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CHA and Thomas Jefferson University Announce Population Health Partnership

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and Thomas Jefferson University in Pennsylvania are pleased to announce a two-year partnership to advance population health that heralds a new era of collaboration between hospital associations and educational organizations. The partnership will allow both entities to share expertise and best practices as they advance the tenets and practices of population health.

“The collaboration with the Jefferson College of Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University is an important step toward our shared goals of improving population health management and the health of communities,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “It will enable us to share knowledge, best practices, and research that will benefit Connecticut and positively impact people across the country.”

As part of the collaboration, Mary Reich Cooper, MD, JD, and CHA’s Chief Quality Officer since 2012, will serve as the Director of the Jefferson College of Population Health programs in healthcare quality and safety. In this capacity, she will oversee the curricula for the Master of Science and Certificate programs in Healthcare Quality and Safety, and teach key courses in these programs. Dr. Cooper, who is responsible for leading CHA’s efforts to implement High Reliability at all Connecticut hospitals to eliminate preventable patient harm, is an industry leader in quality and patient safety.

“With the addition of Dr. Cooper to our faculty, we are excited to have a unique partnership that will allow our students to benefit from the knowledge and resources possessed by an executive leader at a state hospital association,” said David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Dean of the Jefferson College of Population Health. “We hope that it can serve as a model for future collaborations across the country.”

“As knowledge in quality and safety expands across the continuum and hospitals partner with their patients and their communities, we have new opportunities to improve care. We are very excited to be partnering with Jefferson’s College of Population Health and bringing applied knowledge to leaders in Connecticut,” said Dr. Cooper.

Established in 2008, the Jefferson College of Population Health, the first educational institution of its kind in the nation, is dedicated to exploring the policies and influences that shape the health and well-being of populations. The mission of the College is to prepare future healthcare leaders to evaluate, develop, and implement health policies and systems that will benefit populations by preventing disease, emphasizing wellness, and stressing patient-provider partnerships.

Connecticut hospitals play a major and continually expanding role in population health management and improving the health of the communities they serve. CHA supports that work by facilitating care

coordination and optimization across the continuum, and focusing on integrated, equitable care. Earlier this year, CHA launched the Statewide Asthma Initiative to improve patient care and access, and transform community partner and hospital relationships. Additionally, CHA has taken a leadership role to improve health equity and reduce disparities, and continues facilitating the efforts of Connecticut hospitals to reduce preventable patient harm.

Dr. Cooper came to Connecticut from Rhode Island, where she was Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for Lifespan Corporation, a four-hospital health system based in Providence. She was an Assistant Professor in Medicine (Research) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a Member on the Rhode Island State Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. She also previously served as Chief Quality Officer at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Cooper received her undergraduate degree cum laude from Duke University, her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, where she was elected to AOA, and her degree in health law from Pace University School of Law.

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About CHA

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 hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.

About Jefferson — Health is all we do.

Our newly formed organization, Jefferson, encompasses Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, representing our academic and clinical entities. Together, the people of Jefferson, 19,000 strong, provide the highest-quality, compassionate clinical care for patients, educate the health professionals of tomorrow, and discover new treatments and therapies that will define the future of health care.

Jefferson Health comprises five hospitals, 14 outpatient and urgent care locations, as well as physician practices and everywhere we deliver care throughout the city and suburbs across Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks Counties in Pa., and Camden County in New Jersey. Together, these facilities serve more than 72,000 inpatients, 239,000 emergency patients and 1.7 million outpatient visits annually. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is the largest freestanding academic medical center in Philadelphia. Abington Hospital is the largest community teaching hospital in Montgomery or Bucks counties. Other hospitals include Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience in Center City Philadelphia; Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia; and Abington-Lansdale Hospital in Hatfield Township.

Thomas Jefferson University enrolls more than 3,800 future physicians, scientists, nurses and healthcare professionals in the Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC), Jefferson Colleges of Biomedical Sciences, Health Professions, Nursing, Pharmacy, Population Health and is home of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center.

For more information and a complete listing of Jefferson services and locations, visit www.jefferson.edu.