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Amida Care Medical Director Receives Quality of Care Award for Senior Leadership in Quality

New York, January 3, 2011: Annually, the *New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute*, presents Quality of Care Awards in recognition of exceptional service to the AIDS community.

In December 2010, one of three awards in **Quality of Care Award for Senior Leadership in Quality** was presented to *Jerome Ernst, MD* (picture 2nd from the far right), for improving the quality of care for people living with HIV/AIDS through clinical leadership and pioneering work as a Special Needs Plan (SNP) Medical Director.



“Amida Care is very fortunate to have Dr. Ernst leading our health services, which includes clinical care coordination and quality improvement,” said President/CEO Doug Wirth. “Since the beginning of the AIDS pandemic, Jerry has been a recognized leader in the fight against HIV disease and an instrumental voice for building a comprehensive model of care that offers both medical and psycho-social support.” Under Dr. Ernst’s leadership Amida Care has consistently scored well in annual quality performance monitoring by the State Health Department.

Amida Care ranks at or near the top in HIV health monitoring, mental health screening, chemical dependence screening and sexually transmitted disease monitoring. An amazing 86% of its members attend clinical visits every quarter while over 90% have screenings for chemical dependency and syphilis.

In addition to serving as the Medical Director for Amida Care since its inception in 2003, Jerome Ernst, MD, has served as Medical Director to *ACRIA* since 1999. In this capacity he supervises the clinical trials program and other research. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at the *Bronx AIDS Services*. Dr. Ernst is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at *Albert Einstein College of Medicine* and a Fellow of the *New York Academy of Medicine* and the *American College of Chest Physicians*. He also has a long-standing working relationship with *Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center* where he was a Chief of Pulmonary Medicine and Infectious Diseases as well as the director of its AIDS program.

Amida Care's mission is to provide access to comprehensive care and coordinated services that facilitate positive health outcomes and general well-being for our Members. It is a non-profit Medicaid HIV Special Needs Plan (SNP). The Plan utilizes nurse care coordinators, member service representatives, community case managers, peer outreach workers and other staff to assist members and providers, and address barriers to facilitate access and retention in care. Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-556-0689. More information is available on our website at www.amidacareny.org.