

# PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*



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## **Hospital Association of Rhode Island Holds Annual Meeting**

**Providence, R.I.** – November 13, 2019 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) recently hosted its 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick. 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.

Care New England President and Chief Executive Officer James E. Fanale, M.D. was awarded the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award. Fanale was honored for developing the Integra Accountable Care Organization, including the establishment of Integra as a Medicaid Accountable Entity (AE), serving more than 140,000 individuals and achieving one of the highest quality ratings awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). 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 Michael Souza to Sharon Reynolds Ferland, Fiscal Advisor to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, for her unwavering commitment to our state and her collaborative approach to complex healthcare finance issues. The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service honors individuals who have shown leadership on policy issues confronting hospitals.

The American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award was presented by AHA Regional Executive Jack Barry to Patrick L. Green, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence and Memorial Health Care and Executive Vice President of Yale New Haven Health for his commitment to working with the community to identify health needs and develop solutions to improve health outcomes in Westerly. The award recognizes hospital leaders who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for hospitals. The AHA Grassroots Champion Award is presented annually to one individual from each state.

HARI President Teresa Paiva Weed presented the HARI 2019 Annual Report. The report included highlights of the association's legislative and quality initiatives. In addition to HARI's advocacy efforts, Paiva Weed provided attendees with the findings of the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Maternal and child health, behavioral health and chronic disease were found to be the most common concerns impacting the health of Rhode Islanders.

The morning concluded with keynote speaker Andy Shin, JD, MPH, Chief Operating Officer for the American Hospital Association Center for Health Innovation, a new endeavor aiming to enhance hospital/health system transformation and accelerate innovation at-scale. In his role Andy oversees initiatives spanning commercial partnerships, applied research and data analytics, value and affordability, performance improvement, market intelligence and leadership development.

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*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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