

**MILWAUKEE HOSPITALS TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ADDRESS
PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN- INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day, October 11th**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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(MILWAUKEE, WI - October 9, 2007) - The Milwaukee County Health Care Intimate Partner Violence Consortium, along with Mayor Tom Barrett and Health Commissioner Bevan Baker, announced today their commitment to develop advanced screening and intervention for intimate partner violence in a healthcare setting. A press conference was held early this morning at the Task Force on Family Violence (TFFV) office, in recognition of their commitment, Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October and "Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day" on Oct. 10th.

During the press conference, each partner of the Hospital Consortium received a proclamation from Mayor Tom Barrett for their commitment to educate health care providers about the critical importance of assessing for intimate partner violence in our local health systems.

"Intimate partner violence is a serious concern in Milwaukee and throughout the country. We are grateful for the opportunity to join the leadership of this Consortium to develop citywide protocols and responses to this public health problem," said Mayor Tom Barrett.

For the first time in Milwaukee, local health care systems have come together in response to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). This partnership, the Milwaukee County Health Care Intimate Partner Violence Consortium, consists of representatives from: Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital - Medical College of Wisconsin, Aurora Health Care, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, Columbia-St. Mary's, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the TFFV. The Consortium is funded by a development grant from the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The Milwaukee County Health Care Intimate Partner Violence Consortium supports the continued development and advancement of screening and intervention for intimate partner violence across Milwaukee's health systems. Providing survivors of intimate partner violence who disclose such experiences in medical settings the opportunity to consistently access community resources such as legal advocacy, case management and support services helps strengthen our community and the systems within.

This press release was disseminated by the Task Force on Family Violence.

The Task Force on Family Violence provides education, advocacy and resources to keep people safe. Through the Courthouse Advocacy Program, Legal Emergency Assistance Program, Children's Advocacy Program, and Ending Violence through Education Program, the Task Force assists over 6,500 victims of domestic abuse annually. For the last thirty years TFFV has been committed to creating communities where people live peacefully.

For more information about this announcement or TFFV programs, please contact:
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