

CleanMed Conference
Catching More Fish with a Net:
Getting to Safer Products through Chemicals Policy
Chicago, IL, May 19, 2009

Case Study:
Catholic Healthcare West (CHW)'s
Commitment to Compassionate Care

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Catholic Healthcare West

CHW

- CHW's Mission and Values
 - What It Is and What Drives Us
- The Need
 - Hunger Where There Are Gaps
- The Miracle
 - Focusing on the Net
- The Feast
 - Delivering the Mission
- Questions/Comments

- CHW and its Sponsoring Congregations are committed to the healing ministry. We dedicate our resources to:
 - Delivering compassionate, high quality, affordable health services;
 - Serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor, and disenfranchised; and
 - Partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life
- CHW's core values: dignity, collaboration, justice, stewardship, excellence

- Acute Care Facilities: 41
- Acute Care Beds: 8,660
- Skilled Nursing Beds: 955
- Active Physicians: 9,754
- Employees: 50,000
- Community Benefits and Care of the Poor (FY08): \$967 million



- The “Data, Safety, & Technology Gaps”
 - How are gaps getting in the way?
- When We Know We Don’t Know:
 - Fisher-men and women: Leadership & Champions
- Supplies and Materials
 - Fish and Bait
- The Bottom Line:
 - Sustaining the Healing Mission



- Parable of the “Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes”
- Development & Implementation of a *Comprehensive* Chemical Policy
 - Adoption of Environmental Policy & Statement of Principles
 - Commitment to Health Care Without Harm
 - Partnering With Others
 - Sharing Our Story



- Adopted in 1996
- Ceres 10-point code of conduct
- In an effort to minimize environmental damage to the air, water, earth, or persons, we will:
 - Use environmentally responsible products as much as possible; and
 - Reduce and make continual progress toward eliminating the use of any substance that causes environmental damage or health or safety hazards.
- Pledge to not only formalize our dedication to environmental awareness and accountability, but also actively commit to an ongoing process of continuous improvement, dialogue, and comprehensive, systematic public reporting.

- A health care sector that is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment.
- Goals
 - Create markets and policies for safer products, materials and chemicals
 - Eliminate incineration of medical waste, minimize the amount and toxicity of all waste generated and promote safer waste treatment practices
 - Ensure patients, workers, and communities have full access to information about chemicals used in health care and can participate in decisions about exposures to chemicals.

- Casting Net Requires the Multitude
 - Executive Leadership, Board of Directors, Key Staff
 - Other Health Care Systems/Coalitions/Experts & Scientists
 - GPOs/Vendors/Suppliers
 - Government/Elected Officials and Advocacy Partners



- Successes
- Challenges
- Baskets of Leftovers: Next Steps



- Elimination of mercury
- Conversion from non PVC/DEHP IV bags
- Greater Use of EPP
- Minimizing Waste
- Green Building



- Cost
- Time & Space
- Personnel
- Clarifying best practices
- Socio-economic and political environment
- Continuing Gaps



- Gathering the Pieces
- Continuing to Recognize and Address the Hunger
- Advancing Policies, Moving Markets and Mission to Sustainability





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On behalf of CHW
Thank You!