CHA’s 96th Annual Meeting Focuses on One Voice, One Vision

The Connecticut Hospital Association welcomed 600 hospital CEOs, senior hospital administrators, physicians, and other key hospital and healthcare decision makers to its 96th Annual Meeting, held June 18th at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

Before handing the Board Chairman’s gavel to Bruce Cummings, President/CEO, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, outgoing Board Chairman Susan Davis, EdD, RN, Board Member and Former President/CEO, St. Vincent's Health Services and President & CEO, Sacred Heart Health System (Florida), discussed what’s right in healthcare in Connecticut.

She reported that more than 10,000 hospital leaders, clinicians, and non-clinical staff have received high reliability training, and Connecticut hospitals and CHA were the winners of the prestigious Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award, which acknowledges Connecticut hospitals as a model of safety for the nation. Dr. Davis discussed hospitals’ demonstrated commitment to the health of our communities, to eliminating disparities and achieving health equity, and to furthering public policies that help Connecticut patients.

"With one voice and one vision, we will create the momentum needed to make significant strides in our advocacy work," she said. "We are all in this together – to first and foremost provide safe, reliable care for our patients, to improve access and the health of our communities, to eliminate healthcare disparities and improve health equity, and to celebrate what’s right in healthcare in Connecticut well into the future."

Bruce Cummings, President/CEO, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, and Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees, thanked Susan Davis for her visionary leadership and discussed his goals as Chairman: improving access and care for Connecticut veterans, expanded focus on best practice sharing through CHA, and engaging new voices to help carry hospitals' message to Hartford and Washington.

After the business meeting, which also included the presentation of the Annual Meeting awards, guest speaker Quint Studer, founder of Studer Group, discussed the importance of leadership and what it takes to navigate the constantly changing healthcare environment, including the framework, principles, processes, and tactics that hardwire hospital performance excellence.

CHA gratefully acknowledges the generous Annual Meeting sponsorship of our Platinum Sponsors, Credit Suisse and Berkeley Research Group.
Connecticut Hospital Association Welcomes the Newly Elected Members of its Board of Trustees

At the CHA Annual Meeting, Bruce Cummings, President/CEO, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, began his two-year term as Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees. He succeeds Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN, Board Member and Former President/CEO, St. Vincent’s Health Services, and President & CEO, Sacred Heart Health System (Florida), who will now serve as Immediate Past Chairman.

Additionally, CHA members elected trustees and officers for the CHA 2014-2015 Board of Trustees.

David Whitehead, President, Hartford HealthCare East Region, will serve as Vice Chairman. Christopher O’Connor, Executive Vice President, COO, Yale New Haven Health System, will serve as Treasurer. Peter Karl, President and CEO, Eastern Connecticut Health Network, will serve as Secretary and as Chairman of the Committee on Government. Patrick Charmel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Griffin Hospital, will serve as Chairman of the Diversified Network Services Board, overseeing CHA’s fee-based services. John Murphy, MD, President and CEO, Western Connecticut Health Network, will serve as Chairman of the Committee on Patient Care Quality. Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, will serve as Chairman of the Committee on Population Health. Elliot Joseph, President and CEO, Hartford HealthCare, will serve as Chairman of the Committee on Hospital Finance. Mama Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital and President and CEO, Yale New Haven Health System, will serve as Executive Committee At Large Member. Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital, will serve as CEO Forum Chairman.

Newly elected or reelected trustees include:
Rohit Bhalla, MD, Vice President, Chief Quality Officer, Stamford Hospital; Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; William Jennings, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bridgeport Hospital; John Murphy, MD, President and CEO, Western Connecticut Health Network; Kevin Myatt, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health System; Darlene Stromstad, President and CEO, Waterbury Hospital; and Chad Wable, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Mary’s Hospital.

Other members of the 2014-2015 CHA Board include:
Vincent Capece Jr., President/CEO, Middlesex Hospital; Ulysses Hammond, Past Board Chairman, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital; Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO, CHA; Curtis Robinson, Board Member, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; and Robert Smanik, President and Chief Executive Officer, Day Kimball Healthcare.

CHA Awards Highlight Healthcare Leaders and Heroes

The William W. Backus Hospital, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and a host of healthcare heroes and leaders were honored for their dedication to improving the health of Connecticut residents.

CHA presented The William W. Backus Hospital with the 2014 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data for its project, Clinical Care Redesign: Bringing Nurses Back to the Bedside. Read more here. Watch a video about the project here.

CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health presented Yale-New Haven Hospital with the 2014 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award for Project Access-New Haven. Read more here. Watch a video about Project Access-New Haven here.

Susan Davis, EdD, RN, was honored with the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Davis is Board Member and Former President/CEO, St. Vincent’s Health Services; President & CEO, Sacred Heart Health System (Florida); and Immediate Past Chairman of the Board, Connecticut Hospital Association. Read more here. Watch a video here.

The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award, created to recognize hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital's vital role in the community, was presented to R. Christopher Hartley, Senior Vice President of Planning, Business Development and Government Relations, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Read more here. Watch a video here.

An inspiring and committed group of more than 40 doctors, nurses, patients, and volunteers from across the state were honored as this year's Healthcare Heroes. They helped tell the hospital story this year, in videos, on the radio, in testimony, and on the website.

Congratulations to all CHA award winners!
Creative Thinking the Focus of CHA Supplier Diversity Forum

Prior to the Annual Meeting, CHA, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, hosted the fifth annual Supplier Diversity Forum at the Aqua Turf. This year the focus of the Forum was broadened to demonstrate how the three goals of increasing diversity of hospital leadership, improving cultural competency, and increasing supplier diversity are inter-related and reinforce each other in supporting the ultimate objective of achieving health equity.

Brenda and Carlton Oneal, Managing Partners of Light Speed, an executive consulting firm specializing in leadership dynamics and effective communication strategies, presented a unique interactive session on how to connect the goals of the CHA Diversity Collaborative to the hospital mission and move forward toward achieving them. They discussed how to identify key challenges through persistent questioning, and use creative thinking to develop new solutions.

"Problems are like trees," said Brenda Oneal. "You have to get to the root to understand the main issue. Once you do that, you can expand your understanding of the paradigm and come up with some new solutions."

"Creative thinking is recognizing that you have a new idea and are not going to suppress it," said Carlton Oneal. Carlton discussed how the most innovative ideas spring forth when people don't self-censor.

Twenty-three diverse business partners held exhibits during the vendor fair portion of the Forum. The exhibits featured companies offering products and services that address each of the Collaborative goals, including staffing and background screening, cultural competence, coaching and education services, and a broad range of medical products and equipment, communications systems, and facilities products.