



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Initiative to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities
Adopted by Connecticut Hospital Association
Board of Trustees**

Wallingford, CT – In pursuit of the goal of eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes, the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees at its April 20 meeting endorsed an initiative to work with the Connecticut Chapter of the NAACP and other interested parties on a shared agenda.

The CHA initiative will focus on expanding diversity in the governance and leadership of Connecticut hospitals, to be reflective of the state's various ethnic and racial populations. This includes identifying minority candidates to be nominated for the boards of CHA and member hospitals, as well as support for post-graduate fellowship training of minorities for hospital management positions.

Reducing disparities will include the implementation of statewide quality improvement projects and programs addressing conditions that disproportionately affect minority populations, such as prematurity and low birth weight, asthma, and diabetes. This also includes expanding access to primary care and adequate Medicaid rates to provide resources to treat those most affected by disparities.

CHA also seeks to create opportunities for supplier diversity, helping to identify products and services for minority business to offer to hospitals in the state.

In response to the CHA Board's endorsement of the initiative, Scot X. Esdaile, President, Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches stated, "The Connecticut NAACP looks forward to collaborating with CHA on this important endeavor. Minorities in Connecticut face disparities in several areas, and health is no exception. This is an important step in confronting health disparities and enhancing opportunities for minorities in the healthcare field."

“Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities is fundamental to ensuring the best possible health outcomes for all patients at Connecticut hospitals. By endorsing this initiative, CHA hospitals have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to a healthcare system that provides the highest quality care for all who need it,” commented Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut’s hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut’s not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the oldest, largest, and strongest civil rights organization in the United States. The principle objective of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority group citizens in the United States. The Connecticut Conference of the NAACP continues to be a leading voice in addressing local, state, and national issues facing African American, Hispanic, and other minorities.