

B13 Winning awards in quality in health care

Leader: Barbara Spreadbury

Main Objective:

The pursuit and success of the SSM Health Care System in St. Louis, in being the first healthcare winner of the prestigious Baldrige Award will be outlined as a basis to address the growing number of quality awards available to health care organizations with relevance to organizational improvement.

Leadership:

Barbara Spreadbury, RHIA, MBA, Vice President, Health Care Improvement for Baylor Health Care System (BHCS), a large health care organization in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. The system includes 11 hospitals, as well as primary care physician centers and practices, rehabilitation clinics, research institute, fitness center and senior health centers. BHCS has more than 12,600 employees and ranks as one of the largest private-sector employers in the area.

Ms. Spreadbury has primary operational responsibility for coordination and implementation of continuous quality improvement activities for the health system, including leadership of the system's Best Care Committee.

Prior to joining Baylor in 2001, Ms. Spreadbury was Corporate Vice President, Quality Resource Center, for SSM Health Care System, which was a large multi-hospital system based in St. Louis, and included 19 hospitals in 4 states. Among her responsibilities at SSM, Ms. Spreadbury coordinated the system's pursuit of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. In 1999, SSM was the first healthcare applicant to receive a site visit for the Baldrige award, and in 2002 was the first healthcare winner of that prestigious award.

Ms. Spreadbury has been a member of the Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige award for the past two years, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Quality Texas Foundation. She has a B.S. degree in Medical Records Administration from the University of Illinois in Chicago, and an MBA with a special emphasis in quantitative methods and computers from Loyola University in Chicago.