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Connecticut Hospitals Recognized Nationally For Leadership in Quality Improvement

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is the 2014 recipient of the American Hospital Association’s Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association Leadership. The award is given to hospital associations that, along with their member hospitals, demonstrate leadership and innovation in quality improvement and contribute to national healthcare improvement efforts. The Wisconsin Hospital Association is also a 2014 winner.

Connecticut hospitals are being recognized for their involvement in the first-of-its-kind statewide high reliability collaborative to reduce all-cause preventable harm and empower hospitals to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety.

“CHA is proud of the work of Connecticut hospitals that have collaborated to share, learn, and apply nationally recognized, evidence-based practices to achieve the highest standards of quality and safety,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO, CHA. “This award honors their effort to reinforce safety as the most important focus—the foundation on which all hospital work is done.”

Hospital leaders have embraced the challenge of hardwiring patient safety into their organizational culture through high reliability science. Every day, staff, department heads, and executives are communicating in daily safety huddles, finding solutions to problems, and becoming more accountable for outcomes. Hospitals encourage critical thinking and questioning from all levels, and they “stop the line” whenever a concern is raised. They are standardizing communication and improving interdisciplinary teamwork across all settings. This work is saving lives, and the supportive and collaborative environment is strengthening hospitals.

To date, more than 10,000 Connecticut hospital staff and physicians have been trained in high reliability safety behaviors.

“Improving quality and patient safety is a never-ending quest for America’s hospitals and health systems,” said Rich Umbdenstock, President and CEO, American Hospital Association. “The Connecticut and Wisconsin state hospital associations exemplify the key role now played by hospital associations across the country in convening and supporting their members in the critical work of quality and safety collaboratives.”

The award is named for AHA President Emeritus Dick Davidson, who promoted the role of hospital associations in leading quality improvement during his tenure as AHA president and as president of the Maryland Hospital Association. The awards will be presented July 20 at the 2014 Health Forum-AHA Leadership Summit in San Diego.

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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.