

# Maryland Faith Community Health Network

Progress Update

Vincent DeMarco, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund

February 2016

# Background



- ◆ The Maryland Faith Community Network was inspired by the Congregational Health Network that began at Methodist LeBonheur hospital in 2006. In this model, the hospital established formal dynamic partnerships with member congregations to keep their congregants healthy.
- ◆ LifeBridge Health agreed to pilot this model in Maryland between 2015-2017. Four local foundations are supporting model development, implementation and independent evaluation.

# Pilot Development

- ◆ Working closely with LifeBridge staff and local faith leaders, we developed a unique Memorandum of Understanding, At-Home Care Plan and volunteer training curriculum.
- ◆ Congregations and hospitals are building this into their standard operating procedures.
- ◆ First volunteer training was held on February 15, 2016 at the Pearlstone Retreat Center from 10AM-2PM.

MARYLAND FAITH COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc., LifeBridge Health, Inc., and local faith communities have come together to create a Maryland Faith Community Health Network (the "Network") to address congregational and community health concerns and disparities. Each party is committed to full participation in the Network as stated in the following agreement:

**Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc. agrees to:**

- Conduct outreach to local faith leaders, to engage their appointed representatives (Liaisons) fully in the design and implementation of the Network.
- Provide training to help build the capacity of new and active health ministries in congregations.
- Provide ongoing leadership to work with all partners to monitor, evaluate, improve and expand the Network.

**LifeBridge Health, Inc. agrees to:**

*Extend partnering designated faith representative(s) (Liaisons) the following:*

- Parking accommodations, as available.
- Health education programs as part of LifeBridge Health's existing population health initiative.

*Share in the work of aligning the mutual strengths of congregation and health system, LifeBridge Health will:*

- Respect the religious beliefs of all patients and provide high-quality, culturally competent care.
- Designate a Navigator to act as the point of contact for hospitalized congregants and Liaisons
- Provide meaningful reports on the impact of the program on local patient outcomes and successes.

**Faith Leaders/Clergy Agree to:**

- Support the partnership in prayer and worship to become God's instruments for health and wholeness in our community.
- Assign and oversee at least two Congregation Liaisons to complete necessary training and facilitate the program within the congregation.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date contact information for congregational liaison with hospital systems.
- Extend an opportunity for members to be informed of the program and benefits and to become active participants.

Vincent DeMarco, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund: Vincent DeMarco

Neil Meltzer, LifeBridge Health: Neil Meltzer

Authorized Congregational Representative signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Volunteer Training Components

- ◆ Keynote on the interplay of faith and health from the Ecumenical Theological Institute at St. Mary's Seminary
- ◆ Model operationalization and patient privacy by LifeBridge Health staff
- ◆ Ministry development and self-care/burnout prevention by Wesley Theological Seminary
- ◆ New health insurance resources from the Maryland Health Connection, Healthy Howard and Health Care Access Maryland
- ◆ Planning for taking this model back to leaders of the congregation to implement by Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.

# GREAT Media coverage!



- Op-Ed by Rev. John Deckenback, Vincent DeMarco and Niel Meltzer, [“LifeBridge hospitals partner with faith leaders to improve patient health.”](#)
- FRONT PAGE: Baltimore Sun, [“Religious institutions enlisted to help keep fellow worshipers healthy.”](#)
- WBAL evening news segment, [“Maryland faith community health network brings patients, faith together.”](#)
- Plus an Associated Press article that ran in news outlets across the country

# Network Congregations

**As of February 18, 2016**

## **Baltimore City**

Ark Church  
Christ Deaf United Methodist Church  
Empowerment Temple  
First Mount Calvary Baptist Church  
Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Greater Faith Baptist Church  
Gwynn Oak United Methodist Church  
Kingdom Life Church  
Koinonia Baptist Church  
Light of the World Outreach Center  
Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore  
New Good Samaritan Baptist Church  
Open Bible Baptist Church  
Perkins Square Baptist Church  
Prince of Peace Baptist Church  
Promiseland Community Fellowship  
Shepherd's Heart Missionary Baptist Church  
The Lord's Church of Baltimore, Inc  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Winston Ave. Baptist Church  
Zion Hill Baptist Church

## **Baltimore County**

Beth Israel Congregation  
Collective Christian Ministries  
Corner Rock Ministries  
Journey of Faith Church  
Milford Mill United Methodist Church  
Mount Olive United Methodist Church  
Mt Paran Presbyterian Church  
Rising Sun First Baptist Church- Baltimore County  
Temple Oheb Shalom

## **Carroll County**

Crossroads Community Church  
Deer Park United Methodist Church  
Linganore United Methodist Church  
Sandy Mount United Methodist Church  
St. John Catholic Church  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Westminster United Methodist Church

# Next Steps

- ◆ Designing rigorous independent evaluation with PATIENTS program at University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
- ◆ Launching the network with 10 congregations for the first two months and growing to include up to 200 congregations in the LifeBridge area over the next two years
- ◆ Expanding the MFCHN to other interested hospitals and communities throughout the state.