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CHA Special Edition of Update: Annual Meeting Awards

The Connecticut Hospital Association will hold its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. This year's theme, *Connecticut Hospitals: Building a Healthier Connecticut*, reflects hospitals' 2017 advocacy focus on building a healthier state – with healthier people, healthier communities, and a healthier economy that comes from a strong hospital and healthcare sector.

The meeting will feature CHA's annual awards, including the *John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data*, the *Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award*,

the *T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award*, the *AHA Grassroots Champion Award*, and the recognition of 12 Healthcare Heroes.



Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist and MSNBC analyst Eugene Robinson will deliver the keynote address. Mr. Robinson is on the front lines of news coverage every day. His twice-weekly column is syndicated in 145 newspapers across the nation. In his three decades at the *Washington Post*, Mr. Robinson has been city hall reporter, city editor, foreign correspondent in Buenos Aires and London, foreign editor, and assistant managing editor in charge of the paper's award winning Style section. Mr. Robinson's remarkable storytelling ability has won him wide acclaim, most notably as the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for his commentary on the 2008 presidential race.

CHA gratefully acknowledges the generous Annual Meeting sponsorship of our Platinum Sponsors, Wiggin and Dana, SKD Knickerbocker, PatientPing, and Berkeley Research Group.

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital to Receive the 2017 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data

At its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Lawrence + Memorial Hospital with the 2017 *John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data* for its project, Breathe Well * Respira Bien.

When officials at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital realized that the hospital's ED utilization for asthma and rate of adult asthma admissions was among the highest in the state, they were concerned. Additionally, rates of asthma among Hispanics and Black non-Hispanics were particularly high.

In an effort to address these issues and health disparities, the hospital created the Breathe Well * Respira Bien intervention program, which has resulted in significant improvement in patient outcomes, reduced ED utilization, and greater asthma control among pediatric and adult populations.

"The Breathe Well * Respira Bien intervention is empowering people to take control of their asthma," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "The proven results of this project are not only apparent in the data today, but will impact the future for many of the young people being served. This work exemplifies the purpose of the *John D. Thompson Award*, and we are proud to honor Lawrence + Memorial Hospital."

Breathe Well * Respira Bien incorporates two areas of intervention: post-ED visits for those in the community, and inpatient/school-based treatment for students. Led by the hospital's asthma self-management coach, the effort addresses gaps and barriers to care.

New procedures implemented through Breathe Well * Respira Bien include the creation of a special report generated weekly to track ED utilization for asthma. Based on this report, the asthma self-management coach reaches out to every patient, offering the full intervention, including asthma education workshops in English and Spanish. In the first year, the asthma education/ED outreach aspect of the program has reached more than 500 patients and enrolled 49 participants.

The primary measure of the intervention's impact is the Asthma Control Test (ACT), a five-question tool that asks about symptoms and daily functioning to determine asthma control. ACT assesses the frequency of shortness of breath and general asthma symptoms, use of rescue medications, the effect of asthma on daily functioning, and overall self-assessment of asthma control. Before the intervention, ACT

scores showed 16.7 percent of community-based cohort participants had well-controlled asthma; after the intervention, 47.6 percent had well-controlled asthma. In the school-based cohort, 37 percent of participants had well-controlled asthma prior to the intervention; 74.3 percent had well-controlled asthma after the intervention.

The Breathe Well * Respira Bien program is consistent with the hospital's statement of intent on quality, which is to use evidence-based models of care to deliver superior quality and safety in every setting; it also demonstrates that community health workers have a positive impact on health outcomes.

CHA to Recognize the Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging with the 2017 Community Service Award



At its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health will recognize the Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging with the 2017 *Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award*.

The Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging is a free resource and assessment center for seniors and their families that serves as a single point of entry for older people struggling to navigate the complexities of the healthcare system. The Center links seniors with multiple chronic conditions and other complicating socioeconomic risk factors to the resources and support they need to stay healthy.

Anyone who calls or walks in has immediate access to a trained professional who can assess the situation and link them with appropriate care and services. This might include meals, transportation, healthcare, or community and government assistance. Services also include health coaching, home assessments, formal and informal caregiver training, educational events, support groups, screenings (blood pressure, memory, glucose, and cholesterol), and geriatric care management following a hospital stay.

"Improving access to care for community members is a key goal of Connecticut hospitals, which makes the work being done by the Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging both timely and important," noted Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Helping seniors navigate a complex healthcare system, and providing them with a single entry point to services helps to ensure they receive the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. We are proud to honor Hartford HealthCare with this award."

The Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging provided support last year for more than 18,000 seniors, one third of whom identify as low income. Established in 2004 as a partnership between Hartford HealthCare Senior Services and The Hospital of Central Connecticut, the Center has grown to include sites at five hospitals.

The program is funded through an annual contribution from Hartford HealthCare and a grant from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, which saw the value of this model to support low-income elderly clients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible) in the central region.

Bruce D. Cummings, FACHE, to Receive the 2017 T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award



The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is pleased to recognize Bruce D. Cummings, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence + Memorial Hospital for 11 years, with the *T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award*. Mr. Cummings is the Immediate Past Chairman of the CHA Board.

The award, introduced in 1970, is granted to individuals who "contribute significant, noteworthy services to the health of the public."

"Bruce has proven throughout his career that he is a visionary leader," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "As CHA Board Chairman, Bruce unified hospitals across the state, exhibiting a relentless pursuit of excellence in quality and patient safety, and steering us through challenging times with a steady hand and calm demeanor. We are pleased to honor Bruce with the *T. Stewart Hamilton Award*."

Mr. Cummings fully encompasses the qualities and accomplishments extolled by the award. He has exhibited exemplary leadership in facilitating the continued growth and success of L+M Healthcare, guiding first its decision to acquire Westerly Hospital and then leading the process of aligning L+M Healthcare into Yale New Haven Health.

On a broader, systemic level, during his tenure as Chairman of the CHA Board, Mr. Cummings steered Connecticut hospitals through one of their most turbulent eras. In the face of escalating state taxes, cuts to Medicaid reimbursement, and uncertainty about the future of national healthcare funding, Mr. Cummings successfully united hospitals around the goal of protecting Connecticut's healthcare environment.

Despite these challenges, Mr. Cummings, who previously served as Chairman of the CHA Committee on Patient Care Quality and the Committee on Hospital Finance, never lost sight of where the focus of hospitals and the Association must remain – improving quality and safety in hospitals, and finding better ways to serve communities and patients.

During his tenure, CHA and its member hospitals made concerted efforts to eliminate health disparities, improve health equity, and expand coordination of care across the continuum.

Mr. Cummings has also been a driving force behind one of the Association's most significant endeavors, the continuing quest to improve quality and patient safety through the use of high reliability science. This effort, which has led to the training of more than 50,000 staff and physicians in hospitals across the state in high reliability science, resulted in significant improvements in patient safety, including the reduction of preventable harm.

Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group's Kurt Barwis Named Connecticut's 2017 Grassroots Champion



The American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) recognize Kurt A. Barwis, FACHE, President and CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, as Connecticut's 2017 *Grassroots Champion*. Mr. Barwis is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in advocating for hospital priorities such as eliminating the hospital tax and raising Medicaid rates. He has also dedicated considerable time to educating lawmakers on major issues impacting hospitals today.

"Connecticut hospitals are fortunate to have an advocate like Kurt Barwis," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. "Kurt communicates effectively with legislators, bringing both facts and conviction to bear. Anyone who talks with Kurt will know how deeply he cares about protecting patients, hospitals, and communities. In partnership with the AHA, we are pleased to honor him with the *Grassroots Champion Award*."

Mr. Barwis, who has led Bristol Hospital since 2006, brings more than thirty years of management and leadership experience in community hospital administration, management consulting, and entrepreneurial business environments to his work. He joined the CHA Board of Trustees in 2007, serving since 2010 as Chairman of the CHA CEO Forum, and is also a member of the Committee on Hospital Finance and the Financial Oversight Committee.

In addition to his leadership at Bristol Hospital, Mr. Barwis is Regent-Elect of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, having previously served as a past President and Co-Chairman of the Sponsorship and Audit Committees. He is a member of the Governor's Healthcare Cabinet, the Board of Directors for Qualidigm, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization contractor for the state of Connecticut, and Co-Chairman of the legislative committee of the Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Barwis earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration from LaSalle University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and was a licensed Public Accountant from 1999 to 2007.

The *AHA Grassroots Champion 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 advocates for hospitals and patients.

CHA Honors 12 Healthcare Heroes

One healthcare hero tracked down a homeless man to make sure he got the help he needed; another pioneered innovative surgical techniques to help patients avoid the harms of opioid addiction; a third led a campaign to reduce underage drinking at concerts. These are just some of the stories of the 2017 Healthcare Heroes.

Each year, CHA recognizes an inspiring and committed group of individuals from across the state who embody the best in their profession. The following Healthcare Heroes will be acknowledged at the 99th CHA Annual Meeting on June 14, 2017.



Mary Angelucci, RN, an assistant nurse manager and nurse case manager at Bridgeport Hospital, goes out of her way to help those in need of medical attention. She once located a patient in a homeless shelter who needed urgent medical care; another time, she helped a mother of five secure an air conditioner and food; and once she helped make a dying patient's dream of becoming an American citizen come true.



Patrick Broderick, MD, FACEP, Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Western Connecticut Health Network, is selfless and compassionate in caring for all. Additionally, he is dedicated to serving the needs of the poor, both by caring for them in a free clinic and by traveling to areas of need to provide medical services. Pat is a mentor to others in the healthcare field.



Philip Corvo, MD, MA, FACS, is Chairman of the Stanley J. Dudrick Department of Surgery at Saint Mary's Hospital, where he pioneered innovative surgical techniques to help patients avoid the harms of opioid addiction. He is the President and Co-Founder of the Connecticut Surgical Quality Collaborative, and also mentors young people who aspire to work in medicine.



Marilyn Faber, BSN, RN, the St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Coordinator at St. Vincent's Medical Center, is known for her hands-on healing. She leads the hospital's medical mission event, and founded the Know Your Numbers campaign that offers screenings to help community members address major health concerns. Marilyn has also implemented "Blood Pressure Sundays" at area congregations to help ensure community health.



Elizabeth Lanham, APRN, Emergency Department Nurse at The William W. Backus Hospital, took a year off to work with an international aid group that helps orphaned and abandoned children in Latin America and Haiti by providing food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and education. She lived and worked in a facility that housed 300 orphans, and spent her time in the home health clinic.

Mary Alsing and Mary Guglielmo, volunteers at Johnson Memorial Hospital, are both 100 years old. Mary Alsing holds the record as the longest serving hospital volunteer, with 40 years of experience. Mary Guglielmo holds the record for the highest total volunteer hours, with 24,000 hours logged. Both of these remarkable volunteers have proven that age is only a number when it comes to caring.



Shawn Maynard, Executive Director at the Windham Hospital Foundation at Windham Hospital, started his career as a substitute switchboard operator nearly 40 years ago. He has logged many accomplishments during his career, including developing a plan to help uninsured patients “pay-off” their hospital bill through volunteer service; and working on guidelines for the provision of communication services for the deaf or hard of hearing.



Shanon Pereira, RN, a nurse at The William W. Backus Hospital, makes annual medical mission trips to Haiti. Each year she teams up with local Haitian doctors to provide mobile health services in remote parts of the country, giving health assessments and treating a wide range of conditions. Shanon also makes education a key part of her time in Haiti, teaching about hygiene, reproductive health, and food safety.



Adam Silverman, MD, Director of the Center for Global Health at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, has traveled to Haiti 15 times with a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the development of a sustainable health system for the Cap-Haitien community. At the hospital, he was integral in helping to grow the Global Health Initiative from a volunteer opportunity for medical staff into a formal entity – the Center for Global Health.



C. Steven Wolf, MD, Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, has been involved with myriad patient safety programs, as well as programs in the community aimed at keeping people healthy and out of the hospital. He led a campaign to reduce underage drinking at concerts; additionally, he serves as an auxiliary member of the Hartford Police Department’s Emergency Rescue Team.



Amy Wright, Administrative Coordinator in the ED at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, is known among her colleagues for her great warmth and empathy. She goes out of her way to help those in need and those suffering. Once, she took up a collection to help pay for a child’s funeral. Another time, she consoled a woman who lost her mother on Mother’s Day.

CHA congratulates all of the 2017 Healthcare Heroes!

