The Connecticut Hospital Association Applauds Supreme Court Ruling on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

"Connecticut hospitals supported the passage of the bill and look forward to continuing to work with the Connecticut delegation in Washington to implement PPACA and fulfill its promise of providing excellent, accessible healthcare to patients and communities throughout the state," said Jennifer Jackson, CHA President and CEO.

Connecticut hospitals are committed to being leaders in the discussion on how to strengthen the state’s Medicaid program and leverage opportunities for coverage and funding provided by federal healthcare reform. There are options for expanding coverage and creating an up-to-date Medicaid system that will expand access and improve quality of care for all patients; make healthcare more affordable for families and business by reducing the cost shift to business; provide cost savings for the state; and improve funding for hospitals and other primary care providers. Connecticut hospitals will continue to work with policymakers to reform the healthcare delivery system, reduce the number of uninsured, increase access to care, and ensure the financial viability of hospitals.

Hospitals have been and will continue to be committed to doing what is best for their patients and communities – focusing on patient safety, quality, efficiency of care, reducing costs, and on increasing access to affordable healthcare.

CHA’s 94th Annual Meeting Draws Record Crowd

The Connecticut Hospital Association welcomed a record crowd of more than 720 hospital CEOs, senior hospital administrators, physicians, and other key hospital and healthcare decision makers to its 94th Annual Meeting, held yesterday at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

CHA members elected trustees and officers to the 2012-2013 Board, and Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, passed the Board Chairman gavel to Susan Davis, RN, EdD, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincent’s Health Services.

Greenwich Hospital, Saint Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport Hospital, and a host of healthcare heroes and leaders were honored for their dedication to improving the health of Connecticut residents. Judith A. Carey, RSM, PhD, Vice President for Mission Integration at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, was presented with the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award.

The keynote address was given by Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski. The popular TV anchors discussed how politics have become increasingly divisive, perpetuated by a media culture that encourages division. They said that Americans need to elect leaders who set aside petty squabbling, tackle the big issues, and put the American people first. The morning anchors agreed that when it comes to health reform, Democrats had not done a good job explaining it.

"If you're going to do something like this, you can't do it halfway," said Mr. Scarborough.

The duo also told lighthearted personal stories of growing up with challenging parents. Ms. Brzezinski, a former news journalist from Hartford, shared her love of the state and the hospitals where her children were born.

CHA gratefully acknowledges the generous Annual Meeting sponsorship of our Platinum Sponsor, Credit Suisse.

Susan Davis, RN, EdD, Begins Term as Board Chairman

During the Annual Meeting, Chairman Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, passed the gavel to current CHA Vice Chairman Susan Davis, RN, EdD, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincent's Health Services.

In his remarks, Mr. Dadlez spoke to members about how hospitals have spent the last year examining the drivers of change and their impact on Connecticut hospitals and CHA. Mr. Dadlez said, “We've discussed how best to achieve transformational change, the impact on hospitals of moving from the volume-based 'first curve' to the value-based 'second curve,' and the challenges of managing 'life in the gap'… CHA has been well positioned to support this effort, having structured its work around three pillars: leadership in community health, and leadership in shaping financing and delivery system changes.”

Dr. Davis congratulated Mr. Dadlez on his achievements as Board Chairman, including his work building new relationships among Board members and CEOs, the numerous advocacy issues he tackled, and his dedication to health equity and patient safety.

“Chris has focused his attention on helping CHA build bridges and partnerships, and we are the better for it,” Dr. Davis said. “He has been the...
driver behind CHA's diversity and health equity work, which has recently received nationwide attention at the Institute for Diversity's national conference in Nashville earlier this month. He has kept our focus on a strategic examination of the drivers of change and their implications for our hospitals and for CHA. I have appreciated his unflagging support of CHA's quality and patient safety initiatives as we have launched our most ambitious work yet, with our statewide commitment to eliminate all-cause preventable harm."

Dr. Davis outlined her plans to, along with the help of incoming Vice Chairman Bruce Cummings, focus on making Connecticut hospitals the safest in the country. She assumes the Chairman position for a two-year term.

Notable Hospital Leaders Elected to CHA Board of Trustees

During the 2012 CHA Annual Meeting, members elected trustees and officers for the CHA 2012-2013 Board of Trustees.

Bruce Cummings, President/CEO, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital will serve as Vice Chairman. Peter Karl, President and CEO, Eastern Connecticut Health Network (Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital), is Secretary. Patrick Charmel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Griffin Hospital, will serve as DNS Board Chairman.

The Executive Committee At Large Members are Frank Corvino, President/CEO, Greenwich Hospital and Marna Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Newly elected or reelected trustees include: Robert Smanik, President and Chief Executive Officer, Day Kimball Hospital; Frank Corvino, President/CEO, Greenwich Hospital; Ulysses Hammond, Board Chairman, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital; Curtis Robinson, Board Member, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; and Marna Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital. The AHA Delegate is Susan Davis, RN, Edd, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincent's Health Services, and the AHA Alternate Delegate is Elliot Joseph, President and CEO, Hartford HealthCare.

The Executive Committee appointed Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital, as CEO Forum Chairman.

Other members of the 2012-2013 CHA Board include:

Officers – Immediate Past Chairman Christopher Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; and Treasurer David Whitehead, President and CEO, The William W. Backus Hospital.

Trustees – Timothy Bates, Board Member, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital; Nancy Blanchette, Board Member, Bristol Hospital; Vincent Capece Jr., President/CEO, Middlesex Hospital; Brian Grissler, President and Chief Executive Officer, Stamford Hospital; Lawrence McGoldrick, Board Member, Hartford HealthCare; John Murphy, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Connecticut Health Network; Kevin Myatt, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Yale-New Haven Hospital; Christopher O'Connor, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hospital of Saint Raphael; Clarence Silva, President/CEO, The Hospital of Central Connecticut; and Chad Wable, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Mary’s Hospital.

CHA Awards Highlight Healthcare Leaders and Heroes

Greenville Hospital, Saint Vincent’s Medical Center, Bridgeport Hospital, and a host of healthcare heroes and leaders were honored for their dedication to improving the health of Connecticut residents.

Judith A. Carey, RSM, PhD, Vice President for Mission Integration at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, was presented with the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award for her contributions and achievements in healthcare governance.

“To serve in healthcare is an honor,” said Sister Judy. “It is not about us, it is about what we can do better to continually improve our service to patients and families in our communities. My hope is that as we move through these turbulent times in healthcare, we will be inspiring, collaborative, and courageous leaders – balancing the reorganization of our systems and structures while leading from values that will sustain, always keeping why we exist in mind – our patients and families. I pray that all of us maximize the gifts of our wisdom, experience, and learning and infuse them with the learning from our hearts.”

Sr. Judy has been a pivotal force in healthcare in the state and region for nearly 20 years, with broad experience developing, shaping, and serving on more than 25 boards during that time.

CHA recognized St. Vincent’s Medical Center and Greenwich Hospital with the 2012 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data. The team from St. Vincent’s Medical Center was recognized for its Implementation of High Reliability Behaviors Resulting in Significant Reduction of Preventable Harm to Patients and Employees. The team from Greenwich Hospital is recognized for A Novel, Comprehensive, Multimodal Analgesic Regimen for Joint Replacement Surgery.

St. Vincent’s Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital were awarded the Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award for their project, the Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport. Sponsored by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the 2012 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award recognizes this program, which opened on March 21, 2011, providing prescription medicines at no cost to uninsured, low-income residents of Greater Bridgeport.

An inspiring and committed group of individuals from across the state who embody the best in their profession were chosen as this year’s Healthcare Heroes. They are: Carol Bauer, Chaplain, Norwalk Hospital; Linda Cloutier, RN, Operating Room Nurse, ECHN – Manchester Memorial Hospital (MMH); Patricia Fontaine, MSN, RN, CPN, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Staff Nurse, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center; Sherry Kroll, MD, Adult Primary Care Physician, Day Kimball Healthcare; Estrella Marcial, Home Care Aide, Hospice, VNA HealthCare; Kelly McGuire, APRN, Advanced Practice Nurse, Medical Cardiology, Hartford Hospital; Lisa Menillo, MD, Attending Pediatrician, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and Medical Director, Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center and Healthy Homes Program; Paul Possenti, PA-C, Physician Assistant and Director of Trauma Services, Bridgeport Hospital; Jeffrey Rosow, DMD, Dental Director, Connecticut Valley Hospital; Christopher Rusate, RN, Clinical Leader, Surgical Trauma ICU, Hartford Hospital; and Matthew Spates, MD, Emergency Department Physician, The William W. Backus Hospital.

A team award was presented to the Hospital for Special Care First Responders. During an unspeakable act of violence, they maintained composure, instinctively took action, and saved the lives of their injured colleagues. The team includes Dieter Balck, Sheila Basqui, John Bean, Phyllis Chojnowski, Del Cyr, Jaimie Dalton, Kelly Gadd, Juliana Gonzales, Pam Held, Alice Hubbell, Elizabeth Kalinowski, Shari LaPointe, Joe Marino, Nafees Rahman, George Roche, Marilin Rosario, Michael Ruthen, Fe Simbulan, Christy Stack, Karen Summit, and Sharon Yoon.
The American Hospital Association (AHA) Grassroots Champion Award was presented to Frank A. Corvino, President and CEO, Greenwich Hospital. As a 2012 Grassroots Champion, Mr. Corvino was recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for issues of importance to hospitals and healthcare.

The AHA awarded Milford Hospital and Windham Hospital the 2012 AHA 75 Year Membership Award Plaque for their longevity as AHA members.

Read more about CHA's annual award winners.

Third Annual Supplier Diversity Forum Features Noted Speakers

As part of the Annual Meeting, CHA, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, hosted the third annual Supplier Diversity Forum. The program provided information for hospitals as they launch initiatives to increase their purchasing of supplies and services from minority businesses. Twenty-five of CHA’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) partners exhibited at the vendor fair, providing senior executives and purchasing decision makers from member hospitals the opportunity to learn about various products and services.

Fred McKinney, PhD, President and CEO of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC), said in his opening remarks, “Hospitals are one of the largest employers of people in their communities. They have an important role to increase diversity in the supply chain, and doing so can connect hospitals to the people and communities they serve.”

CHA has been working with GNEMSDC for the last three years to develop enhanced opportunities for minority businesses to work with CHA member hospitals. GNEMSDC has been instrumental in the development of CHA’s Supplier Diversity Program, through which hospitals can access contracts for goods and services offered by certified MBEs.

Antonio R. Rodríguez, CMC, President of Daniel Penn Associates, LLC, discussed the basics of building a supplier diversity program. “The best supplier diversity programs establish goals and accountability throughout the organization,” he said. “Diversity and inclusion are key strategic efforts, and a good supplier diversity program enables hospitals to accomplish that.”

Jolene M. Anderson-Rau, Mayo Clinic’s Supplier Diversity Program Manager in Rochester, MN, discussed best practices for supplier diversity programs. “The impact of supplier diversity on Mayo has been strong awareness and outreach in areas we hadn’t considered in the past,” she said. “We have patients that come from near and far, so we need to support businesses that are right in our own backyard.”

Panelists included Veronica F. Cook, MSOM, Program Director for the UConn Supplier Diversity Program; Keith Murphy, Director of Strategic Sourcing at Yale New Haven Health System; and David L. Walsh, Administrative Director, Supply Chain, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

The Supplier Diversity Forum addresses a key goal of the CHA Diversity Collaborative. Scot X. Esdaile, President of the Connecticut State NAACP, provided remarks and thanked CHA and Connecticut hospitals for their work on the CHA Diversity Collaborative. He reiterated the NAACP's commitment to working with Connecticut hospitals to achieve health equity.