

For Immediate Release
Contact: Marlene Feagan, HMA President

June 21, 2010
marlene.feagan@stelizabeth.com

Faith-Health Leaders Address Strategies for Future Development

Health Ministries Association Hosts National Summit

Burlingame, CA - A diverse group of leaders, whose work involves the intersection of faith and health, met in Burlingame June 13-15 to network and formulate key strategies for the development of future collaborative action plans.

The National Summit convened by the Health Ministries Association (HMA) was comprised of 73 executive and program leaders from 10 healthcare institutions, 17 religious-affiliated health care institutions, 7 faith community nursing networks, 8 universities, 15 national and community-based agencies, 6 religious denominations and foundations, 14 individual faith communities, the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, and representatives of the Canadian Nurses Association and the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. Twenty five states and two Canadian provinces were represented. Founding members of HMA present at the Summit were: David Carlson, Rosemarie Matheus, Dorothy Wagner, and Norma Small.

The Summit work included Breakout Sessions on *Finding Common Ground*, *Moving into Action*, *Special Perspectives*, and *Speaking in One Voice: Summation and Action Plan*. The facilitator, Rey Friel, encouraged discussions, information sharing, and group work toward the intended outcome of developing realistic action plans and ongoing collaboration. Suggestions for structures were brought forward from each of the special perspective groups: Faith Community Nurses; Health Ministers; Chaplains, Clergy, and Pastoral Care Providers; Community-based Organizations; Hospital-based Organizations; and Education and Faculty. These recommendations will be incorporated into plans for ongoing collaboration and a White Paper that will be published by HMA in fall 2010.

Sustaining Partners and Sponsors of HMA include Florida Hospital, Orlando, FL; the Center for Community Health Ministry, Orlando, FL; Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health, Washington, D.C.; Catholic Healthcare West, East Valley, AZ; Wellsource, Inc. Clackamas, OR; and HMA former chapters: Southwest Ohio, Greater Central Ohio, and Southern New England.

HMA is a not-for profit membership organization for people of faith working together for healthier communities. It is recognized by the American Nurses Association (ANA) as the professional membership organization for faith community nurses. Members also include clergy, faculty, health educators, health ministers and program coordinators.

A major emphasis of HMA's work has been advancing the professional practice of faith community nurses through collaboration with the ANA to develop and publish the *Faith Community Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice*. Work has been initiated by HMA as the designated partner with the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to develop the formal portfolio recognition program to validate the skills, knowledge, and abilities of individual faith community nurses. HMA is also developing guidelines for the education and role responsibilities of health ministers. Additional information can be found on the HMA website: www.hmassoc.org.