



For Immediate Release

June 11, 2015

Contact: Michele Sharp
Director of Communications and Public Affairs
(203) 317-1098
Sharp@chime.org

**Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network's Stephen W. Larcen, PhD,
Named Connecticut's 2015 Grassroots Champion**

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Stephen W. Larcen, PhD, President of Hartford HealthCare's Behavioral Health Network, as Connecticut's 2015 Grassroots Champion. Dr. Larcen is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for issues of importance to hospitals and healthcare.

"Steve is a powerful force in advocating for mental healthcare in Connecticut," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "With a deep well of experience and knowledge, Steve educates legislators on critical issues related to the mental health system. He advocates for public policy that benefits Connecticut patients and all those in our communities. We are very pleased that he is this year's Grassroots Champion."

The award, given annually to one person in each state, was created to recognize hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials about how major issues affect hospitals' roles in the community, who have expanded the base of community support for hospitals, and who have been tireless advocates for hospitals and patients.

Dr. Larcen took on the role of vice president of Behavioral Health for Hartford HealthCare in 1997 while serving as president and CEO of Natchaug Hospital, a position he assumed in 1990. In 2011, he added the role of president and CEO of Windham Hospital. With the reorganization of Hartford HealthCare into regions in 2013, his focus became the system's behavioral health service line.

Hartford HealthCare's Behavioral Health Network, for which Dr. Larcen currently serves as president, includes The Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital, Natchaug Hospital, Rushford, and behavioral health services at other Hartford HealthCare member organizations, including Backus Hospital and The Hospital of Central Connecticut.

With CHA, Dr. Larcen serves as the co-chair of the Subcommittee on Mental Health. He is also a long-standing member of CHA's Committee on Government.



###

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, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.