free. For information, call the Pike Lake State Park at (414) 670-3400.

**Donate Blood at Hartford Memorial Hospital!**
2-6 p.m. first Tuesday of every month
Call (414) 670-6199 or 800-243-5124 for an appointment.

**Classes Offered by Aurora Libraries Database Network (ALDN)**
Those wanting to learn how to search MEDLINE, HEALTH REFERENCE CENTER (a database of consumer level health information), or the Online Book Catalog of the Aurora Libraries, are invited to register for one of these classes. These are three-hour Introduction to the Aurora Libraries Database Network (ALDN) classes unless otherwise labeled. Please call the Medical Library at St. Luke’s Medical Center (649-7357) to register. Class requirements: minimum of four and maximum of eight students.

Advanced MEDLINE classes may be scheduled by request for groups of four to eight. Demonstrations of ALDN databases are available at the West Allis Medical Library, call Joan Clausz, (414) 328-7910. Demonstrations of ALDN databases are available at the Jacob Fine Library-SLSS, call Stephanie Hanus, 489-4028.

Feb. 17 1:30-4:30 p.m., taught by Stephanie Hanus at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab
Feb. 17 8-10 a.m., MICROMEDEX drug databases, taught by Jane Bubik at the SLMC Computer Lab
Feb. 26 8-11 a.m., taught by Mary Jo Koenen at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab
March 6 1:30-4:30 p.m., taught by Mary Jo Koenen at the SSMC East Campus Computer Lab
March 17 1-3 p.m., MICROMEDEX drug databases, taught by Jane Bubik at the SLMC Computer Lab
March 23 1:30-4:30 p.m., taught by Stephanie Hanus at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab
April 17 8-11 a.m., taught by Kathy Strube at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab
May 6 1:30-4:30 p.m., taught by Stephanie Hanus at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab
May 18 8-11 a.m., taught by Mary Jo Koenen at the SSMC East Campus Computer Lab
May 21 8-10 a.m., MICROMEDEX drug databases, taught by Jane Bubik at the SLMC Computer Lab
June 3 8-11 a.m., taught by Kathy Strube at the SLMC Medical Library Computer Lab