

For Immediate Release

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Hospital Association of Rhode Island Holds Annual Meeting

Providence, R.I. – November 17, 2017 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) recently hosted its 85th 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.

HARI recognized Michael Dacey, MD, president and chief operating officer of Kent Hospital and president of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, as the newly-appointed chair of the HARI Board of Trustees. John Holiver, chief executive officer of CharterCARE Health Partners, has been elected vice chair of the board.

Eve Keenan and Stephen Greene were awarded the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award. Keenan was honored for her commitment and dedication to South County Health where she serves as chair of the board of trustees. Greene was recognized as chair of the Westerly Hospital Board of Trustees. The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed in honor of Benjamin Sturges, a community leader who devoted his life to health care and to bettering the community.

The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service was presented to Senator V. Susan Sosnowski and Representative Teresa Tanzi for their leadership on legislation to reduce the regulatory burden of physician offices acquired by hospitals or healthcare systems. 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 to Christopher Lehrach, MD, executive director of network development for the Eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island Division of Yale New Haven Health. 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.

HARI President Teresa Paiva Weed presented the HARI 2017 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 summary of HARI's member-focused services and business plan for 2018.

The morning concluded with keynote speaker Barbara Van Dahlen, PhD, founder and president of Give an Hour. The organization is a founding member of the Campaign to Change Direction, which aims to change the culture of mental health in America so that all of those in need receive the care and support they deserve. The Campaign encourages all Americans to pay attention to their emotional well-being, reminding us that our emotional well-being is just as important as our physical well-being.

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Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.