

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Hospital Association of Rhode Island Holds Annual Meeting

Providence, R.I. – November 16, 2018 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) recently hosted its 86th Annual Meeting at the Providence Marriott Downtown. Recipients of the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award, Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service, and the American Hospital Association (AHA) Grassroots Champion Award were honored by the association and its attendees.

South County Health Chief Executive Officer Lou Giancola was awarded the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award by Rhode Island Primary Care President Albert Puerini, M.D. Giancola was honored for his significant contributions to Rhode Island's healthcare community. The Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award honors and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement of health and hospital care in Rhode Island.

The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service was presented by HARI Board of Trustees Chairman John Holiver to Representative Marvin Abney and Senator William Conley, Jr. for their leadership in restoring essential funds in the Fiscal Year 2019 State Budget for Rhode Island's most vulnerable patients. The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service honors individuals for remarkable contributions to health care issues.

The American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award was presented by AHA Regional Executive Jack Barry to Michael Souza, chief executive officer of Landmark Medical Center and The Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island, for his exceptional dedication to grassroots advocacy. The award recognizes hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect hospitals' vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for hospitals, and who have been tireless advocates for hospitals and patients. The AHA Grassroots Champion Award is presented annually to one individual from each state.

HARI President Teresa Paiva Weed presented the HARI 2018 Annual Report. The report included highlights of the association's numerous legislative victories and quality initiatives. In addition to HARI's advocacy efforts, Paiva Weed provided attendees with a six-month summary of HARI's efforts with The Campaign to Change Direction.

The morning concluded with keynote speaker A. Kathryn Power, M.Ed., former Regional Administrator, Region One for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Prior to her federal role, Power served for ten years as the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at what is now known as the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals.

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Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the healthcare needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to healthcare. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high-quality healthcare.

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