



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2018**

**UnityPoint Health® – Des Moines and Eyerly Ball Prepare for Future through Strategic Affiliation**  
Affiliation will offer new resources for Eyerly Ball and UnityPoint Health patients

**Des Moines, IA** – Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services and UnityPoint Health® – Des Moines announced today that on January 1, 2018, they officially aligned their two organizations to better serve the physical and behavioral health needs of residents in central Iowa.

“Eyerly Ball and UnityPoint Health – Des Moines have a common mission and vision to improve the health of the people and communities we serve,” says Cynthia Steidl Bishop, CEO of Eyerly Ball. “Together, we will develop more integrated models of care, treating the whole patient to achieve improved patient outcomes and better community health. I’m proud and pleased to announce this significant step with UnityPoint Health. It’s the best of both worlds for Eyerly Ball. We will remain a locally-run, community health organization, while also gaining the benefits of a broader system’s services, experience and expertise. This is good for our clients, employees, providers and our local economy.”

A Letter of Intent was approved by the volunteer boards of both organizations in November of 2016 and has served as the framework for writing the final affiliation agreement during the past year. In December, the Boards of UnityPoint Health – Des Moines and Eyerly Ball approved the affiliation with the official start date of January 1, 2018.

UnityPoint Health – Des Moines President and CEO Eric Crowell states, “We are excited about our partnership with Eyerly Ball. They share our culture of patient-focused care, community-minded spirit and high-quality health care. We know there is a great need in our community for access to mental healthcare and it is our hope through this affiliation, we will be able to better serve those in need.”

Behavioral health has consistently ranked among the top healthcare needs throughout central Iowa, yet the demand for services has far outweighed the supply of behavioral healthcare services. Despite the increased need for behavioral health services, many healthcare organizations no longer provide those services because they are difficult to sustain operationally and financially.

Crowell and Steidl Bishop agree the affiliation will ensure that the residents of central Iowa have access to high-quality clinical care that integrates both physical and mental health. In addition, both organizations are committed to developing a behavioral health organization with diverse levels of care, support for all patients, innovative practices and strong outcomes. They are also committed to the development of local education and training programs to attract future behavioral health providers to the region.

## **A Shared Commitment to Behavioral Health**

Eyerly Ball and UnityPoint Health – Des Moines are both accredited, non-profit organizations that share a rich tradition and longstanding commitment to providing the highest level of behavioral health. Eyerly Ball currently serves individuals across Polk, Warren, Story, Madison, Boone and Dallas counties. UnityPoint Health – Des Moines serves similar communities for outpatient services and a broader range for inpatient psychiatric services.

Eyerly Ball was organized in 1969 as a nonprofit organization representing the disciplines of psychiatry, licensed mental health professionals and community based social workers. The purpose of Eyerly Ball is to provide a full continuum of quality behavioral health care including Integrated Care Coordination, Outpatient Treatment, Community Based Services, Crisis Services and Residential Services.

UnityPoint Health – Des Moines' tradition in meeting the behavioral health needs of central Iowa dates back to the 1960s, when Iowa Lutheran Hospital added psychiatric units. Today, the health system serves area residents through geriatric, adult and pediatric inpatient units at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, substance abuse treatment at Powell Chemical Dependency Center, as well as four psychiatric clinics.

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### **About Eyerly Ball**

Eyerly Ball is a pioneering source for outpatient, residential and outreach mental health services. As a leader in providing services that respond to the changing mental health needs in our community, Eyerly Ball has evolved over the years from a single outpatient clinic to include multiple clinic locations, residential facilities, community outreach programs, jail diversion, crisis services and much more.

### **About UnityPoint Health – Des Moines**

UnityPoint Health® – Des Moines has more than 7,700 employees and 1,000 physicians providing convenient care to patients in central Iowa through our integrated network of clinics, hospitals and home care services. UnityPoint Health – Des Moines is made of up Iowa Methodist Medical Center, including Younker Rehabilitation and central Iowa's only Level I Trauma Center; Iowa Lutheran Hospital; Methodist West Hospital; Blank Children's Hospital, including pediatric sub-specialty clinics; John Stoddard Cancer Center; Grinnell Regional Medical Center; Eyerly Ball; UnityPoint Clinic; UnityPoint at Home and UnityPoint Hospice.