



**For Immediate Release**

July 9, 2013

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## **Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives to Partner with CHA on Diversity Collaborative**

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives (CTAHE) are pleased to announce a formal **Partnership on Diversity and Health Equity**.

CHA and CTAHE will work together to raise awareness and educate healthcare leaders on issues of diversity, inclusion, and reduction of healthcare disparities; increase the engagement of healthcare executives in driving progress on diversity and health equity-related issues; and increase the diversity of CTAHE and hospital leadership.

“This partnership represents an exciting opportunity for us to leverage the memberships and strengths of both organizations toward making providers of healthcare in the state of Connecticut more diverse, culturally aware, and inclusive, with marked improvement in the identification and elimination of health disparities,” said Kurt Barwis, President, Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives and President & Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, Inc.

In adopting the partnership, CTAHE expressed how healthcare organizations are rapidly diversifying, both in terms of the patient population and the workforce. The business implications are immense and will require meeting different care needs, including improving quality, installing new processes and services, and strategic planning for a diverse patient demographic and continuum of care.

“We are thrilled to partner with CTAHE,” said Marie M. Spivey, EdD, RN, Vice President, Health Equity, CHA. “Together, we will strive to reach common goals of raising awareness of health equity issues; increasing diversity in governance boards and senior management; eliminating barriers that cause health disparities; and improving health outcomes for all – and especially the most vulnerable.”

The partnership is in concert with efforts under way through the CHA Diversity Collaborative. 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.

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**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.

**About CTAHE**

The Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives is the professional membership society for healthcare executives. Its goals are to meet its members' professional, educational, and leadership needs; to promote high ethical standards and conduct; to advance healthcare leadership and management excellence; and to promote the mission of ACHE.