

For Immediate Release

*Amanda Barney (401) 946-7887 ext. 111
amandab@hari.org*

Hospital Association of Rhode Island Appoints New Leadership

PROVIDENCE, RI – November 6, 2013 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island Board of Trustees elected new officers during the association’s recent annual meeting. Dennis D. Keefe was appointed chair and Christopher M. Lehrach, MD, MBA will serve as vice chair.

Keefe, president and CEO of Care New England Health System, will serve a two-year term. Lehrach, chief transformation officer of L+M Healthcare, which is the parent corporation of the Westerly Hospital, will also serve for two years.

“I am honored to have been elected by my colleagues to serve as chair of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island,” said Keefe. “This is a time of unprecedented change for the health care industry. I look forward to leading HARI as we work to transform and improve health care for all Rhode Islanders.”

“I am proud to serve as vice chair for the Hospital Association of Rhode Island,” said Lehrach. “I anticipate working with my peers in addressing the immense challenges and opportunities before us. Hospitals are vital to the collective health of our region and we must ensure their mission is protected.”

Keefe was named president and chief executive officer of Care New England in 2011. He previously served as CEO of Cambridge Health Alliance. He also served as the Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Cambridge, MA. He is a former chairman of the Massachusetts Hospital Association Board of Trustees.

Lehrach was named chief transition officer at The Westerly Hospital in 2012 and was instrumental in guiding the hospital’s acquisition by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. He had previously served as chief of the department of emergency medicine and CEO of the Atlantic Medical Group. He remains clinically active.

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Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, rising medical liability premiums and decreasing reimbursement. Together we work to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.