



For Immediate Release

August 2, 2013

Contact: Michele Sharp

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

(203) 294-7213

Sharp@chime.org

CHA Statement on NAACP Economic Reciprocity Initiative Healthcare Survey

WALLINGFORD – Connecticut hospitals appreciate our collaboration with the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches, which resulted in the NAACP’s new report, the 2010 Economic Reciprocity Initiative Healthcare Survey. The report provides a snapshot of diversity and business practices in Connecticut hospitals from 2009-2011, before the CHA Diversity Collaborative was created in 2011.

Connecticut hospitals, like hospitals across the country, have as their mission to provide quality equitable care to all patients. We recognize that across the nation and in Connecticut, health disparities and low levels of hospital workforce diversity in general and among hospital leadership have been troubling and persistent issues. In 2009, hospitals in Connecticut came together to explore and address these issues. The initiative – the CHA Diversity Collaborative – formally launched on October 25, 2011.

The Diversity Collaborative is a multi-year, statewide endeavor to improve health equity and eliminate disparities by increasing diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improving cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increasing supplier diversity. This first-in-the-nation collaborative of acute care hospitals has been recognized as a national model for advancing health equity and eliminating disparities.

Hospitals are working together to conduct organizational self-assessments, identify and implement improvement strategies and interventions such as cultural competency training, share best practices, collect data, and utilize metrics to track performance and progress. Through this process, hospitals are working to improve diversity in the workforce and eliminate disparities in patient care delivery.

Hospitals’ collaborations with the NAACP and others, including the American Hospital Association’s Institute for Diversity in Health Management, the Hispanic Health Council, the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, and other state and community-based organizations, were the genesis of the CHA Diversity Collaborative.

###

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, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.