



**BAYHEALTH HOSPITALS RECEIVE ‘EXCELLENCE IN SPIRITUAL CARE’
AWARD**

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network Designation Marks First in Delaware

New York, N.Y. (January 9, 2017)—HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) recently awarded its prestigious “Excellence in Spiritual Care” award to Bayhealth Kent General Hospital, Dover, Del., and Bayhealth Milford Memorial Hospital, Milford, Del. The hospitals, which are part of Central and Southern Delaware’s largest health care system, are the first in the state to receive this distinction after meeting HCCN’s proprietary national quality standards.

The award signifies that the hospitals are committed to optimally addressing patients’ spiritual and religious needs. HCCN identified the standards based on professional literature and its extensive 55-year history as a leader in spiritual-related clinical care, education and research. A growing body of research demonstrates the positive impact of spiritual care, including improved quality of life and patient satisfaction scores.

“It is a great honor to receive the Excellence in Spiritual Care Award,” said Bayhealth President and Chief Executive Officer Terence M. Murphy, FACHE. “This recognition exemplifies our organization’s commitment to providing patients and staff with a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to healing and wellness. Chaplain [T. Blake] Bowers and the other members of our Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Services Department should be especially proud of this achievement.”

Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN’s president and CEO, said he is delighted to count the two hospitals among the institutions that have successfully passed its evaluation process. “Achieving the Excellence in Spiritual Care Award reflects the value a health care setting places on the spiritual aspect of whole-person care,” Hall said. “Bayhealth clearly has made such a commitment, helping to improve quality of life for patients and their families, and the staff at the hospitals.”

Bayhealth employs a full-time chaplain who manages the Pastoral Care Department, which includes one part-time chaplain, and coordinates the on-call chaplain and Pastoral Care Volunteer Programs. On-call clergy and lay pastoral care volunteers represent more than 40 congregations from Smyrna to Bridgeville, Del.

During times of crisis, loss and grief, visits to patients and family members are available 24 hours a day to provide emotional and spiritual support and comfort. Assistance with religious rituals such as scripture, prayer and the Sacraments, as well as weekly chapel services, are available at both hospitals for patients, family members, and Bayhealth staff.

The Delaware hospitals join nine other hospitals and one hospice in five other states that have earned the award since June 2015; many other health care settings nationwide are undergoing the detailed review process. As part of the evaluation, HCCN specialists identify areas in an institution's spiritual care program in need of improvement—and provides consultation to achieve goals, and assists in more fully integrating chaplaincy services into its overall health care delivery.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is a global health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplancy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on twitter and Facebook.

About Bayhealth

Bayhealth's mission is to strengthen the health of our community, one life at a time. As central and southern Delaware's largest health care system, Bayhealth is comprised of Kent General and Milford Memorial hospitals, the freestanding Emergency Department in Smyrna as well as numerous satellite facilities and employed physician practices encompassing a variety of specialties. Bayhealth is a technologically advanced not-for-profit health care system with more than 3,700 employees and a medical staff of more than 400 physicians. Bayhealth is an affiliate of Penn Medicine for Heart and Vascular, Cancer and Orthopaedics. In Fiscal Year 2015, Bayhealth recorded 91,718 emergency department visits, 18,604 patients admitted to beds, 2,317 births, and provided \$46.3 million in unreimbursed care to patients. Visit www.bayhealth.org for more information.

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