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Michigan Health & Hospital Association sets goal to enroll Michigan Hospitals in the Healthier Hospitals Initiative

Reaches milestone of 50 hospitals enrolled in the state.

RESTON, VA— The Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI) announced today that the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) has officially enrolled 50 Michigan hospitals in the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, a collaborative of leading health care institutions united to help speed the health care sector toward environmental sustainability and improved population health. HHI is a coordinated, sector-wide approach based on the premise that how we design, build and operate hospitals can help achieve the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS’s) Triple Aim — better care for individuals, improved health for populations, and reduced per capita costs. The MHA was the first state hospital association to become a Supporting Organization of HHI, demonstrating its commitment to building healthier communities through improved environmental health and sustainability in Michigan and throughout the nation.

HHI was launched by 12 sponsoring hospital systems—Advocate Health Care, Bon Secours Health System, Catholic Health Initiatives, Dignity Health, Gundersen Health System, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), Inova Health System, Kaiser Permanente, MedStar Health, Partners HealthCare, Stanford University Medical Center, and Tenet Health Systems (including former Vanguard Health System hospitals) — along with Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm and the Center for Health Design, in May 2010.

The leading hospital systems, Supporting Organizations and health care facilities work together to accelerate the widespread use of proven sustainability practices in six key “Challenge” areas:

- Engaged Leadership
- Healthier Food
- Leaner Energy
- Less Waste
- Safer Chemicals
- Smarter Purchasing

Each Challenge consists of detailed metrics and an implementation plan, including case studies, fact sheets, how-to guides, webinars, a communications toolkit, and data submission guidance that can be adapted by hospitals of all sizes. Success is measured and tracked with aggregate data that can be sorted by state or hospital type—data that will be of great use for demonstrating success.
“Michigan hospitals have a long-standing commitment to building healthier communities as evidenced by their voluntary efforts to implement smoke-free hospital campuses, eliminate industrial trans fats and adopt healthy eating practices. The MHA is proud to expand these efforts by supporting the Healthier Hospitals Initiative to improve environmental health and sustainability in Michigan and throughout the nation. We are pleased to have reached a milestone of 50 Michigan hospitals enrolled in the HHI. We look forward to further successes as our hospitals are among the national leaders whose strengths and insights will shape the new American healthcare system,” said Steven Johnson, senior director of operations at the MHA.

In committing to this leadership position in national healthcare sustainability, Michigan hospitals were also honored with 18 Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards, presented at the CleanMed Conference June 5, 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. The winners include:

**Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award**
Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak
Metro Health Hospital, Wyoming

**Circles of Excellence**
Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak (Food)
Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak (Waste)
Metro Health Hospital, Wyoming (Waste)

**Greenhealth Emerald Award**
University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers, Ann Arbor

**Greenhealth Partner for Change Award**
Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital, Grand Rapids
Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital, Fremont
Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital, Lakeview
Spectrum Health Reed City Hospital
Spectrum Health United Memorial Hospital, Greenville
Sinai Grace Hospital, Detroit
Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain
Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo

**System for Change Award**
Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids

**Making Medicine Mercury Free Award**
Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak

**Partner Recognition Award**
Detroit Receiving Hospital/University Health Center
“The Michigan Health & Hospital Association’s commitment to demonstrating the sustainability leadership of Michigan hospitals makes them an ideal supporter of HHI,” said Gary Cohen, president of Practice Greenhealth and founder of HHI. “I congratulate the Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Award winners and recognize that through specific statewide goals, the MHA is helping hospitals lead their communities to a healthier future.”

HHI Supporting Organizations support the goals of the Healthier Hospitals Initiative and seek opportunities to share information with organization members and associates. This initiative is completely in concert with any organization’s mission of improving the health and well-being of their community, and promoting effective stewardship of human and financial resources.

Learn more about the Healthier Hospitals Initiative at www.healthierhospitals.org.

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About the Healthier Hospitals Initiative

The Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI) is a national campaign to implement a new approach to improving environmental health and sustainability in the health care sector. Led by 12 sponsoring health systems and three nonprofits, HHI challenges hospitals to reduce waste in six Challenge areas: Engaged Leadership, Healthier Food, Leaner Energy, Less Waste, Safer Chemicals and Smarter Purchasing. More information is available at www.healthierhospitals.org.

About the MHA

Based in greater Lansing, the MHA advocates in Michigan and Washington, DC, on behalf of healthcare providers and the communities and patients they serve. The MHA is a nationally recognized leader on initiatives that protect and promote quality, cost-effective and accessible healthcare. To learn more, visit www.mha.org.

About Practice Greenhealth:

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading health care membership community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care through tools, best practices and knowledge. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth, download the backgrounder here. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth and the Environmental Excellence Awards visit www.PracticeGreenhealth.org/Awards.