2010 Annual Report
2010
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Dear HAT Member,

As I complete my term as Chairman, I wish to express my thanks for your support of our collective efforts to advocate for the interests of our members on legislative and regulatory issues that impact our hospitals and our communities.

The only organization that solely represents not-for-profit hospitals, HAT serves a vital role in advancing sound public policy and promoting the importance and value of our members as the foundation of health care services in Tennessee.

This year on your behalf, HAT executed a legislative strategy that focused primarily on preserving funding to ensure Tennessee’s not-for-profit hospitals remained financially viable. In addition, we mobilized to protect the certificate of need process, provide input in the development of a state health plan, oppose attempts to remove anti-trust protections for private act hospitals and provide input on changes in the management of gift funds by charitable organizations.

Outside of the legislative arena, HAT focused its efforts on demonstrating the value of not-for-profit hospitals and their community benefit programs. We provided education and resources to help HAT members understand how to better collect, measure and report their charity care and community benefit activities.

In an era of fewer uninsured patients and rising revenue needs for local, state and federal governments, HAT offers a forum for not-for-profit hospitals to work together to develop innovative and creative strategies to improve access to health care and enhance community health.

Due to the changing health care environment, HAT’s value as a voice for not-for-profit hospitals continues to increase. The additional requirements for tax exempt hospitals enacted in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will impose new demands and expectations on our hospitals. Other pressing concerns are the looming state budget issues and the daunting fiscal realities of how to adequately fund the TennCare program.

As your advocate on Tennessee’s Capitol Hill, HAT is grateful for your involvement and appreciates your commitment. We look forward to working with you as we represent the interests of Tennessee’s not-for-profit hospitals in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Larry Goldberg, HAT Chair
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Goal:
Promote and advance sound legislative and regulatory policy which allows not-for-profit hospitals to provide quality, affordable and accessible healthcare services in Tennessee.

Major Accomplishments:
- Met with administration officials and legislators to outline the legislative issues of importance to not-for-profit hospitals.
- Participated in meetings between hospital association representatives, the TennCare Bureau and the Department of Finance and Administration to discuss concerns and issues.
- Monitored developments in efforts to enact federal health care reform and analyzed the impact on not-for-profit hospitals.
- Endorsed legislation to enact the Annual Coverage Assessment Act to avoid the proposed cuts to TennCare by raising revenue from hospitals to generate a two-to-one match from the federal government.
- Supported legislation to require ignition interlock devices for certain DUI offenders that directed a portion of the fees to make grants to critical access hospitals.
- Monitored a proposal by the Board of Equalization to raise fees charged to not-for-profit hospitals for filing property tax exemptions.
- Advocated for an appropriation of state budget funds for Regional Health Information Organizations to aid in the adoption and use of electronic health records.
- Participated in negotiations on legislation to add a new member to the Health Services and Development Agency to represent the ambulatory surgical treatment center industry.
- Successfully opposed a legislative proposal to make changes in the CON appeals process.
• Provided input to the Division of Health Planning on the state health planning process and revisions to certificate of need standards and criteria.

• Defeated a legislative proposal to remove antitrust immunity protections for private act hospitals.

• Mobilized to oppose proposed changes that threatened to negatively impact the Tennessee Charitable Gift Annuity Act.

• Provided input on changes to the Uniform Prudent Management Institution Fund Act to allow charitable organizations more latitude in the management of certain gift funds.

• Successfully advocated in cooperation with THA for several other key pieces of legislation, including:
  – Extension of medical malpractice liability protection to hospital emergency room staff or other agents that perform mandatory mental health prescreenings on behalf of the state.
  – New signage requirements for hospitals to notify patients of protections against being coerced into having an abortion.
  – Secured a compromise on legislation that would have mandated certain MRSA testing by hospitals to instead work with the Tennessee Department of Education on education and awareness of community associated MRSA.

• Communicated with the Attorney General’s office to stay abreast of not-for-profit hospital conversion activity.

• Assisted members with setting strategy to address issues and solve problems with regulatory agencies.

• Raised funds for HAT’s political action committee, Committee for Quality HealthCare, and distributed contributions to more than 46 selected candidates.
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Goal:
To build community support of not-for-profit community hospitals as the preferred provider of healthcare services.

Major Accomplishments:

• Distributed the weekly HAT On the Hill Legislative Report to update members on news and developments.
• Distributed electronic newsletters to provide timely updates and information on HAT’s advocacy, legislative and community benefit reporting efforts.
• Maintained HAT’s website to enhance its value as an information resource for members and to promote the value of not-for-profit hospitals.
• Responded to media inquiries and placed letters to the editor and opinion columns to support HAT’s advocacy efforts.
• Provided not-for-profit hospital advocacy resource materials to members.
• Provided training and support for HAT CBISA Online, a free online resource to assist members in the collection and reporting of community benefit activities.
• Monitored discussions at the national level on mandating levels of charity care and standardization of community benefit reporting.
• Provided input to the Internal Revenue Services on the additional requirements for tax exempt hospitals imposed by the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
• Served as a participating sponsor for the Association for Community Health Improvement’s 2010 Spring Training Conference.
• Partnered with Tennessee’s district attorneys on “What’s the Rush,” a teen pregnancy prevention awareness effort.
• Participated in the First to the Top Coalition, a statewide alliance of business, community and education organizations that support education reform in Tennessee.
• Coordinated activities to plan and conduct HAT’s 2010 Annual Meeting, including raising $8,000 in sponsorship underwriting.
MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Goal:
To build membership and improve services to members.

Major Accomplishments:

• Maintained a membership of 53 not-for-profit hospitals across the state.
• Welcomed new members Memorial Hospital and Memorial North Park Hospital.
• Conducted the annual survey to assess member’s perception of HAT’s benefit and value.
• Conducted one-on-one visits with members across the state to discuss issues of importance and to enhance communication between members and HAT staff.
• Provided support to HAT member hospitals to help educate staff and volunteers on legislative issues and other issues of importance to not-for-profit hospitals.
• Provided sound financial and organizational management for HAT and operated within a budget established by the Board of Directors.
• Renewed the cooperation agreement with THA to act in accord on legislative and regulatory issues of mutual interest.
OUR MEMBERS
(As of October 2010)

Baptist Hospital, Nashville • Baptist Hospital of Cocke County • Blount Memorial Hospital • Bolivar General Hospital • Camden General Hospital • East Tennessee Children’s Hospital • Erlanger Bledsoe • Erlanger Medical Center • Erlanger North Hospital • Erlanger T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital • Fort Loudoun Medical Center • Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center • Franklin Woods Community Hospital • Gibson General Hospital • Hardin Medical Center • Henry County Medical Center • Hickman Community Hospital • Humboldt General Hospital • Indian Path Medical Center • Jackson-Madison County General Hospital • Jellico Community Hospital • Johnson City Medical Center • Johnson City Specialty Hospital • Laughlin Memorial Hospital • LeConte Medical Center • Marshall Medical Center • Maury Regional Hospital • Memorial Hospital • Memorial North Park Hospital • Mercy Medical Center North • Mercy Medical Center St. Mary’s • Mercy Medical Center West • Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge • Middle Tennessee Medical Center • Milan General Hospital • Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System • NorthCrest Medical Center • Parkwest Medical Center • Roane Medical Center • Saint Thomas Health Services • St. Mary’s Jefferson Memorial Hospital • St. Mary’s Medical Center of Campbell County • St. Mary’s Medical Center of Scott County • Sweetwater Hospital • Sycamore Shoals Hospital • Takoma Regional Hospital • Unicoi County Memorial Hospital • University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville • Vanderbilt University Medical Center • Wayne Medical Center • Wellmont Bristol Regional Medical Center • Wellmont Hancock County Hospital • Wellmont Hawkins County Memorial Hospital • Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center • Williamson Medical Center