



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHA to Recognize Hartford Hospital's Hank Schwartz, MD, as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Harold (Hank) Schwartz, MD, Physician-in-Chief at the Institute of Living, Hartford Hospital, as a 2016 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by Rebecca Stewart.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School not only stunned the world, it left people across the state and nation with urgent questions. What combination of circumstances could culminate in such violence? And what steps must be taken to reduce the chance it would happen again? Federal and state leaders turned to Dr. Schwartz to help craft public policy and launch a national dialogue on mental health.

Dr. Schwartz was chosen to help lead the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, where he served tirelessly alongside 16 others with backgrounds in mental health, school safety, education, and public safety. The group's charge was to review the events at Sandy Hook from all perspectives and make recommendations with regard to gun violence, mental health, and school safety. In addition, Dr. Schwartz served as spokesperson for the Commission, giving interviews to the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, CBS Evening News, and many other local and regional news outlets. Following the release of the Commission's final report, Dr. Schwartz gave a compelling presentation, "Adam Lanza – The Mind of a Mass Shooter," to standing room only audiences across Connecticut and the country.

Since that time, Dr. Schwartz has become the go-to resource when high level organizations want to learn how to keep people safe and he has dedicated himself to helping people learn how to read the signs of potential danger. He is currently involved in efforts to ensure the mental health of Connecticut police officers, and is a resource for Central Connecticut State University's senior administration.

But Dr. Schwartz's commitment to mental health treatment – particularly in the areas of improving access and removing stigma – was evident long before the Sandy Hook tragedy. It is his steadfast commitment to these very real issues that are often swept aside that make him a Healthcare Hero.

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.

