

News from the Foundation for Healthy Communities

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CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE

Foundation to Host Statewide Engagement Forum Nov. 13

The Foundation for Healthy Communities will host a forum entitled "Improving Health Outcomes Through Effective Engagement of Individuals and Communities," to be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Concord on November 13.

"This forum will serve as a dynamic learning opportunity for participants interested in new ways to engage, lead and transform health in their organizations or communities," according to Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation.



John Bluford III

Keynote speaker for the event will be John W. Bluford, III, president & chief executive officer of Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, Missouri. Bluford was recently named recipient of the National Center for Healthcare Leadership's 2013 Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award, recognizing the innovation he has brought to the delivery of high quality and accessible healthcare services to his community, permanently transforming the field.

In addition to Bluford's presentation, local and state leaders in community engagement will contribute their expertise and experiences by presenting best practices and generating topics for a meaningful discussion.

The deadline for registration is Nov. 5. [Click here](#) to view an on-line registration form.

NH Partnership for Patients Rated 1st

The American Hospital Association's Hospital Engagement Network has cited New Hampshire's Partnership for Patients as first among its 32 participants in the reporting of data, according to Anne Diefendorf, Associate Executive Director/Vice President for Quality & Patient Safety with the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

"When you factor in the high participation of hospitals reporting data and the positive consequences of their quality improvement efforts, those two things have combined to push New Hampshire to the top of the list," said Greg Vasse, director of the Rural Quality Improvement Network.

Among its many initiatives, the Partnership staff - joined by Denise Remus,

PhD, RN, Improvement Advisor with Cynosure Health/HRET HEN - recently conducted five acute-care hospital site visits in three days with representatives of 37 different community agencies in attendance, as they addressed ways in which to reduce preventable hospital re-admissions.

November 13
Engaging Individuals
and Communities to
Advance
Population Health
Holiday Inn, Concord,
NH
8:30 am - 3 pm

March 27
NH CCC Annual
Conference:
Stepping Up to
Reduce Cancer Risk
Where We Live,
Learn, Work, and
Play
Grappone Conference
Center, Concord, NH
8 am-4 pm

In addition, NH providers continue to receive national recognition for their expertise, as is the case with Michael Lessard, director of Pharmacy Services at Valley Regional Hospital, who was recently featured in nationwide webinars regarding his hospital's anti-coagulant management program.

"We're seeing extraordinary performances by NH hospitals," Diefendorf said, "and because of that, we're achieving accelerated results in improving patient care and quality."

Dr. Patrick Clary Honored with Foundation Innovator's Award

Dr. Patrick Clary, Medical Director of Palliative Care at Exeter Hospital, was named recipient of the Foundation Innovator's Award at the Foundation for Healthy Communities Annual Meeting, which was held at the Omni Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, NH.

Recipients are honored for their leadership or for extraordinary individual achievement in improving health or healthcare access, delivery or quality.

"Dr. Clary was cited for his perseverance in motivating and leading patients, clinicians and communities in New Hampshire to address end-of-life care and related health care decisions," said Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation.

"His leadership helped to create a strategy to improve advance care planning, establish a statewide portable Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) process and launch the Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (or POLST) as the new standard of practice in caring for patients with advanced illness who may die within a year."

Dr. Clary also serves as Medical Director of Rockingham County VNA and Hospice and the Medical Director of the Riverside Rest Home, the county nursing home in Dover.



Shawn LaFrance presented the symbolic crystal apple to Dr. Patrick Clary.



Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation for Healthy Communities, shared a moment with Gov. Maggie Hassan before the signing of Senate Bill 170, which simplifies the process of carrying out advance care directives in New Hampshire.

Advance Care Directives Made Simpler as SB 170 Signed Into Law

Representatives of the Foundation for Healthy Communities and the NH Health Care Decisions Coalition were on hand at the State House last month when Gov. Maggie Hassan signed Senate Bill 170 into law.

"Our support is based on more than a decade of experience leading educational programs throughout the state in 'Respecting Choices,' which is an approach that assists people in understanding the importance of advance care planning," said FHC Executive Director Shawn LaFrance.

"When we conducted a statewide survey of health care professionals and others who assist people with advance directives, 'confusion' was the word cited most often in regard to the current language about medically administered nutrition. SB 170 addresses this problem," he explained to members of the Senate Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

"Individuals who assist others with advance care planning or provide medical care are eager to help people think and communicate their health care choices," LaFrance said in his testimony before the Senate Health, Education and Human Services Committee. "This law will now simplify this important process and help support more people to understand and complete an advance directive."

Foundation to Take Part in ACA's Marketplace Assistance Program

The Foundation for Healthy Communities was one of six agencies chosen by the NH Health Plan to help consumers navigate through the many health insurance options available under the Affordable Care Act through the Marketplace Assistance Program.

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The Foundation estimates it can reach as many as 59,000 people through programs it already coordinates, including Medication Bridge, NHRx Connects Pharmacy and the NH Health Access Network.

"We're excited to jump into it," said Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation. "I think we'll all be learning something, but I think it's great for us that we can build on some of our existing infrastructure to carry forward.

"There are people without insurance that the six agencies will need to go out and find - and we'll do some of that, too - but we feel like we already have a lot of uninsured people coming through the door for medical care," he added.

In addition to the Foundation for Healthy Communities, the other organizations are: Greater Derry Community Health Services, the North Country Health Consortium, the Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and the ServiceLink Resource Center Consortium in Laconia.

Penacook Community Center Garden Produces a Bumper Crop in 2013



Thanks in part to a grant from the Foundation for Healthy Communities, the 'Jump And Sprout' kids at the Penacook Community Center Garden harvested more than 1,300 pounds of vegetables and produce this year.

Multiple agencies took part in cultivating land owned by the Penacook Historical Society, with produce going to daily PCC programs as well as to PCC families for home use, to the local food pantry, to two local day care centers and to seniors who were invited to harvest their own crops.

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