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Mental Health Association of Monmouth County to Honor Hackensack Meridian *Health* CEO Robert C. Garrett at Annual Golf Classic

Atlantic Highlands, NJ (July 14, 2021) – In recognition of the intrinsic connection between mental and physical health, particularly given the pandemic, the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (MHAMC) proudly announced today that it will honor Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, CEO of Hackensack Meridian *Health*, at the organization's annual Golf Classic & Cocktail Party on Monday, August 9, at Beacon Hill Country Club in Atlantic Highlands.

"Monmouth County was very fortunate to have Bob Garrett leading our area hospitals and medical facilities during the pandemic," said Wendy DePedro, President and CEO of MHAMC. "As one of the hardest-hit communities early on, most of us in Monmouth County experienced some level of trauma related to COVID. We are grateful for Bob's unwavering commitment to our community, and the outstanding professional team at Hackensack Meridian *Health* that helped so many survive this unprecedented health crisis."

MHAMC's Golf Outing will feature a fun yet challenging tournament on Beacon Hill Country Club's scenic course with beautiful views of the New York City skyline, followed by cocktails and dinner in the recently renovated clubhouse. Reservations may be made for the full Golf Outing, or non-golfing guests may choose to attend the evening Cocktail Party only.

As CEO of New Jersey's largest, most comprehensive health network, Mr. Garrett has displayed outstanding leadership throughout the pandemic. Not only did he successfully guide Monmouth County and New Jersey through the medical complexities of this health crisis, but he also supported and sustained his team during a year that undoubtedly pushed our healthcare professionals beyond what they ever could have imagined.

Mr. Garrett and Hackensack Meridian *Health* have also demonstrated systemic support of mental health for many years. Under Mr. Garrett's leadership, Hackensack Meridian *Health* has been able to address the workforce shortage in Psychiatry. Through the creation of two new ACGME-accredited General Psychiatry Residencies, one at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and one at Ocean Medical Center, there has been an addition of 50 total residents. Additionally, the health network has instituted ACGME-accredited fellowships in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry. This will help address the shortage of psychiatrists here in New Jersey in collaboration with the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

Mr. Garrett is a national leader among healthcare CEOs in highlighting the need for Behavioral Health services and to address the stigma of mental illness. Mr. Garrett has innovated in Behavioral Health services through his support of Hackensack Meridian *Health's* development of the state's first integrated

Medical/Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center, the creation of a DNA Bank/Repository for Psychiatric illness with the Hackensack Meridian *Health* Center for Discovery and Innovation, and the strategic merger with Carrier Clinic.

As a passionate champion for Behavioral Health, Mr. Garrett has supported the longstanding collaboration between MHAMC and Hackensack Meridian *Health* to address mental wellness as a critical component of overall health.

MHAMC is very proud of its own response to the pandemic, offering ongoing support to those struggling with mental health issues as a direct result of COVID-19. MHAMC provided six weeks of free counseling to over 70 new clients by linking them to volunteer therapists, while maintaining therapeutic support for thousands of existing consumers. MHAMC also developed multiple webinars to address community needs, including a 6-part series to assist clinical therapists and school staff in supporting youth and families experiencing increased mental health concerns during remote learning.

To register for MHAMC's annual Golf Classic and/or the Cocktail Party, please visit www.mentalhealthmonmouth.org or call 732-216-5018.

ABOUT HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH

Hackensack Meridian *Health* is a leading not-for-profit health care organization that is the largest, most comprehensive and truly integrated health care network in New Jersey, offering a complete range of medical services, innovative research and life-enhancing care.

Hackensack Meridian *Health* comprises 17 hospitals from Bergen to Ocean counties, which includes three academic medical centers – Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack, Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, JFK Medical Center in Edison; two children’s hospitals - Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital in Hackensack, K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital in Neptune; nine community hospitals – Bayshore Medical Center in Holmdel, Mountainside Medical Center in Montclair, Ocean Medical Center in Brick, Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, Pascack Valley Medical Center in Westwood, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy, Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, and Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin; a behavioral health hospital – Carrier Clinic in Belle Mead; and two rehabilitation hospitals - JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in Edison and Shore Rehabilitation Institute in Brick.

Additionally, the network has more than 500 patient care locations throughout the state which include ambulatory care centers, surgery centers, home health services, long-term care and assisted living communities, ambulance services, lifesaving air medical transportation, fitness and wellness centers, rehabilitation centers, urgent care centers and physician practice locations. Hackensack Meridian *Health* has more than 36,000 team members, and 7,000 physicians and is a distinguished leader in health care philanthropy, committed to the health and well-being of the communities it serves.

The network’s notable distinctions include having four of its hospitals are among the top hospitals in New Jersey for 2020-21, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Additionally, the health system has more top-ranked hospitals than any system in New Jersey. Children’s Health is again ranked a top provider of pediatric health care in the United States and earned top 50 rankings in the annual U.S. News’ 2020-21 Best Children’s Hospitals report. Other honors include consistently achieving Magnet®

recognition for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and being named to *Becker's Healthcare's* "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare/2019" list.

The Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, the first private medical school in New Jersey in more than 50 years, welcomed its first class of students in 2018 to its campus in Nutley and Clifton. The Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI), housed in a fully renovated state-of-the-art facility, seeks to translate current innovations in science to improve clinical outcomes for patients with cancer, infectious diseases and other life-threatening and disabling conditions.

Additionally, the network partnered with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to find more cures for cancer faster while ensuring that patients have access to the highest quality, most individualized cancer care when and where they need it.

Hackensack Meridian *Health* is a member of AllSpire Health Partners, an interstate consortium of leading health systems, to focus on the sharing of best practices in clinical care and achieving efficiencies.

To learn more, visit www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org.