

**Immediate Release**

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## **West Virginia Hospital Leaders Visit Christiana Care to Learn How to Combat the Opioid Epidemic**

*West Virginia Has Nation's Highest Drug Overdose Death Rate; Christiana Care's Innovative Approach to Opioid Crisis Gains National Attention*

**WHAT:** [Christiana Care Health System](#)'s Addiction Medicine Workshop, a meeting of addiction experts from West Virginia and Christiana Care Health System to share innovations in addressing the opioid epidemic.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**WHERE:** Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital at 501 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Wilmington, Del.

**WHO:**

- Terry Horton, M.D., FACP, FASAM, chief of Addiction Medicine at Christiana Care.
- Linda Lang, M.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry and physician leader of Christiana Care's Behavioral Health Service Line.
- Erin Booker, LPC, operations leader of Christiana Care's Behavioral Health Service Line.

**WHY:** Hospital leaders from West Virginia, the state hardest hit by the opioid epidemic, are visiting Christiana Care to learn about its innovative programs to combat this national crisis. Those programs include Project Engage, the nationally-recognized early-intervention program in which health care professionals known as engagement specialists, who are peers in recovery, identify hospital patients with substance-use disorders and reach them at their bedside. It also includes the Opioid Withdrawal Clinical Pathway, a program that screens, identifies and treats opioid-addicted patients who are admitted to the hospital in ways that improve the quality and safety of their care, improves their patient experience, and reduces their cost of care.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 52 of every 100,000 citizens of West Virginia die of drug overdose, the highest rate of death in the nation. Health experts

from Pennsylvania and Virginia will also attend. Journalists who would like attend this event, or who would like to see the agenda, should contact Christiana Care's Senior Manager of Media Relations Hiran Ratnayake at (302) 327-3327 or [hkratnayake@christianacare.org](mailto:hkratnayake@christianacare.org).

### **About Christiana Care Health System**

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Medical Group of Christiana Care, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. 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 has an extensive range of outpatient services and works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. 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 features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers this level of care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit [www.christianacare.org/whoweare](http://www.christianacare.org/whoweare)

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