

## Recap of January 8, 2020 Meeting

Jerisa Upton, coordinator for the "Let's Talk" Continence Program at Illinois Masonic Hospital, gave an overview of how the hospital's innovative program works. Illinois Masonic has established a multidisciplinary-team approach to caring for patients challenged by urinary and/or fecal incontinence. Their program includes patient navigator support, extensive patient education, expedited scheduling of appointments, assistance with transportation and a generous adult diaper bank for anyone in need of products.

Jerisa explained that many, if not most, cases of incontinence can be improved or eliminated entirely with changes to medication or diet, with physical therapy, or possibly surgical intervention. While plans are underway to establish similar incontinence programs in the future at both Lutheran General and Good Samaritan Hospitals, she welcomed any questions or referrals to their program at Illinois Masonic.

Jerisa exudes understanding and hope for those struggling with incontinence and was a great presenter for our January meeting. For additional information about the incontinence program at Illinois Masonic go to [www.chicagocontinencecare.com](http://www.chicagocontinencecare.com) or email Jerisa at [jerisa.upton@advocatehealth.com](mailto:jerisa.upton@advocatehealth.com).

Information on the CaptionCall program was shared by Kim Runge, which is a federally funded ADA program designed to help individuals with hearing loss communicate better. Kim gave such positive feedback in describing her contact with Lara Bruce, Midwest Account Manager with CaptionCall, and relayed that Lara is very willing to present information to groups, or to assist individuals in obtaining a captioning phone. Lara can be contacted at [lbruce@captioncall.com](mailto:lbruce@captioncall.com).

Kirsten shared that a grant to the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago has laid some groundwork for a Mosque Community Nurse Program. Over the next couple of years, assessment and work on designing a model that fits with the Muslim culture and system will be led by Nancy Romancheck along with a Muslim physician, with the goal to expand the number of mosques with Mosque Community Nurses.

The Next Faith Community Nurse meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11. Amy McNicholas, Faith and Mental Health Specialist with Advocate Health Care, will present, "Addressing Stress De-escalation in the Church Setting."

Amy will also share information about her work with the LOSS Program and Companioning Program. Also, Kirsten will give an overview of the theoretical framework that lends understanding to "Loving Communities = Healthy Communities" initiative.

I encourage you and other Health Ministry Association supporters to participate in the 2020 HMA conference, which takes place in our own Chicago backyard on Sept. 13-15, in Techny, Illinois. <https://hmassoc.org/news-events/upcoming-conference/>