

Bon Secours Health System

BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM IS A \$3.4 BILLION NOT-FOR-PROFIT CATHOLIC HEALTH system sponsored by Bon Secours Ministries, with hospitals in Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Maryland and New York. In 2012, Bon Secours became the first Catholic health system designated as a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality and has since maintained Leader status for its 14 majority owned acute care hospitals.

Bon Secours finds that the values of equity and inclusion in the HEI go hand-in-hand with its Catholic affiliation. Gloria Goins, chief diversity officer for Bon Secours Health System, explains that: "Bon Secours is a health system that proudly operates on core values to ensure that we provide 'good help to those in need.' Two of those values are 'respect' and 'justice.' 'Respect' is our commitment to treat all people well, based on our belief that each person has equal dignity and is made in the image and likeness of God. 'Justice' is the value that supports and protects the rights of all people and promotes the right to have needs met with human dignity."

By participating in the HEI, Bon Secours hopes that they are helping to eliminate obstacles that LGBT patients and their families and loved ones may encounter in obtaining care. They want all patients to feel that by coming to a Bon Secours facility they will receive compassionate and quality care in a manner that best meets their individual needs and without fear of discrimination or disrespect. Darren T. Binder, vice president and deputy general counsel and a member of the Bon Secours Health System Diversity Council, notes that "Bon Secours is aware that members of the LGBT community historically have faced barriers in obtaining access to quality healthcare services in welcoming environments resulting in disparities in healthcare outcomes. That is why we are very proud that each one of our hospitals has received Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality status for the third year in a row."

In continuing to provide the best possible care for LGBT patients, Binder expands upon the network's ongoing efforts, noting that "our current focus is ensuring that we continue to educate our employees on our inclusive policies. We recognize, particularly as a large health system, that we will always have more learning to do to increase awareness of and improve our processes with respect to, the needs of the LGBT community. That is why we value and appreciate the annual training that is offered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation."



This year, SSM Health Care became the second Catholic health system to participate in the HEI and attain the status of LGBT Leader in Healthcare Equality for the majority of their hospitals. SSM Health Care is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities in four states across the Midwest through one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the nation. SSM has care delivery sites in Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Wisconsin, including 19 acute care hospitals.

PROMO, Missouri's statewide LGBT advocacy organization, along with SAGE of Metro St. Louis partnered with SSM Health Care on the HEI initiative. Part of this process included training on LGBT Patient-Centered Care provided to over 630 SSM healthcare providers and administrators.