

Immediate Release

Contact:

Hiran Ratnayake

(302) 327-3327

hratnayake@christianacare.org

Christiana Care Health System Presents Project Engage to The White House

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Sep. 4) Medical leaders from [Christiana Care Health System](#) will present their innovative and nationally-recognized early addiction intervention program, Project Engage, on Friday to officials from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Through Project Engage, health care professionals known as engagement specialists, who are peers in recovery, reach patients with substance abuse problems at the hospital bedside – at the nadir of their addiction – and link them to resources in the community that put them on the path to wellness.

Established in 2008 by Terry Horton, M.D., chief of Christiana Care’s Division of Addiction Medicine and an internationally recognized authority on substance abuse, Project Engage is carried out through a partnership with Brandywine Counseling and Community Services.

“Our engagement specialists meet with patients to offer support and to share their own struggles with addiction and how they were able to overcome it,” said Dr. Horton, also the medical director of Project Engage. “That empathy and that support from an engagement specialist is often the pivotal action that can motivate a patient to finally believe they can break free of their addiction, even if they have struggled with it for years or decades.”

Engagement specialists have reached nearly 3,000 patients at inpatient units and emergency departments of both Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital. The program has led to an increase in patients who enroll in community-based drug treatment programs, a reduction in 30-day readmissions among patients with substance abuse problems and an average savings of \$6,000 per patients with whom engagement specialists have intervened.

Dr. Horton will present this data from Project Engage along with Claudine Jurkovitz, M.D., MPH, director of operations for the Christiana Care Center for Outcomes Research, and senior physician scientist with Christiana Care’s Value Institute.

The Value Institute, of which Dr. Horton is a scholar, develops, delivers and evaluates innovative health care solutions that meet the “triple aim” of improving patient experience and population health while reducing health care costs.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country’s largest health care providers, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-

for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

#####