



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 26, 2011
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LGH's Anderson joins Board of Directors for the Coalition to Protect America's Health Care

LAWRENCE, MA – Dianne J. Anderson, Lawrence General Hospital President and CEO was recently elected to a 3 year term on the nationwide Board of Directors for the **Coalition to Protect America's Health Care**. Ms. Anderson is joined by an accomplished group of her peers who lead Hospitals around the country.

The combined health care experience of these leading CEO's will help guide the Coalition in reaching its mission to *"unite hospitals with the business community to achieve one goal: to protect high quality patient care by creating media strategies to preserve the financial viability of America's hospitals."* The Coalition was formed in 2000 with its first campaign directed at warning the public of the potential financial hardship caused by the Balance Budget Act that could jeopardize the health care services that patients need. For the past 11 years the Coalition has strategically developed marketing campaigns to help make the case that *"...hospitals need payment improvements to meet the challenges of their expanding missions."*

As a disproportionate share hospital and the last remaining locally operated, non-for-profit hospital in the Merrimack Valley, the goal of the **Coalition to Protect America's Health Care** is close to the heart of Lawrence General Hospital leaders, employees and patients. With a growing federal budget deficient and the threat of even greater cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, it is a priority for the sustainable health care of the community that Lawrence General Hospital remains a financially viable institution. Lawrence General Hospital was recently recognized as a top-ranked Community Value Provider by Cleverley + Associates (Columbus, OH). This award serves as independent validation

that Lawrence General's quality scores exceed those of its peer hospitals, while our charges and costs are significantly lower than peer hospitals in our region. Ms. Anderson's participation in the Coalition will allow the voice of community hospitals nationwide to be heard on a broader platform as they position themselves against competing budgeting interests.

Lawrence General Hospital's mission of care began in 1875 when founded by The Ladies Union Charitable Society. The first hospital in the central Merrimack Valley of northeastern Massachusetts, LGH is a high access, high value, innovative, not-for-profit community health care provider. In 2010, Lawrence General Hospital clinically affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. Lawrence General's commitment to the health needs of the community is guided by a Board of Trustees from our service area, and carried out by 1,400 employees, and 200 volunteers. Lawrence General Hospital provided over \$4,200,000 in Community Benefits to the Merrimack Valley region in 2010.

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