

April 6, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melanie Griffis, Public Relations Manager
Office: (716) 828-3747 | **Cell:** (716) 289-6317 | **Email:** MGriffis@CHSBuffalo.org

Mercy Hospital Drives Forward Nationwide Movement To Improve Healthcare for Older Adults

Buffalo, NY—Mercy Hospital joined the [Age-Friendly Health Systems](#) movement last year and recently earned its highest level of recognition as an *Age-Friendly Health System—Committed to Care Excellence*. The hospital is pleased to announce that its commitment to this national movement is not only improving care for older adults in our Western New York community but has contributed to the national movement surpassing its 2020 milestone.

The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI) has announced that the [Age-Friendly Health Systems](#) movement has beaten its participation goal by nearly 50 percent with the help of 1,956 sites of care like Mercy Hospital who joined the movement by the end of 2020. The Age-Friendly Health Systems movement underscores Mercy's active commitment to improving care for older adults.

“Mercy Hospital has always been on the forefront of patient care, and that’s why we want to participate in this vital effort,” said Shari McDonald, RN, MSN, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Mercy Hospital. “We are deeply committed to the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement because of the benefits that it can deliver to older adults, their families, and our providers.”

Health care organizations who join the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement adopt and demonstrate progress toward implementation of the [4Ms framework](#), four evidence-based practices, that lay the groundwork for optimizing care and outcomes for older adults, improving provider experience, supporting caregivers, and pursuing value-based methods of care. The 4M’s include: What Matters to older adults, their Medication, their Mentation, and their Mobility.

“This movement has the potential to create a new standard of care for older adults,” said Judy Humes, RN, BSN, Nurse Manager of Mercy’s 5 East patient care unit who led the initiative at the hospital. “We have seen positive



--MORE--

results from this program and are looking forward to expanding this age-friendly care model throughout Catholic Health.”

IHI reports that participation in the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement surged by 85 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when 1,671 care sites joined between March and December 2020, highlighting the impact of the older adult population’s size and distinct medical needs on US health care delivery. Adults 65 and older are a rapidly growing segment of the US population and health care consumers. Their numbers are expected to increase from 49 million today to 98 million by 2060¹.

The Age-Friendly Health Systems movement is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and IHI in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA). Together, they applaud and celebrate the visionary health care organizations who signed on to improve their care of older adults and have led the way in recognizing and addressing a critical need that will strengthen health care delivery today and in the future.

For more information or to join, visit ihi.org/AgeFriendly.

###

About Mercy Hospital of Buffalo

Mercy Hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services including heart surgery and the latest minimally invasive cardiac procedures, and serves as a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. Since 2017, Mercy Hospital has been recognized as a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for heart bypass surgery. The hospital is also home to the Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace providing a full spectrum of maternity/child services and a Level II neonatal intensive care unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care available at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need.

About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more than 25 years, IHI has used improvement science to advance and sustain better outcomes in health and health systems across the world. IHI brings awareness of safety and quality to millions, catalyzes learning and the systematic improvement of care, develops solutions to previously intractable challenges, and mobilizes health systems, communities, regions, and nations to reduce harm and deaths. IHI collaborates with a growing community to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. IHI generates optimism, harvests fresh ideas, and supports anyone, anywhere who wants to profoundly change health and health care for the better. Learn more at ihi.org.

¹ US Census Bureau



MEDIA INFORMATION

Public Relations

565 Abbott Road · Buffalo, New York 14220
