

## **Belcher Recognized as Grassroots Champion**

Cranston, R.I. – April 28, 2009 - The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), has honored Kenneth H. Belcher, president and chief executive officer of Roger Williams Medical Center, with the Partnership for Action *Grassroots Champion Award*. He's being recognized for exceptional leadership, and his passion and dedication to his organization and the state's health care system.

The award recognizes hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect hospitals' vital role in the community, have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support, and are tireless advocates for patients and hospitals. The award is presented annually to one individual from each state. Winners are chosen by the state association were recognized at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting today.

“Ken Belcher exhibits passion, professionalism, leadership and diplomacy when advocating on behalf of hospitals,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president of HARI. “His work is driven by one priority – patients. He strives to ensure the hospital mission remains intact. It is because of the dedication of people like him that hospitals are able to provide quality, efficient care to Rhode Islanders.”

Belcher has held the position of president and CEO of Roger Williams Medical Center since 2005. Previously, Belcher was employed at Boston Medical Center as the vice president, ancillary services. He has also held positions at Faulkner Hospital and University Hospital, both located in Boston, Mass. Belcher is a past trustee of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council and a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is also the vice chair of the HARI board of trustees. Belcher graduated from Northeastern University with a bachelor of science in business administration. He also holds a master's in business administration from Babson College.

*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 improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.*

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