



Thursday, June 16, 2011

Middlesex Hospital's Colleen Smith Awarded CHA's Distinguished Service Award

Colleen Smith MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President for Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at Middlesex Hospital is being recognized at the CHA Annual Meeting on June 23 with CHA's highest honor, the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes an individual with extraordinary service to the healthcare field who has made significant contributions or achievements in governance, management, or clinical services.

CHA established the T. Stewart Hamilton Award in honor of Dr. Hamilton for his personal integrity, dedication, and significant career accomplishments in the healthcare field. Executive director and president of Hartford Hospital for more than 20 years, Dr. Hamilton was chief elected officer of both CHA and the American Hospital Association, and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives/Modern Healthcare Healthcare Hall of Fame.



Colleen Smith has been affiliated with Middlesex Hospital since 1986, initially serving as faculty in the Wilcox School of Nursing and then as Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing. In 1995, she became a key member of the Middlesex Hospital Executive Team. Under Colleen's leadership, Middlesex Hospital achieved Magnet status the first time in 2001—the 35th hospital in the country to do so. The Magnet Recognition program recognizes healthcare organizations nationally that provide nursing excellence. In 2010 Middlesex Hospital achieved Magnet status for the third time, becoming one of only 29 hospitals in the country so designated. Colleen views Middlesex's three-time designation as a Magnet hospital as her most important contribution to the hospital. "It's important because it uses standards to drive improvement. Because our nurses are 24/7 watch guards of patients, they need to be well prepared, confident, and have a supportive work environment—Magnet helps us achieve this."

A Magnet appraiser for the American Nurses Credentialing Center, Colleen Smith is an active member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the Organization of Nurse Executives-Connecticut, where she has served as President, the Connecticut Nurses Association, and the VHA CNO Network. In 2010 she was the recipient of the prestigious Diamond Jubilee Doris Armstrong Award, presented by the Connecticut Nurses Association, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a nursing professional in Connecticut. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to nursing administration and recognizes significant innovations and achievements in nursing service administration, which advances nurses and their profession. Colleen has been a consistent, involved leader in CHA activities, bringing her talents and passion to a number of initiatives. She has chaired the CHA Patient Care Executives meeting group, and is an active member of the Hospital Oversight Work Group and the Committee on Human Resources. She chaired that Committee's Subcommittee on Nurse Staffing and is currently chairing the Subcommittee on Nurse-Sensitive Quality Indicators. She has been involved in CHA advocacy, representing CHA in meetings with Congressional representatives and testifying in Hartford on behalf of CHA on workplace issues.

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Given her emphasis on creating a supportive workplace and an empowering culture, Colleen was an active participant in the groundbreaking CHA Nursing Workplace Environment Assessment project in 2008, when Middlesex Hospital scores were so high that the hospital was one of three invited to present at the subsequent Day of Caring event. Middlesex Hospital participated in the survey again this year with the same result: pace-setting scores on environment assessment and staff engagement. (Photo captions: *Colleen with her daughter, Megan, also a nurse; celebrating the announcement of Middlesex Hospital's third Magnet status designation; and out in the community representing the hospital.*)

Colleen Smith is a Wharton Nurse Fellow and holds certification in advanced nursing administration through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She received both her BSN and MSN from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. On August 1, 2011, Colleen will be retiring from Middlesex Hospital. She leaves a lasting legacy of excellence, high standards, and a passion for doing what's right for patients.

CHA congratulates Colleen Smith for her extraordinary career and service to healthcare in Connecticut.

CHA Works with Congressional Delegation on Changes to CMS IPPS Proposed Rule

Yesterday, Wednesday, June 15, Representatives Joe Courtney (CT-2) and John Larson (CT-1), met with Jonathan Blum, Deputy Administrator, and Marc Harstein, Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), to discuss the Fiscal Year 2012 Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule. CHA has been working for several weeks to address the rule's proposed significant decrease in 2012 Medicare inpatient payments to Connecticut's hospitals, and the meeting took place at CHA's request.

The 2012 IPPS proposed rule presents a significant challenge for Connecticut hospitals for several reasons—PPACA mandated reductions, national coding offsets, and a significant decrease in the wage index value calculated for the rural floor—which will result in a year-over-year Medicare funding reduction in excess of \$60 million for Connecticut.

Although the meeting went well, no resolution has yet been announced. For more information about the impact of the IPPS proposed rule, contact Stephen Frayne, CHA's Senior Vice President, Health Policy, at frayne@chime.org.

CHA Reports Progress On Commitment To Reduce Disparities and Increase Diversity

In 2009, CHA announced its commitment to address racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes, expand diversity in the governance and leadership of Connecticut hospitals, and create opportunities for supplier diversity. Earlier this week, CHA released a progress report to its members highlighting its achievements to date.

Significant accomplishments include the announcement of a first-ever statewide "Diversity Collaborative," modeled on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's successful clinical collaborative structure, hosting two Supplier Diversity Vendor Fairs concurrent with the 2010 and 2011 CHA Annual Meetings, and working with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council to identify minority-owned vendors to offer products and services to hospitals.

The update also cited progress in identifying and electing minority trustees to the CHA board; hosting *Partnerships: A Model for Addressing Community Health*, a program that focused on eliminating health disparities (pictured); and working with the Institute for Diversity in Health Management to develop orientation sessions for potential hospital trustees and education support for



hospitals on addressing disparities and diversity issues.

“We’ve been working on this diversity initiative since we established a partnership with Connecticut’s NAACP in 2009 to look for ways to address some of these concerns. I’ll be candid – we have a lot of work to do,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO of CHA. “But we have one of the widest-ranging hospital association initiatives in the country,” said Jackson, who also serves on the board of the Institute for Diversity in Health Management, a national non-profit organization with a mission to expand healthcare leadership opportunities for minorities. “We’ve got a lot of positive momentum and our membership is engaged and enthusiastic,” Jackson said. “These initiatives won’t be completed overnight, but we are committed to long-term substantive change, and we will share data and be held accountable.”

Other progress noted in the CHA report included:

- Established a Subcommittee on Diversity and Cultural Competence to develop an action plan to improve diversity in hospital governance and senior management and an initiative to address hospital cultural competency needs and requirements.
- Began working with a leadership development and strategic communications firm with a particular expertise in educating organizations about effective ways to enhance diversity to assist with CHA’s diversity work.
- Established a CHA Supplier Diversity Work Group to expand supplier diversity in hospitals by identifying product and service opportunities for Connecticut minority businesses to offer to hospitals.
- Began working with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) to identify minority-owned business enterprise (MBE) partners. Twenty-four MBEs have been added to CHA’s Group Purchasing Organization portfolio and CHA is continuing to work with GNEMSDC to create additional opportunities for MBEs.
- Launched a dedicated website to promote these businesses (<http://www.chassp.com/>), and will be hosting a second Supplier Diversity Vendor Fair concurrent with the CHA Annual Meeting in June at which senior executives and purchasing decision makers will be able to learn more about the products and services offered by CHA’s MBE partners.

For information about CHA’s diversity collaborative and other issues, contact Kim Hostetler, CHA’s Vice President, Administration and Communications, at hostetler@chime.org.

Donna Brazile To Keynote 93rd CHA Annual Meeting, June 23

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Hospital Association kicks off at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 23 and features annual recognition of hospital staff and programs, as well as a Supplier Diversity Vendor Fair, and a keynote address by Donna Brazile, author, political commentator, and syndicated columnist.



An adjunct professor at Georgetown University, Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation at the Democratic National Committee, and former chair of the DNC’s Voting Rights Institute, Ms. Brazile began her political career at the age of nine when she worked to elect a City Council candidate who had promised to build a playground in her neighborhood; the candidate won, the swing set was installed, and a lifelong passion for political progress was ignited. Four decades and innumerable state and local campaigns later, Ms. Brazile has worked on every presidential campaign from 1976 through 2000, when she served as campaign manager for former Vice President Al Gore, becoming the first African American woman to manage a presidential campaign.

Author of the best-selling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, Brazile is a columnist for *Ms. Magazine* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*, and an on-air contributor to CNN and ABC, where she regularly appears on *This Week with Christiane Amanpour*.

For more information about tickets to the CHA Annual Meeting, contact Rhonda Bates at bates@chime.org. For more information about the Supplier Diversity Vendor Fair, contact Peggy Courchesne at courchesne@chime.org.

Education Updates

Advanced Concepts for Experienced Nurse Preceptors, Monday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Experienced nurse preceptors play a vital role in the development of professional nurses at their organizations. While the rewards of teaching students and new nurses are great, the demands and challenges are many. Supporting these veteran staff

registered nurses to grow and learn in their own right is an important part of sustaining their good work.

Advanced Concepts for Experienced Nurse Preceptors is a full-day program conceived by the same team of educators from Connecticut hospitals and schools of nursing that developed the highly successful basic nurse preceptorship program. It is designed to help experienced nurse preceptors renew knowledge of basic concepts, learn about and discuss specific preceptor practices and professional nursing trends, and participate in interactive sessions with their counterparts from around the state on topics that present challenges to them.

Following a brief overview of basic precepting concepts, this program will feature sessions on strategies for developing critical thinking in the preceptee, motivating and influencing, staying current as a professional, and “challenge scenario” discussion and analysis. The program will provide a unique opportunity for nurses who have precepted for a few years to learn and strengthen their skills and to share experiences with colleagues from a variety of organizations.

The program is presented by Robin Guisti, EdD, MSN, RN-BC, Administrative Director of Nursing Services, The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital; Anna McGuirk, MSN, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, MSN, RN, Director of Education, The William W. Backus Hospital.

Click [here](#) for the brochure, and [here](#) to register.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (5.5 contact hours).