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PRESS RELEASE

**Central Maryland Emergency Response Partners Announce
First Regional Hospital Mutual Aid Agreement**

State, Local, and Private Officials Say Cooperation is Key

In a first of its kind cooperative arrangement, central Maryland area hospitals have entered into an agreement to share resources during any type of man-made or natural disaster that may occur in the Baltimore region. The voluntary Baltimore Healthcare Facilities Regional Mutual Aid System's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement has formalized the process of collaborating in the event that one hospital becomes overwhelmed during a disaster. This agreement allows all participating hospitals to work together during an emergency to share staff, beds, equipment, and supplies. Hospitals within the Baltimore Metropolitan region, which includes Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties, are part of the first region in Maryland to complete such an agreement. Additional hospitals from Montgomery and Prince George's counties have signed the MOU. The eventual goal is to have a statewide MOU among all Maryland hospitals. "This is a major accomplishment for our emergency responders," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Cooperation among our first responders, hospitals, and health departments is critical during any type of disaster." The Baltimore Healthcare Facilities Regional Mutual Aid System agreement was championed by The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System and the Region III Health and Medical Taskforce, a subcommittee of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Council, made up of representatives from local health departments, hospitals, and emergency responders. These regional initiatives are supported by funds from the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) handled through grants from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Maryland is susceptible to disasters, both natural and man-made, that could exceed the resources of an individual hospital facility. Additionally, the possibility of a terrorist act in the Baltimore Metropolitan area must be considered due to the geographic proximity to important government, military, and high profile public institutions. In the event of a local or regional disaster, the facilities will communicate with each other and offer assistance to the facility in need. This could include the transfer of patients between facilities in the event of an emergency evacuation of a hospital such as flooding during the hurricane season.

Partnerships with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) helped facilitate this accomplishment for the Region.

Participating hospitals include:

Anne Arundel Medical Center
Baltimore Washington Medical Center
Bon Secours Baltimore Health System
Carroll Hospital Center
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center
MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital
Greater Baltimore Medical Center
MedStar Harbor Hospital
Harford Memorial Hospital
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System
Howard County General Hospital
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Kernan Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Hospital
Maryland General Hospital
Mercy Medical Center
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital
Northwest Hospital
Sinai Hospital
St. Agnes Hospital
St. Joseph Medical Center
Sheppard Pratt Hospital
MedStar Union Memorial Hospital
University of Maryland Medical Center
Upper Chesapeake Medical Center

Montgomery County (MIEMSS Region V)

Holy Cross Hospital
Suburban Hospital

Prince George's County (MIEMSS Region V)

Dimensions Health System (Laurel Regional Hospital and
Prince George's Hospital Center)

Non-private hospital

Veteran's Administration

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