



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHA to Recognize Lawrence + Memorial Healthcare's Laurel Holmes, MSW, as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Laurel Holmes, MSW, Director of Community Partnerships and Population Health at Lawrence + Memorial Healthcare, as a 2016 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Bruce Cummings and Jennifer Muggeo.

As the person responsible for supporting the delivery of an integrated population health approach across all entities of L+M Healthcare, Ms. Holmes has an enormous job. It involves researching best practices and evidence-based strategies in population health management and community health improvement, facilitating creative partnerships with other community health and social service organizations, and working as L+M's primary leader in the development and implementation of a system-wide effort to plan, manage, report, and publicize community benefit activities for all entities in the L+M family of organizations.

Ms. Holmes has tackled all of these jobs with skill, deep knowledge, and commitment to the tenets of population health, particularly when it comes to highlighting health inequities in southeastern Connecticut. She is responsible for leading the assessment and identification of community needs within L+M Hospital and Westerly Hospital's service areas, and for developing innovative solutions using community partnerships to improve the health status of the underserved, uninsured, and other special needs populations, as well as for the broader community.

Ms. Holmes has worked to encourage citizen involvement and multi-sector partnerships in health promotion and primary prevention activities such as tackling child obesity, preventing teen pregnancy, reducing the risk of diabetes among children, and intervening to reduce school absenteeism and avoidable use of the ED by children with asthma.

Ms. Holmes has more than 30 years of experience in the medical and public health fields and has been recognized nationally and in Connecticut for her work. She was recognized by Ledge Light Health District as the recipient of the 2015 Francis "Sam" Crowley Award, which is presented annually to a person who promotes the *10 Essential Services of Public Health*.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes award was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its 15th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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

