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Nurse Leadership Forum Examines Key Workforce Issues

Wallingford, CT— CHA hosted its 9th annual Nurse Leadership Forum on Wednesday, October 14, providing an intensive day-long program focused on issues facing nurse leaders in Connecticut. More than 200 nurses participated in the forum, which featured a keynote address by Dr. Tim Porter-O’Grady, senior partner in an Atlanta-based consulting firm specializing in health futures, organizational innovation, conflict and change, and health service delivery models.

Dr. Porter-O’Grady, a nurse who has published extensively on a variety of healthcare topics, discussed leadership challenges and expectations in an era of healthcare transformation. According to Dr. Porter-O’Grady, more traditional principles and practices of leadership have become outmoded, and nurse leaders need to “live successfully in the age we’re joining.” He encouraged the group to recognize the societal shift to digital technology, and to “reconfigure their experience” to adapt to this new reality.

Nurse leaders also heard from several state and national experts in nursing practice, all of whom emphasized delivering the highest quality hospital care. Issues included effective strategies for reducing re-hospitalizations, creating an elder-friendly hospital environment, governance and shared decision-making, and transforming care at the bedside. Speakers included:

- Holly Brown, MSN, GNP-BC, Practice Manager, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE)
- Patricia Rutherford, MS, RN, Vice President, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
- Joanne Spetz, PhD, Associate Professor, University of California in San Francisco School of Nursing
- Christine Waszynski, APRN, Coordinator, Geriatric Consult Service, Hartford Hospital

According to Elizabeth Beaudin, CHA Director of Nursing and Workforce Initiatives, the annual forum “unites nursing leaders from throughout Connecticut in our common mission of providing the best and safest care to all patients in our hospitals. The forum is an important means of reaching nurses with information and best practices conveyed by nationally recognized experts.”

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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.