



**For Further Immediate**

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

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**CT Hospital Association Kicks Off Multi-Year Diversity Collaborative With Symposium  
*National Chair of the NAACP, Roslyn Brock, Keynote Speaker***

October 25, 2011 – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will hold a symposium at its headquarters in Wallingford today to kick off a multi-year, statewide initiative designed to strengthen healthcare equity in Connecticut. The ***CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact*** will bring together hospitals from around Connecticut to share ideas and best practices on strategies to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity. The [day-long event](#) will begin with a keynote speech by NAACP Chairwoman Roslyn Brock and will include presentations from a panel of renowned experts, community partners, and stakeholders.

“Hospitals in Connecticut are committed to being national leaders in the call to action to address health equity and disparities,” said Christopher Dadlez, CHA Board Chairman and President and CEO of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “This is one of CHA’s top priorities and we are passionate about improving the health of every community and every individual in Connecticut. Together, I am confident that we are going to make a real difference.”

Based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s clinical collaborative model, the ***CHA Diversity Collaborative*** provides the structure for hospitals to work together to identify strategies for improvement, learn from national experts, and put into place best practices that will be tracked and measured for progress. This will be facilitated by CHA-developed resources, including a project website and collaborative listserv.

NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock will launch the symposium with her keynote address. Ms. Brock has long been a healthcare advocate and is currently the Vice President of Advocacy and Government Relations for Bon Secours Health System in Maryland. She made history in February 2010 when she was unanimously elected the 14th Chairman of the NAACP’s National Board as the youngest person and fourth woman to hold this position. During her tenure as a Youth Board Member and Vice Chairman of the NAACP Board Health Committee, Ms. Brock led

the policy debate to recognize access to quality healthcare as a civil rights issue. Her passion for healthcare resulted in the National Board's ratification and inclusion of a health committee as a standing committee in its constitution. In 1989, under the leadership of her mentor Rev. Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks, Ms. Brock wrote the program manual for "Developing a NAACP Health Outreach Program for Minorities." She has also served on the American Hospital Association's Equity of Care Committee since its inception.

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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