



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2011

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**Connecticut Hospital Association Holds 93rd Annual Meeting
Author, Political Commentator Donna Brazile To Deliver Keynote Address**

June 22, 2011, Wallingford - At its 93rd Annual Meeting on June 23 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will elect trustees and officers for 2011-12 and will recognize hospitals and individuals making significant contributions to the health of Connecticut residents. Donna Brazile, author and political commentator, will deliver the keynote address.

Immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, CHA, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will host the second annual Supplier Diversity Vendor Fair at the Aqua Turf Club. This year's event will include 25 vendors offering a wide array of products and services, as well as an educational forum on building an effective minority business development program.

During the CHA Annual Meeting, the following individuals and organizations will be honored and recognized.

The American Hospital Association (AHA) *2011 Grassroots Champion Award* is being presented to Marna P. Borgstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer for Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health System, for her exceptional leadership in effectively educating elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital's vital role in the community. Each year, the AHA, in partnership with the Connecticut Hospital Association, selects a hospital leader to receive the Grassroots Champion Award.

The William W. Backus Hospital is the recipient of the *2011 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award*, given by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Backus Hospital won for its Enjoy LIFE (Lifelong Investment in Fitness and Exercise) program, in which it partnered with the Plainfield Recreation Department to decrease the percentage of individuals living sedentary lifestyles, to promote family activities, and to build a sustainable program that can be easily replicated. The impetus for the program, which has already had an impact on more than 400 people, was a 2010 Community Health Needs Assessment commissioned by

Backus Hospital that showed 28 percent of eastern Connecticut residents are obese, and nearly 69 percent are overweight—both well above state and national averages.

Norwalk Hospital will receive the *2011 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data* for achieving exceptional stroke outcomes through effective data collection, analysis, and action. After collecting and analyzing data on stroke measures, the Norwalk Hospital team focused on two measures for improvement: the administration of tPA, a clot-busting drug, for eligible patients, and compliance with a swallowing screen prior to any oral intake. The hospital increased the use of tPA by implementing computerized physician order sets for stroke patients and modifying the acute stroke checklist used by staff, and significantly improved swallow screen compliance by adding a computer screen pop-up to remind the staff about this important screening step. The hospital also implemented an Acute Care Stroke Team to provide active oversight of all aspects of stroke patient care. As a result, Norwalk Hospital has improved patient outcomes, in particular achieving a significantly lower mortality rate.

The *T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award*, CHA's highest honor, is being presented to Colleen Smith, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President for Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer for Middlesex Hospital. Her visionary leadership has enabled Middlesex Hospital to achieve and sustain Magnet status, a prominent recognition of nursing excellence, since 2001—Middlesex is one of only 29 hospitals in the country to be recognized three times. Colleen Smith has been influential in organizations and activities beyond Middlesex Hospital through a number of nursing and healthcare statewide and national groups and initiatives, including extensive leadership involvement with CHA. Last year she received the highest honor that can be bestowed on a nursing professional in Connecticut, the prestigious Diamond Jubilee Doris Armstrong Award, presented by the Connecticut Nurses Association.

The meeting will also recognize ten *Healthcare Heroes* from hospitals throughout the state. These individuals, nominated by colleagues, exemplify the outstanding qualities exhibited by healthcare workers in Connecticut hospitals. The 2011 Healthcare Heroes are:

Vicie Brooks, RN, BSN
Nurse Manager, Neuro-Trauma Unit
Hartford Hospital

Lauren Burke, CSA
Clinical Support Associate, Oncology Unit
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Dorothy Carvalho, RN, OCN
Urology/Nurse Navigator
Middlesex Hospital

Beth Cheney, APRN

Women's Health Coordinator
Windham Hospital

Alice Facente, RN, MSN, BC
Clinical Educator
The William W. Backus Hospital

Eunice Huynh, LCSW
Social Worker
The Hospital of Central Connecticut

Marcus McKinney, DMin, LPC
Director, Pastoral Counseling and Community Outreach
Director, Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Karen A. Santucci, MD
Medical Director and Section Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital

In Memoriam

Pam Vecchiarino, (1965-2011) RN, MSN
Former Nursing Director for Medicine, Oncology, IV Therapy
Hartford Hospital

Sarah Zaglifa, MSSW, LCSW, ACHP-SW
Quality of Life Coordinator
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

The CHA Annual Meeting will be held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2011.

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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 not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.