



Avera Health Recognized for Exemplary Focus on Physician Wellbeing

Sioux Falls, S.D., April, 13, 2016 - A new recognition, the Medicus Integra Award, recognizes health care organizations for employing a physician-focused approach to promote and ensure physician wellbeing and engagement. Established in April of 2015 by the Coalition for Physician Wellbeing, an alliance of faith-based hospitals and health care systems dedicated to physician wholeness, the Medicus Integra Award focuses on four key areas of institutional programming: Physician Resilience, Learning Environment, Business & Quality, and Culture.

“We know that balanced, healthy, fulfilled physicians are more likely to communicate and collaborate effectively with patients and staff, demonstrate care and compassion, and experience better outcomes. I believe that if given a choice, most of us would prefer to go to, or work for, a health care organization that prioritizes physician wellbeing,” said Ted Hamilton, MD, coalition member and vice president of Medical Mission for Adventist Health System.

The Medicus Integra award documents evidence of an established, comprehensive, institutional approach to physician wellbeing, and signifies organizational engagement and improvement in key metrics and outcomes over time. Four sites were awarded this year: Avera Health, Florida Hospital Orlando, Loma Linda University Healthcare, and The Medical Center of Aurora.

“It’s no secret that a healthy and engaged physician workforce often means enhanced patient care, greater efficiency, better working relationships, and improved quality and safety,” said Tad Jacobs, D.O., Chief Medical Officer for Avera Medical Group. “Now health care organizations can better gauge how they are doing in terms of the intentional programming and resources they are providing to help physicians achieve balance in their lives and derive joy in their practice of medicine.”

“We are honored to be chosen for an award that recognizes faith-based health care systems that are focused on holistic wellness for their physicians,” agreed Mary Wolf, Avera’s LIGHT Program and EAP Director. “The award is a great tribute to the Avera Health system for the way wellbeing is built into our culture. We are excited to incorporate the lessons learned through the award application process. The Coalition for Physician Wellbeing has provided valuable networking and resources as we created the LIGHT program and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with them.”

Organizations interested in applying for future consideration can find more information at the Coalition for Physician Wellbeing website, forphysicianwellbeing.org.

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About the Coalition for Physician Wellbeing

Founded in 2011, The Coalition for Physician Wellbeing was initiated by a small group of individuals who began working together to understand the factors that contribute to physician wellbeing and wholeness during a time when physician burnout was first being recognized as an issue in American medicine. The Coalition is a 501(c)6, tax-exempt organization that includes hospitals and hospital systems with an interest in promoting physician wellbeing. Members of the Coalition include, among others, representatives from Adventist Health System, Catholic Hospital Association, Hospital Corporation of America, Loma Linda University Healthcare, and Lumunos. The Coalition hosts an annual meeting, compiles an online library of articles pertinent to physician wellbeing, and conducts monthly webinars on topics of interest to those involved in activities that support physician wellbeing.

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