

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-May 27, 2010

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***St. Charles Hospital's Anne Shea-Lewis
is Nurse of Excellence Nominee***

Nurse leaders from Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals gathered Wednesday, May 19, at the Woodbury Country Club to bestow recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council's member hospitals was nominated for this award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. St. Charles Hospital's nominee was Anne Shea-Lewis, RN, Director, Maternal Child Services.

Within the Maternal Child Health Department, Anne has empowered and developed the leadership skills of her Assistant Nursing Care Coordinators (ANCC) through the expansion of their roles and responsibilities. When she began her leadership role in Maternal Child Health, the role of the ANCC was that of a working staff member with responsibility for the unit schedule. Today, ANCCs have much more active roles in management including interviewing and hiring of new staff, labor management issues, reviewing and revising policy and procedure, updating clinical documentation systems, serving as resources and in the development of staff. In addition, they regularly participate in performance improvement activities and outcomes measures.

Perhaps one of the most aggressive projects that Anne championed was the implementation of the Harvard Risk Management *Team Performance Plus* initiative. Harvard *Team Performance Plus* utilizes crew resource management techniques to improve teamwork and coordination, recognize potential adverse events and improve communication to guide decision-making. The specialized training and use of the *Team Performance Plus* model has resulted in improved communication and creating an environment of awareness by all team members regarding unit activity and acuity at any given moment in the day.

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to continue this program voluntarily. It is now in its 15th year. The NSHC represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals.

For more information on nursing at St. Charles, please call (631) 474-6251.

Caption: Pictured (L-R) Patricia Darcy, RN, VP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Southampton Hospital, Nikki Fiore-Lopez, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, St. Charles Hospital, Anne Shea-Lewis, RN, Director, Maternal Child Services, St. Charles Hospital, Gara Edelstein, RN, Senior Vice-President, Patient Care Services, and Chief Nursing Officer, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center and Chair of the NSHC Nurse Executive Committee.

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