

## For Immediate Release

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### **Bethesda Lutheran Communities Awarded Council of Quality and Leadership Accreditation**

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan today announced that the Council of Quality and Leadership (CQL) in Towson, Maryland has awarded Bethesda Lutheran Communities its Network Person-centered Excellence Accreditation for improving the quality of life for the people it serves.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities provides services to Kansans with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Johnson, Douglas and Wyandotte counties. The services provided include home- and community-based services, licensed home care, case management, supported living either at home or in a group setting, intermediate care facilities offering 24-hour care, day programs, employment support programs and community engagement opportunities

“I want to congratulate Bethesda Lutheran Communities and staff for their efforts to move away from the institutional model of care and embrace person-centered care, which promotes choice, purpose and meaning in the daily life of those it serves,” Secretary Sullivan said. “Bethesda Lutheran is setting a new standard in allowing individuals with I/DD in Kansas to make choices about their daily lives based on their personal experiences and abilities, just as the rest of us do.”

“I am excited about our long standing partnership with CQL and our focus on person centered planning and person outcomes. I am also excited about Bethesda’s expansion of services in the state and what this will mean for being able to foster choice for our residents. Our Kansas team is committed to providing meaningful services and supporting all aspects of people’s lives. Bethesda Lutheran Communities continue to provide quality, person-centered services as it has done for 110 years,” Bethesda Lutheran Regional Director Mark Wester said.

“When Bethesda Lutheran Communities partnered with CQL to pursue accreditation, we undertook a rigorous process to review and improve services and supports. Our efforts were focused on empowering the people who receive support from their organization to make choices in how they live their lives, where they work, where they live, and how they create a community,” Mr. Wester said.

The accreditation, the first ever to be awarded by CQL, was earned as a result of Bethesda Lutheran Communities having demonstrated proficiency in:

- Basic assurance, ensuring fundamental safeguards related to health, safety and human security
- Personal outcome measures, supporting and employer individuals to achieve their goals
- Person-centered excellence, demonstrating organization commitment to continued enhancement of system directly related to person-centered services

Accreditation was awarded at the end of a multi-year process, which included evaluation of Bethesda Lutheran Communities’ operations, staff training and consultation with consumers, their families and community members.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities, of Watertown, Wisconsin, has operations in 14 states. Kansas services are provided through the organization’s West Central Region, headquartered in Littleton, Colorado, with a local office in Shawnee Mission. Its Kansas programs and facilities are licensed by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

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*The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.*