

HTNYS Trustee Leadership and Advocacy Award

Congratulations to the 2016 Award Recipients

Mary Gail Biebel

Columbia Memorial Health (CMH), Hudson



Mary Gail Biebel's leadership has strengthened the entire CMH system. As Chair of the Board of Trustees of CMH for the last three

years, following 11 years as a trustee, she has employed a collaborative, engaged, creative, and principled process to help guide the strategic direction of the healthcare network.

Using skills honed in her career as a strategy consultant for some of the largest organizations in the nation, Mary Gail led the CMH Board through the most significant transformational period in the organization's long history. At Board meetings, she thoughtfully and inclusively encouraged other board members to think strategically about the long-term benefits of affiliation, and ensured that the Board was armed with the data and analysis necessary to make sound decisions of tremendous importance. Under her leadership, the Board and CMH executives envisioned, and in October 2015 successfully executed, a groundbreaking partnership with Albany Medical Center that blended the unique strengths of both organizations while ensuring continued meaningful localized governance. The affiliation has generated a more efficient healthcare system and improved access to specialty care for residents of Columbia and Greene counties.

A staunch leader of local, state, and federal advocacy, Mary Gail successfully advances the Triple Aim, while also protecting vital interests of CMH and the healthcare community from harmful or inadequate legislative and regulatory proposals. Her style is hands-on and engaging, and she is a well-known presence in the offices of policymakers.

She has also been instrumental in shaping her community in Chatham—from supporting the arts to protecting the future of farming. Her activism and leadership create productive conduits between CMH and the community and include having served on the Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and her role as the “Keep Farming” Coordinator for the Chatham Agricultural Partnership.

With 25 years of consulting experience in private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, and a doctoral degree in counseling and organizational behavior, Mary Gail shares her knowledge and skills as an adjunct Professor of Organizational Development and Management at Carnegie Mellon University.

In every sense, CMH has in Mary Gail a seasoned organizational consultant leading the strategic analysis and decision making that has generated a revolutionary change in CMH's trajectory, securing continued and improved healthcare services for the 110,000 residents of Columbia and Greene counties.