



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

July 12, 2018

DHS Celebrates Dr. Bhasker Dave's 50 Years of Service

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Department of Human Services (DHS) proudly recognizes Dr. Bhasker Dave, the Superintendent of the Independence Mental Health Institute (MHI), who has been with DHS for 50 years this month.

Dr. Dave received his pre-medical and medical education in Bombay, India. After graduating from the University of Bombay in 1967 he completed his internship at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa and his Psychiatry Residency at the MHI in Independence, Iowa. He was certified in Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1973.

His medical career has included working as a physician at hospitals in India and Kenya, as an inpatient psychiatrist at hospitals in Iowa, as an outpatient psychiatrist at mental health centers in Iowa, as a psychiatric educator and as a hospital administrator.

Since 1984, he has served as the Superintendent and the Clinical Director of the MHI in Independence, the larger of the two state psychiatric hospitals in Iowa. The hospital provides acute inpatient psychiatric care for children, adolescents and adults.

The hospital is the provider of the last resort for many individuals with serious mental illness. The hospital serves patients who cannot receive services elsewhere because of the severity of their symptoms or their lack of financial resources. Under Dr. Dave's leadership, Independence MHI has always received the maximum period of accreditation allowed by The Joint Commission, a national healthcare accrediting organization. During Dr. Dave's tenure, the Independence MHI was twice recognized by The Joint Commission as a "Top Performer Hospital," by achieving a score of 95% or above in performance measures.

Dr. Dave has been actively involved in and held leadership positions in state and national professional psychiatric organizations. He is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA). He served as the President of the Iowa Psychiatric Society from 1984 to 1985. He has served on numerous American Psychiatric Association committees and task forces dealing with public sector psychiatry and treatment of persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

In 2014, Dr. Dave became the first psychiatrist from Iowa to be elected to serve on the executive committee of the Assembly of APA, where he represents over 5,000 psychiatrists from the twelve Midwest states. Since 2016, he has chaired the Area 4 Council, in his current capacity as the area representative of this Council.

“He has been a tremendous asset to the Department. He is a true expert on mental health, a compassionate doctor, and a dedicated and tireless member of our DHS family. His integrity, character and expertise are well known throughout DHS, Iowa and the country. I just cannot stress enough how proud I am to say that Dr. Dave is a friend, a colleague, and a trusted member of our leadership team,” said Director Jerry Foxhoven.

Today, July 12, 2018, at 1 p.m. there will be a community celebration of Dr. Dave’s 50 years of service with DHS. The celebration will take place at the MHI in Independence, Iowa.

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