



For Immediate Release:

September 23, 2020

Media Contact:

Patrick Schwartz

330.933.9825

LeadingAge Ohio stands by Crandall Medical Center, other quality providers amid COVID-19 outbreaks

SEBRING, Ohio – As the voice for mission-driven, values-based providers of long-term services and supports in Ohio, LeadingAge Ohio continues to stand by and support members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Crandall Medical Center, home to a 50-year history of serving older adults at its campus in Sebring, Ohio, is recognized as a national leader in senior care, and [was ranked as the third best nursing home in the state for 2020 by Newsweek](#).

Crandall Medical Center has been especially hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and has experienced a surge of cases of COVID-19 among its residents and staff. Crandall Medical Center operates an extremely high-quality nursing facility with a “much above average” five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), with particularly high marks for health inspections and quality measures.

“Crandall implemented every known precaution and performed deficiency-free on state infection control surveys during this pandemic,” stated Copeland Oaks CEO and CFO Dave Mannion.

In response to the recent outbreak, Crandall worked closely with its county health department to ensure all appropriate COVID-19 infection control directives were employed.

“It should be noted that Crandall is twice the size of the average Skilled Nursing Facility and four times larger than many facilities, a factor not accounted for in facility case reporting,” added Mannion.

This situation has been repeated around the state in recent months within long-term services and supports, all of whom are adapting to the daily challenges of caring for a vulnerable population and keeping a deadly infection at bay.

“What Crandall Medical Center experienced this year teaches us that COVID-19 can strike exceptional facilities, even when they’re taking all the right steps,” stated Kathryn Brod, president and CEO of LeadingAge Ohio. “It is crucial that Ohio providers receive enhanced supports to continue to provide care and recover from outbreaks, as those who serve vulnerable older adults will likely continue to be on the frontlines of this fight for a year or more.”

As has been widely reported, older adults, especially those with chronic or multiple conditions, are the most vulnerable segment of the population for complications from a COVID-19 infection. Almost all residents of a long-term care facility fit into this population, and many are there because their care needs exceed what can be provided safely at home.

“It is important for families to understand that senior care providers are highly trained on infection control procedures, and will continue to provide the best environment for an individual with serious conditions requiring around-the-clock care,” continued Brod. “We need to join together to encourage our state and federal leaders to continue to increase supports within the sector.”

LeadingAge Ohio will continue to provide support and guidance for all members during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those who have experienced positive cases. This has included access to infection control experts, daily briefings, and a wide array of educational and technical supports for member staff and leadership.

Founded in 1937, LeadingAge Ohio is a nonprofit organization that represents over 400 long-term care organizations and hospices, as well as those providing ancillary health care and housing services, in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities. The continuum of care reflected by the member organizations serve an estimated 400,000 elderly Ohioans daily and employ more than 35,000 persons statewide.