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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN MULTI-HOSPITAL TRAINING TO HELP MAKE OHIO THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE NATION FOR HEALTH CARE

LANCASTER, Ohio (October 21, 2009) – On October 6, 2009, board members and executives from Fairfield Medical Center participated in a multi-hospital training by leading national experts to help make Ohio the safest place in the nation for health care.

Sponsored by the Ohio Hospital Association's Governance Institute in partnership with the Ohio Business Roundtable and the Cardinal Health Foundation, the "On Board for Patient Safety" training provided participants with the opportunity to learn about proven methods for effectively monitoring safety and quality improvement in their local hospitals.

A key component of improving outcomes for patients is to promote a culture of safety at health care institutions. Providers at every level of care – starting with the uppermost levels of management – must embrace patient safety and integrate accountability for lives, dollars and time affected by such programs. The training helps hospital leaders better understand their role in patient safety initiatives and equips them with knowledge and tools to play a critical role in hospital-wide quality improvement efforts.

Mina Ubbing, CEO at Fairfield Medical Center noted, "At Fairfield Medical Center we recognize that patient safety is top priority. For this reason, we continually seek new ways to provide the safest systems for our patients and their families. From our measures to prevent infection, implement new technology, collect data, stop patient falls, and provide education, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our patients."

Participants from Fairfield Medical Center included board members Larry Burgess, PhD; Jim Christian; Shashi Gogate, MD; David Scoggin, MD; and Fairfield Medical Center employees John Stevenson, MD and Mina Ubbing, CEO. The nationally renowned Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), located in Cambridge, Mass. led the program, which included Jim Conway, Senior Vice President, IHI; Jamie Orlikoff, President, Orlikoff and Associates, Inc. located in Chicago, Ill.; and Lee Carter, former board chair, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Solutions for Patient Safety is a unique partnership of Ohio business leaders and health care providers to make Ohio the safest place in the nation for health care. The Cardinal Health Foundation has provided initial funding through a \$1.5 million investment, and the Ohio Business Roundtable, the Central Ohio Hospital Council, the Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio Children's Hospital Association are leading the efforts of the collaboration to improve quality and reduce costs of health care statewide.

The initiative includes 17 central Ohio hospitals and Ohio's eight children's hospitals. The central Ohio hospitals are focusing on two specific goals – reducing catheter-associated blood borne infections and reducing health care-associated methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections. Simultaneously, Ohio's children's hospitals are working to reduce surgical site infection rates for cardiac, neurosurgery, and orthopedic procedures and to eliminate harm or death to any child due to medication errors. The involved hospitals are sharing information within and across institutions and working to replicate best practices and outcomes with providers in Ohio and nationwide.

For more information about *Solutions for Patient Safety* and the hospitals participating in this important effort visit www.SolutionsforPatientSafety.org.

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