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CHA to Recognize Gaylord Specialty Healthcare with the 2019 *Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award*

WALLINGFORD – At its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health will award the *2019 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award* to Gaylord Specialty Healthcare for its Gynecological Clinic for Women with Disabilities.

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare is known for its leadership in treating individuals with spinal cord injuries. When staff identified that women with spinal cord injuries were considerably less apt to seek regular gynecological care, they established in 1999 a clinic to care for these patients.

“Through this unique clinic, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare lives its mission to enhance health, maximize function, and transform lives,” noted Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “Effectively addressing an unmet need in its community with its Gynecological Clinic for Women with Disabilities, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare has been improving health outcomes of women with disabilities for 20 years. We are proud to honor Gaylord Specialty Healthcare with this award.”

After a spinal cord injury, many women aren't able to access services at standard OB/GYN offices as they can't transfer to a typical exam table. Some doctors are uncomfortable or unaware of how to treat women with special needs. Women with spinal cord injuries cannot feel if something is wrong so it is vital to get regular checkups to screen and prevent UTIs, infections, address pressure sores, and for early cancer detection. Women who have had strokes, Multiple Sclerosis, amputations, developmental or mental disabilities may also feel more comfortable at a clinic that offers adaptive equipment and care by a professional who understands and advocates for those with disabilities.

Anna Tirado, MD, is the primary OB/GYN provider, and provides her clinic services pro bono. This year, Gaylord's Gynecological Clinic for Women with Disabilities celebrated its 20th anniversary. The clinic is open twice a month and sees 10-15 patients each month. Every patient receives care well beyond the time and scope expected at a typical gynecology visit.

“The clinic's benefit to the community is immeasurable, drawing patients throughout the state. Finding talented physicians willing to treat disabled patients is difficult, but Dr. Anna Tirado actively seeks new ways to improve women's access to care,” said Chief Medical Officer Stephen Holland, MD.

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About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals and health systems since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals and health systems on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.