

CENTER FOR HOPE PROGRAM CASE STATEMENT

In response to the growing presence of violence in Baltimore, LifeBridge Health is committed to building hope with our communities with the new Center for Hope.

The Center for Hope brings together comprehensive programs, experts and city agency partners to foster positivity, safety and success for children, youth and adults. The first of its kind in the nation, the Center for Hope will be the new model for employing integrated programs and services designed to break the cycle of violence and its lifelong impact for victims of all races, ethnicities and religions, from the cradle to our senior population.

ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

- **Baltimore Child Abuse Center**—BCAC works with Baltimore City officials and medical personnel to develop a coordinated, child-friendly and time-sensitive response to child sexual abuse and physical maltreatment. Comprehensive 24-hour forensic interviews, medical treatment and mental health services combine to help children impacted by trauma feel safe and hopeful for the future. Caring staff members are available for families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for sensitive interviews and medical care, with bi-lingual staff available. Each family also is paired with an advocate, who arranges medical care, mental health services, court support and even home visits beyond traditional service hours, providing material needs, like groceries, transportation and emergency housing.
- **DOVE**—Onsite at Northwest and Sinai hospitals, DOVE provides one of the most comprehensive domestic violence programs in the state with 24/7 crisis intervention services for victims who come to the Emergency Department or are referred by police and a hotline staffed around the clock. LifeBridge Health's Hospital Response Team provides immediate support at the bedside, and DOVE advocates provide ongoing, empowering case management that includes medical support, therapy, legal assistance and courtroom accompaniment, education, and longer-term goal and safety planning. Connections are made to workforce development, along with life-saving shelters and other housing options.
- **Elder Abuse**—Partnering with experts at Levindale and Sinai hospitals, the Elder Justice Center at the Center for Hope will provide rapid response, forensic interviewing and mental health services for elders who have experienced physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse. This also includes financial and material abuse, neglect, and loss of dignity and respect. The center will provide outreach, intervention and prevention programs to enable elder community members to live safely with dignity and respect. Our program will create a new model for the rest of the nation to follow.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS:

Sinai Violence Response Team, Kujichagulia Center, Safe Streets

Swahili for "self-determination," the **Kujichagulia Center** provides interventions and helps clients seize the opportunity to change the trajectory of their futures. When patients arrive in the Emergency Department with gunshot and stab wounds, our **Sinai Violence Response Team** presents alternative paths to violence, offering mentoring, coaching and conflict management skills development. Through the Kujichagulia Skills Readiness Program, many develop successful work proficiencies, receive assistance with legal matters and obtain mental health treatment. Graduates proudly return home as thriving community members.

In partnership with Baltimore City, **Safe Streets** is an evidence-based, public health program created to reduce gun violence among youth ages 14-24, based on the globally championed Cure Violence model with its motto proclaiming "Stop Shooting. Start Living." Safe Streets Belvedere, located in Central Park Heights, will dramatically reduce shootings and homicides in one of Baltimore City's highest risk areas. Outreach professionals build relationships and mediate disputes that would otherwise result in serious violence. Violence Interrupters work unconventional hours to engage high-risk community members to advocate for a safer community. Participants and victims of crimes are connected to life-sustaining resources like job readiness programming, GED classes, sustainable employment, other life-changing resources and monthly community events.