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SAINT FRANCIS CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY AWARDED \$200,000 GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH FOUNDATION

(HARTFORD, Conn.) - Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been awarded a \$200,000, two-year grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation to support a Health Equity Fellowship position at the Hospital's *Center for Health Equity* headquartered at 140 Woodland Street, Hartford.

The goal of the Fellowship position is to mentor and develop the skills of a health equity leader and expert in the area of health disparities, and to provide an in-depth understanding of the multiple factors that impact the health of African-American men in Hartford.

African-American men in Hartford face socioeconomic challenges which correlate to poor health outcomes – often 4-5 times worse than the general population.

“The Health Equity Fellow will serve as a translator or bridge between the culture of the community and the culture of the Hospital, and will teach others this important skill,” states Marcus M. McKinney, D.Min., LPC, Saint Francis Vice President, Community Health Equity and Healthy Policy. “Our aim is to develop a strategy to assess and describe health disparities within specific populations so that we can create a prototype for implementing change.”

“Saint Francis offers a rich environment in which a fellow could learn, grow, and make significant contributions through the new Center for Health Equity as well as the reforms and initiatives the hospital is putting in place in response to the Affordable Care Act. It is the hope

that the fellow would not only partner with Saint Francis to more effectively serve African-American males, but that the fellowship itself would be a mechanism for increasing leadership capacity and connections in Hartford around the issue of health equity for males of color, “ states Lina Paredes, Connecticut Health Foundation, Vice President of Programming.

The *Center for Health Equity* and the *Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Institute* recently relocated to The Urban League of Greater Hartford campus to better serve their target populations. This co-location partnership represents an anchor collaboration in the expanding regional commitment to health equity that combines complimentary partners to help address the health and socioeconomic factors that cause inequities in health.

About Saint Francis

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, and the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com

About the Connecticut Health Foundation

The Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) is the state’s largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in July 1999, the foundation has supported innovative grant-making, public health policy research, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission – to improve the health of the people of Connecticut.

Over the past 12 years, CT Health has awarded grants totaling more than \$47.5 million in 45 cities and towns throughout the state in three priority areas:

- Improving access to children’s mental health services
- Reducing racial and ethnic health disparities
- Expanding access to and use of children’s oral health services

For more information about the foundation, visit www.cthealth.org

