

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Bon Secours Mercy Health and LifeBridge Health Announce Intent for LifeBridge Health to Acquire Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital: An Innovative New Future for Health Care Services in west Baltimore**

*Bon Secours' Community Works will remain active in Baltimore, focusing on community health and wholeness through work on social determinants of health*

**Baltimore, Md. (Feb. 26, 2019)** - Bon Secours Mercy Health and LifeBridge Health today announced they have signed a Letter of Intent for LifeBridge Health to acquire Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital.

"Bon Secours has determined that partnership and a renewed focus on our innovative model of health care delivery is necessary to accelerate and improve health outcomes for the west Baltimore community," said Samuel L. Ross, M.D., chief community health officer, Bon Secours Mercy Health, and CEO of Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital. "Bon Secours and LifeBridge Health are committed to focusing on better access to quality health care services, wellness and prevention, addressing the root causes of health disparities, and transformational work to improve the health and wholeness of west Baltimore. I look forward to this collaboration with LifeBridge Health, and the expansion of our Bon Secours' Community Works and Unity Property Housing programs and services."

The proceeds of the acquisition will be paid over six years to Bon Secours Baltimore Foundation, and will be used exclusively for the establishment, continuation, or expansion of community-based programming at Community Works and Unity Properties, to address social determinants of health.

Bon Secours Community Works programs will remain active and continue its focus on community health and wholeness through work on social determinants of health such as affordable housing, community rebuilding, GED training, women's resources, job training, family support services, recidivism assistance, early childhood education, returning citizens and



nutrition counseling. This continues the century-old legacy of the Sisters of Bon Secours, who worked in the community for 37 years before building the Baltimore hospital in 1919.

This pending acquisition ensures that 24/7 emergency services, primary care, behavioral health, community health and outpatient services remain in the west Baltimore neighborhood, providing patients with access to the vast network of local specialists in the LifeBridge Health network.

“Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital is a vital part of the west Baltimore community,” said Neil Meltzer, president and chief executive officer of LifeBridge Health. “As a Baltimore-based health system, LifeBridge Health envisions building on Bon Secours’ strong foundation to provide a comprehensive and enhanced plan for all levels of health care services. At the same time, we want to bring additional resources to the community to address needs related to employment, addiction and other challenges.”

Bon Secours has worked for years to create sustainable solutions to health care for the west Baltimore community. This pending acquisition is not a new scenario but a continuation of discussions and approaches that have taken place for the past decade among health providers as well as local and state officials. The pending acquisition has the full support of Governor Larry Hogan, the Archbishop of Baltimore, William E. Lori, the Mayor of Baltimore, Catherine E. Pugh, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Maryland Department of Health. The Sisters of Bon Secours are supportive of the acquisition of acute and ambulatory health services to LifeBridge Health.

“Our administration is committed to finding creative and effective solutions to provide high quality health care to all Marylanders,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “LifeBridge Health is a valued partner in the Baltimore region and their investment in the community shows what can be accomplished when all parties work together to reach our common goals.”

“Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital and LifeBridge Health have been essential partners and anchor institutions of Baltimore City for many years,” said Mayor Catherine E. Pugh. “This new, innovative model of care is a natural progression of their partnership and ensures that the health care and support services so vital to the residents of west Baltimore will continue uninterrupted. We commend LifeBridge Health for its commitment to community and economic development and look forward to working closely with them in this exciting new phase of care and impact.”

“The HSCRC is proud to support efforts of both LifeBridge Health and Bon Secours to transform the health care delivery system, modernize health care facilities, and commit resources to community investments aimed at addressing the social determinants of health in west Baltimore. We applaud these efforts that aim to reduce health disparities in west Baltimore and to improve the delivery of care,” said Nelson Sabatini, Chairman of the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.



“The partnership between Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital and LifeBridge Health is another positive example of Maryland’s innovative efforts to ensure residents have access to quality health care in Baltimore. The Department of Health applauds this venture and will continue to work with Bon Secours and LifeBridge Health on future opportunities,” said Maryland Health Department Secretary Robert R. Neall.

Bon Secours and LifeBridge Health will work together to ensure a smooth, stable transition with no disruption of services. They will hold a series of community meetings to share details about the transition and to answer questions from community members. Both organizations will also work together to transition Bon Secours’ employees to LifeBridge Health. While ownership of Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital will be changing upon completion of the acquisition, the need for health care services in west Baltimore remains. A website, [westbaltimorehealth.org](http://westbaltimorehealth.org), will serve as a hub for details about community meetings and other information about the pending acquisition and integration of Bon Secours Baltimore Hospital and LifeBridge Health.

As Chief Community Health Officer for Bon Secours Mercy Health, Dr. Ross will continue his leadership of Housing and Community Development and Community Works. This pending acquisition will allow Dr. Ross to focus his talent and expertise in addressing the social determinants of health through the ministry of Bon Secours Mercy Health, while leadership of the hospital will transition to LifeBridge Health and its leadership team.

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#### **About Bon Secours**

Bon Secours is part of Bon Secours Mercy Health ([BSMHealth.org](http://BSMHealth.org)), one of the top 20 health systems in the United States and part of the top performing quartile of Catholic health systems for lowest cost per case for patient care. With operations in Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Florida and New York, Bon Secours owns, manages, or joint ventures 20 hospitals and 27 post-acute care facilities or agencies including skilled nursing facilities, home care and hospice services, and assisted living facilities. Consistent with its commitment to alleviate human suffering, Bon Secours Baltimore has developed more than 800 affordable housing units for families, seniors and disabled individuals. Bon Secours has more than 24,000 employees and has been recognized as a Gallup Great Workplace for six consecutive years. The mission of Bon Secours Mercy Health is to improve the health and well-being of its communities, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved. The ministry provides nearly \$2 million per day in community benefit. For more information, visit [www.BonSecours.com](http://www.BonSecours.com).

#### **About LifeBridge Health System**

LifeBridge Health is one of the largest, most comprehensive providers of health services in Maryland. LifeBridge Health includes Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Northwest Hospital, Carroll Hospital, Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital, and related affiliates. For more information, visit [www.lifebridgehealth.org](http://www.lifebridgehealth.org)