

**MEDIA ADVISORY: February 15, 2016**

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## **Local Faith Communities Join Health Leaders to Launch Project for New Maryland Faith Community Health Network**

*Unique Partnership Between LifeBridge Health, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative and  
Dozens of Local Houses of Faith Aims to Improve Health of People in Our Communities*

**What:** Leaders from state and local government, health care and places of worship will come together to announce the launch of the new Maryland Faith Community Health Network, an innovative collaboration seeking to improve the health of people in our communities.

The partnership between the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, LifeBridge Health and dozens of local houses of faith will connect hospital navigators and faith-based liaisons to coordinate community resources and support with the medical care patients receive.

At the event, the Maryland Faith Community Health Network will provide details of a pilot project between three LifeBridge Health hospitals (one urban—Sinai Hospital, one suburban – Northwest Hospital, and one rural – Carroll Hospital) and a group of places of worship that will be evaluating the effectiveness of the new network.

Dozens of representatives from churches, synagogues and other local places of worship will also be on site for congregational liaison training.

**When:** Monday, February 15, 2016 11 a.m.

**Where:** Pearlstone Center, 5425 Mt. Gilead Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136

**Who:** Among those in attendance:

- Secretary Van Mitchell, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Dr. Leana Wen, Baltimore City Health Commissioner
- Carmela Coyle, President and CEO, Maryland Hospital Association
- Rev. John Deckenback, Central Maryland Ecumenical Council's Ecumenical Leaders Group
- Imam Earl El-Amin, Resident Imam, Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore
- Rabbi Jay Goldstein, Beth Israel Congregation
- Rev. Cleveland Mason, President, United Baptist Missionary Convention
- Ed Singer, Carroll County Health Officer
- Dr. Jonathan Ringo, Vice President Clinical Transformation/CMIO, LifeBridge Health

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