25th Annual Celebration of Excellence in Hospital Care

November 6, 2014
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony
Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI
Thank You to Our Sponsor
Welcome to the 25th Annual Celebration of Excellence in Hospital Care.

Tonight is a recognition of the heroes in our hospitals—Employees who go above and beyond each day to ensure superior patient care.

We will also present the Edward J. Quinlan Award for Patient Safety Excellence, Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award and Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service.

The awards ceremony will commence at 6 p.m.

Enjoy the evening!

HARI
Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award

Forty years ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island instituted its Distinguished Service Award to honor and recognize persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of health and hospital care in Rhode Island.

Kenneth Belcher, FACHE

As president of CharterCARE Health Partners, Ken Belcher had a dramatic impact on the health care industry in Rhode Island. He was a leader, a collaborator and an agent of change. He had steadfast commitment and dedication to providing patients with the highest quality of care possible. He was devoted to the hospitals’ patients, and served as a leader and mentor to staff.

Albert Puerini, MD

Albert Puerini, MD is a champion of improving patient outcomes through improving the structure and function of primary care practices. As the president and founding member of Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corp., he has worked toward a vision of high-quality, team-based collaborative primary care with close coordination with specialists and hospital systems that provides Rhode Islanders with the right care, at the right time, at the lowest cost.
Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

Judith Shorter, Clerk/Receptionist-Pulmonary Medicine

Judy’s dedication to her work is unparalleled. She approaches every task with a ready smile and sense of humor. During 21 years of service, she has performed her job with grace, poise and compassion for patients. She exceeds the requirements of her position and has been instrumental to her department’s compliance with meaningful use.

St. Joseph Health Services of RI

Kenneth Cotter, General/Boiler Mechanic and James Sharkey, General/Boiler Mechanic

Ken Cotter and Jim Sharkey care for an aging facility with competence and commitment. The safety of staff and patients is always their first priority. Whether helping to rehab the front lobby or setting up fresh produce for a community event, they go above and beyond their duties. They are dependable, helpful and hard working.
Westerly Hospital
Wendy Tucker, Remote Coder
Wendy is a valued member of the Clinical Information Management Department that has worked together to achieve a positive operating margin since June 2013. She has been a leader and driver of the team, utilizing her coding and revenue expertise to help achieve goals.

Women & Infants Hospital
Iris Sian, NICU Care Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant
Iris' manager and co-workers say she is professional, dedicated, and a leader. She is always going above and beyond her job duties to translate for patients and families, and her patients and families know they can count on her.

Women & Infants Hospital
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Karen Ryan, Supervisory Medical Supply Technician
Providence VA Medical Center

Karen rises to the occasion and shines whenever she is given a task. She is a mentor, colleague, resource, and mentor. She is a subject matter expert in the hope that she can make an impact through her research and educate her peers in new and varied modalities of patient care in the hope that she can make an impact. Her opinions and input are truly valued.

Lisa Kanakry, Registered Nurse
South County Hospital

Lisa excels in meeting the challenges of the ever-changing health care environment. She is always willing to take on new tasks and additional duties. She is skilled, flexible, and knowledgeable. Her opinions and input are truly valued.

Dawn Freeman, Distribution Technician
Roger Williams Medical Center

Dawn Freeman has a unique perception that allows her to identify potential problems before they arise. She goes above and beyond her job duties to provide impeccable service with limited resources. Her suggestions have led to department changes that have achieved improved effectiveness and efficiency. She excels in meeting the challenges of the ever-changing health care environment. She is always willing to take on new tasks and additional duties. She is skilled, flexible, and knowledgeable. Her opinions and input are truly valued.
The Edward J. Quinlan Award for Patient Safety Excellence honors a hospital unit and/or team that has implemented an initiative that has achieved measurable results in improving quality and patient safety.

Inpatient Obstetrics Team

Women & Infants Hospital

The inpatient obstetrics team at Women & Infants Hospital, led by James O’Brien, MD, has successfully eliminated elective delivery at less than 39 weeks gestation. Several studies have demonstrated a small, but significant, increased risk of adverse outcomes for neonates delivered prior to 39 weeks gestation. The team implemented a four-element “hard stop” policy that has achieved elective delivery rates significantly better than state and national averages. Dr. O’Brien has shared his expertise in this area with health care professionals throughout the state as part of the Hospital Engagement Network, a national initiative to reduce patient harm.
Kent Hospital
Antonio Andrade, Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Tony Andrade has earned the respect of his colleagues. He is a hard-working and dependable employee who is efficient and thorough when completing tasks. Tony is a great asset to the hospital by helping interpret for patients. His longstanding commitment to excellence is known by all who work with him.

Butler Hospital
Diane Ferreira, Director of Social Services

Diane Ferreira is described as a top leader at Butler Hospital. As the Director of Social Services, she has shaped the role of the department, which includes coordinating and groups through the hospital. Diane Ferreira is described as a top leader at Butler Hospital.

Landmark Medical Center
Gino Olaes, Public Safety/Security Manager

Gino Olaes is dedicated to the safety and security of the patients and procedures and makes our facility a safer environment for both patients and staff. His supervisor says, “He has implemented new policies in mind. His leadership and vision for the future have made the hospital always grow above and beyond with the best interests of the patients and staff in mind. He is a leader who listens and contributes to the betterment of the hospital.”

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Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service

The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service honors and recognizes persons who have shown leadership on issues confronting HARI member hospitals.

Gerard Goulet, Esq.

Gerard Goulet, Esq. has had a significant impact on health care in Rhode Island for nearly 30 years. As one of the preeminent health care attorneys in our region, he has provided strategic advice to hospitals, nursing facilities, other health care institutions, and individual health care practitioners. He was an integral part of many policy and regulatory discussions in our state. During his work at the Rhode Island Department of Health he wrote certificate of need and planning legislation and regulations that continue to guide our health care system. His insight and expertise was appreciated by hundreds of students that he taught at Providence College for two decades.

Pamela Steadman-Wood, PhD

Pamela Steadman-Wood, PhD joined the Providence VA Medical Center in 2007 to develop a home-based primary care program. She has established a program that provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary primary care services in the homes of veterans with complex medical, social and behavioral conditions. Dr. Steadman-Wood’s expertise in geropsychology was critical to the success of this program. Under her leadership, the medical center has improved access and care to a previously underserved veteran population.