Presidential Historian Discusses Leadership at CHA’s 95th Annual Meeting

The Connecticut Hospital Association welcomed nearly 700 hospital CEOs, senior hospital administrators, physicians, and other key hospital and healthcare decision makers to its 95th Annual Meeting, held Tuesday at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

This year’s theme, Connecticut Hospitals: Caring for People, Serving Our Communities, reflected the message that Connecticut’s hospitals will continue to play a leadership role in transforming healthcare, while ensuring the safety net remains viable through a focus on safe, accessible, affordable, patient-centered care for all. Board Chairman Susan Davis, EdD, RN, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent’s Health Services, discussed how the extraordinary work of hospitals in the past year in the areas of patient safety, community health, and diversity and health equity has kept a singular focus on patients. She reiterated hospitals’ commitment to visionary leadership through the current state budget challenges, the national transformation in healthcare, and beyond.

Leadership was also the theme of the keynote address, delivered by presidential historian Michael Beschloss. Mr. Beschloss discussed presidents throughout American history and the qualities of a great leader, which include the ability to make tough decisions and get people to embrace them.

“When we live in a time like this,” he said, “when there is dysfunction and people are looking to leadership, that’s the time when you need leaders with expertise, passion, and commitment to the public good. In the past, when we have thought that we’re finished – that’s when greatness comes out.”

CHA gratefully acknowledges the generous Annual Meeting sponsorship of our Platinum Sponsor, Credit Suisse.
Hospital Leaders Elected to CHA Board of Trustees

During the 2013 CHA Annual Meeting, members elected trustees and officers for the CHA 2013-2014 Board of Trustees.

David Whitehead, President and CEO of The William W. Backus Hospital, will serve as Treasurer. Executive Committee At Large Members elected at the meeting include Marna Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital and President and CEO, Yale New Haven Health System, and Elliot Joseph, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hartford HealthCare. Mr. Joseph and Vincent Capece Jr., President/CEO of Middlesex Hospital, were elected as CHA Trustees.

Outgoing trustees included Timothy Bates, Partner, Robinson & Cole, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital; Brian Grissler, President and Chief Executive Officer, Stamford Hospital; and Lawrence McGoldrick, Hartford HealthCare. CHA is grateful for their valuable service and important contributions.

CHA Awards Highlight Healthcare Leaders and Heroes

Western Connecticut Health Network, Middlesex Hospital, and a host of healthcare heroes and leaders were honored for their dedication to improving the health of Connecticut residents.

CHA presented Western Connecticut Health Network with the 2013 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data for its project, A Multidisciplinary, Multi-Hospital, and Community-Based Program to Improve the Treatment of Patients with ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction.

CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health presented Middlesex Hospital with the 2013 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award for its Community Care Team.

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:

Lisa Bedard, APRN-BC, ANVP, CNRN, Manager, L+M Stroke Program, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital; Albert DiMeco, MD, Chief of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, St. Vincent's Medical Center; Marisol Feliciano, Violence and Injury Prevention Program Coordinator, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Carolyn Kelly, Physical Therapist, Hartford Hospital; Yvette Martas, MD, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Windham Hospital; Wendy Martinson, RN, MSN, Quality Assurance Specialist, John Dempsey Hospital; Luis Mendez, Patient Care Technician, Middlesex Hospital; David Shapiro, MD, FACS, Director, Surgical Clinics; Director, Medical Student Surgical Clerkship; Associate Director, Surgical Critical Care, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Jenifer Siegelman, MD, MPH, CT Scan Section Chief, Diagnostic Imaging Department, The William W. Backus Hospital; and Patricia Worthy, RN, Manager, Workforce Diversity, Yale-New Haven Hospital.

The Healthcare Hero Team award was given to the 2012 Why Not Haiti Mission Team, Day Kimball Healthcare. In September 2012, the team of healthcare professionals conducted a medical mission trip to provide healthcare to the people of Haiti. They treated hundreds of people each day. The team includes: Greg Lutkus, APRN; Douglas Waite, MD; Steven Wexler, MD; Ralph Miro, RN; Scott Mitchell, MD; Kristine Bastura; Deirdre Foisy, PA; Cheri Sage, RN; Cindy McNamara, MD; Avery Lamb; Ron Medzon, MD; Andrew Waite; Aimee Eaton, RN.

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 Andrea Rynn, Director of Public and Government Relations, Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN).

CHA awarded Honorary Membership Awards to Bennett J. Bernblum, Partner, Wiggin and Dana, and Marcia K. Petrillo, recently retired CEO of Qualidigm. The CHA Honorary Membership award was established in 1968 to recognize certain individuals who distinguished themselves with their personal dedication and contributions to the advancement of healthcare services.

Read more about the winners here. View the CHA Annual Meeting award videos here.

Fourth 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 fourth annual Supplier Diversity Forum the morning of the CHA Annual Meeting. The Forum addressed a key goal of the CHA Diversity Collaborative and offered practical programming for hospitals as they increase their purchasing of supplies and services from diverse businesses.

Lawrence A. Gill, Supplier Diversity Corporate Procurement, Travelers, stressed the importance of leadership in building and sustaining momentum for a supplier diversity program, saying, "It needs to be a level set playing field, but it cannot be one without an advocate in the leadership of your organization."

Jeré C. Eaton, founder and owner of PrintabiliTees, LLC., shared a business owner's perspective of supplier diversity. Under her leadership, PrintabiliTees has grown to become a recognized brand with MBE, WBE, DBE, and SBE certifications.

Jamie Yolles, Director, Strategic Sourcing and Contract Management at OhioHealth, discussed tactics for increasing the number of diverse suppliers, in part by ensuring they are in the RFP pipeline and that they are sought after throughout all procurement areas of the hospital and health system.

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. Click here for a complete list of 2013 Supplier Diversity Forum vendors.

Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives Meeting Focuses on Diversity

On June 25, the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives (CTAHE) held its annual meeting at the Aqua Turf, during which time its Board approved a plan to collaborate with CHA to more effectively pursue common diversity and health equity goals.

The Connecticut Hospital Association and CTAHE will work together to raise awareness and educate healthcare leaders on issues of diversity, inclusion, and reduction of healthcare disparities; increase the engagement of healthcare executives in driving progress on diversity and health equity-related issues; and increase the diversity of CTAHE and hospital leadership.

CTAHE expressed how healthcare organizations are rapidly diversifying, both in terms of the patient population and the workforce. The business implications are immense and will require meeting different care needs, including improving quality, installing new processes and services, and strategic planning for a diverse patient demographic and continuum of care.
The meeting’s panel discussion on health equity and diversity featured Marie Spivey, EdD, RN, Vice President, Health Equity, Connecticut Hospital Association, as well as Christopher Dadlez, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Care; Fred McKinney, PhD, President, Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council; and Faith Middleton, WNPR and PTV Commentator and two time Peabody Award winner.

Dr. Spivey discussed the work under way in Connecticut hospitals as part of the Diversity Collaborative. She reiterated hospitals’ commitment to heightening the awareness of health equity issues; increasing diversity in governance boards and senior management; communicating with staff in every corner of their organizations to learn better practices of ways to eliminate barriers that cause health disparities; and working toward improving health outcomes – particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

CHA looks forward to collaborating with CTAHE in the years ahead.

**Update Summer Schedule**

CHA Update will be published on a bi-weekly schedule throughout July and August, returning after Labor Day to a regular weekly schedule on September 5.