September 19, 2019

JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness Implementation Team shares progress
The Health and Wellness Implementation Team has completed the tasks it set for itself last March (See Mercy Now, March 7) and is now working on several recommendations formulated by its predecessor, the Health and Wellness Development Team.

Meeting regularly via Bluejeans, the Implementation Team has accomplished three key initiatives:

- Development of an Institute health and wellness vision statement;
- Review of current practices across the Institute, leading to an Institute health and wellness resource template that identifies locations and resource utilization by areas; and
- Consultation with the Sisters’ Life and Governance Committee, which highlighted the importance of the relationships among sisters, staff and Leadership Team members as part of the Institute health and wellness function.

Additionally, the Health and Wellness Implementation Team has developed a roles and responsibilities document for regional health and wellness directors. Based on the actual responsibilities and activities of current health and wellness directors across the Institute, this document creates a common understanding of the role going forward.

The Implementation Team is now focusing on three new areas of the health and wellness function: general wellness considerations, health management factors and best practices.

Since wellness is a lifelong concern, the Health and Wellness Team is looking at how to provide sisters of all ages with the information, resources or opportunities by which they can manage their health to stay or become well. This includes the question of how to assist when sisters must consider moving to a care facility or to a new level of care.

Health management means looking at care facilities—the number needed, their locations, desired or required levels of utilization, and other such factors that are critical to quality and efficiency.
On these points, as well as many others related to health and wellness, the team is searching out best practices, both within the Institute and beyond.

Members of the Health and Wellness Implementation Team are area Leadership Team members Sisters Mary Rose Bumpus (South Central), Margaret Mary Hinz (West Midwest) and Ruth Kelly (Northeast), and the current health and wellness coordinators from each of the former Communities: Michelle Bieszczad, Jennifer Giuffrida, Mary E. Johnson, Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb and Jean Sassatelli. The relevant professional health and wellness credentials of these Team members can be found in this infographic.