Maryland Faith Community Health Network

Progress Update
Vincent DeMarco, Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative Education Fund
February 2016
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.
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:

Neil Meltzer, LifeBridge Health:

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!

- 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.