

For Immediate Release

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Hospital Association of Rhode Island Holds Annual Meeting

Warwick, R.I. – December 7, 2016 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) recently hosted its 84th Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza. 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.

The Reverend Monsignor Paul Theroux was awarded the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award for 19 years of steady leadership and commitment to the employees, physicians and community at Fatima Hospital. In recognition of Sen. Joshua Miller’s countless hours spent working to improve health care for the patients of Rhode Island as chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, he was awarded the Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service. The American Hospital Association’s Grassroots Champion Award was bestowed upon Prospect Medical Holdings Chief Strategy and Growth Officer Lester Schindel for his exceptional dedication to grassroots advocacy.

HARI President Michael Souza presented the HARI 2016 Annual Report. The report included highlights of the association’s numerous legislative victories and quality initiatives. During Souza’s presentation he attributed “the collaboration of HARI and its members as a key component to the work accomplished in transforming Rhode Island’s health care delivery system.” In addition to HARI’s advocacy efforts, Souza provided attendees with a summary of HARI’s member-focused services and business plan for 2017.

HARI Board Chairman Christopher Lehrach, MD, MBA discussed the importance of building upon the positive outcomes of the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative. HARI’s participation in the High Reliability Organization initiative has provided hospitals with the opportunity to identify safety and communication issues within their facilities and provide them the tools to implement safety solutions. Dr. Lehrach ended his remarks with a [video](#) highlighting the efforts HARI’s members have made in addressing patient safety.

The evening concluded with keynote speaker Vicki Lewis, PhD a specialist consultant with Press Ganey. Dr. Lewis’ extensive experience in applying the safety science of human factors to complex work provided attendees with a clear understanding of how to use serious safety event analyses to identify root causes of adverse events and using those events to develop system-based solutions to maximize effective and sustainable safety solutions.

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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 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.