



News from the Foundation for Healthy Communities

May 22, 2014

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The presentation of the 2014 Clint Jones NH Nursing Award included, from left, Beth Gustafson Wheeler from the Foundation for Healthy Communities; Leslie Glines Jones; recipient Elizabeth Kearns, RN; Vice President of Nursing Services Pam Duchene, PhD., ARPN, and St. Joseph Hospital CEO Dr. Richard Boehler. (Photo by Sheila Caron)

St. Joseph Hospital RN Receives 2014 Clint Jones NH Nursing Award

Elizabeth Kearns, R.N., a registered cardiac nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, is the 2014 recipient of the Clint M. Jones New Hampshire Nursing Award presented by the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

Kearns, a graduate of the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, received the ninth annual award during a special Nurses' Day program held earlier this month at St. Joseph Hospital.

The Clint Jones Nursing Award was created in 2006 by the Foundation for Healthy Communities to honor the memory of the former director of the Foundation's N.H. Nursing Workforce Partnership. The award recognizes a registered nurse practicing in New Hampshire for at least one year but not more than six years, who exemplifies quality nursing care and demonstrates a commitment to a career in nursing.

Kearns first joined the staff at St. Joseph in 2010 and currently serves in the hospital's Cardiovascular Unit.

"Liz is one of St. Joseph Hospital's finest nurses, proving cardiovascular nursing

[NH Health & Equity Partnership](#)

[CATCH Kids Club](#)

CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE

May 30

**[NH CCC Event:
Policy, Systems
and
Environmental
Change Training](#)**

Foundation for Healthy Communities,
125 Airport Road,
Concord, NH
8:30 am-Noon

June 10

**[NH CCC Event:
Public Policy
Training](#)**

McAuliffe-Shepard
Discovery Center, 2
Institute Drive,
Concord, NH
8:30 am-Noon

June 19

**[Drug Diversion
Workshop](#)**

Capitol Center for the
Arts, 44 S. Main Street,
Concord, NH

Sept. 7-9

**[NHHA/FHC
Annual Meeting](#)**

Omni Mt. Washington
Resort, Bretton Woods,
NH

care that reflects the St. Joseph Hospital vision of 'Commitment, Compassion and Caring,'" said Pam Duchene, PhD., ARPN, who is vice president of nursing services at the hospital.

[To read more...](#)

FHC Study: Inadequate Housing a Flaw in NH Mental Health System

A Foundation for Healthy Communities (FHC) study examining access to mental health care in New Hampshire revealed that a major bottleneck in the system is the lack of appropriate, community-based housing when patients have completed their course of care.

"The most frequently cited barrier to discharge was a place to live or stay," said FHC Executive Director Shawn LaFrance, who is the author of the study. "This affected 71 percent of the patients in the survey."

The study, which was conducted from Nov. 1, 2013 through Feb. 28, 2014, used data from all of the community mental health centers in New Hampshire and the 10 hospitals with inpatient behavioral health services. The report also revealed that:

- The average waiting time for new adult patient to have an appointment with a mental health counselor or therapist was 26 days, while the average waiting time for a new child or adolescent patient was 42 days.
- The average number of psychiatric patients in hospital emergency departments awaiting placement in the New Hampshire State Hospital was 21 adults and five children, with spikes as high as 35 adults and 14 children.
- The average operating cost for a day of in-patient care in an acute care community hospital is \$2,912, while the average operating cost for a day of supportive housing is \$297 per day.

To read the entire report, [click here...](#)



Seventy-two clinicians from New Hampshire were on hand at the McAuliffe-Shepard Planetarium to hear from Dr. Woody Moss and other panelists regarding Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.

Workshop Seeks to Improve Use and

Understanding of POLST

Alvin "Woody" Moss, MD, FACP, from the University of West Virginia School of Medicine, was the featured presenter at a series of Foundation-sponsored workshops designed to help healthcare providers in New Hampshire increase understanding of Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST).

This process is a key resource for patient engagement to identify goals of care and to assist with patient care transitions and reduce readmissions.

Dr. Moss and fellow panelists also helped participants identify POLST procedures within the workflow of different health care organizations, and understand how establishing a POLST policy can create an organizational commitment and approach to implementation and ongoing monitoring for effectiveness.

Also discussed were methods to support effective integration of POLST at every care transition point in a community-wide or regional approach.

Health & Equity Partnership Puts Focus on 'Collective Impact'



Kelly LaFlamme, program director with the Endowment for Health, was among the speakers when the NH Health & Equity Partnership hosted a workshop on 'Collective Impact,' which addresses the notion that large-scale social change requires coordination between a variety of sectors rather than the isolated intervention of individual organizations. [Click here](#) to read the complete treatise on 'Collective Impact.'

HRET Taps Foundation to Lead Long Term Care Initiative in NH

The Foundation for Healthy Communities has been selected by the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) to be one of six statewide organizational leads for the first national cohort of a program fostering patient safety through

culture and clinical practice in long term care facilities.

Fifteen long term care facilities in New Hampshire are working with the Foundation in this first of its kind project.

Participating facility staff will be provided both live and virtual access to national experts in the prevention of health care facility acquired infections and developing and supporting a culture of patient safety.

The project will continue through May, 2015.

Foundation's Marketplace Assisters Plan for Second Enrollment Period

April 15 marked the end of the extended, first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act's new Health Insurance Marketplace. The Foundation's Marketplace Assister (MPA) Program played an integral role in helping hundreds of New Hampshire individuals learn about the Marketplace or obtain health insurance.

The Foundation's eight certified Marketplace Assisters, four of whom are bilingual, were actively engaged at eighteen health care and community sites throughout the state, providing one-on-one education and enrollment services to more than 500 individuals and families.

Assistance was available by appointment or for "walk ins." By offering a variety of daytime, evening and weekend hours, the Assisters were able to help consumers at times that met a variety of work and family schedules.

"From the start, our staff had to clear up quite a bit of misinformation," according to Program Manager Bernie Cameron. "Many individuals were not aware that their incomes qualified them for subsidies to help pay for a Marketplace plan's premiums, deductibles and co-pays. That was welcome news for hundreds of applicants."

MPA staff continue to be available to help individuals whose life circumstances - - such as loss of employer-based coverage, a birth or an adoption -- qualify them to access coverage from the Marketplace during a "special enrollment" period.

Meanwhile, Ms. Cameron is looking ahead and planning strategies for the next open enrollment period which will run from November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015.

HEAL Awards Grants to Support Four Active Transportation Projects

Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) has awarded \$20,000 in grant monies to four projects supporting active transportation in New Hampshire.

Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, YMCA of Greater Nashua, Friends of the Salem Bicycle-Pedestrian Corridor, and the Town of Warner each received \$5,000 as part of the HEAL Active Transportation Grant Program that was established earlier this year through funds from an anonymous donor.

The overall goal of the HEAL Active Transportation Grant Program is to encourage widespread, safe, and responsible use of walking and bicycling as forms of transportation in the Granite State. The grant program also targets resources for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to low-income communities and areas with limited access to active transportation opportunities.

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NH CCC Offers Timely 'Emerging Issues Brief' on E-Cigarettes

More and more cigarette smokers are turning to electronic cigarettes - also known as e-cigarettes - as a means to ease nicotine withdrawal while trying to quit smoking or to avoid harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke.

E-cigarettes were thrust into the national spotlight earlier this month when the Food and Drug Administration proposed rules to regulate their use and sale. That announcement coincided with the release of the latest *Emerging Issues Brief* from the NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration.

The brief, which was prepared by researchers at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, has been cited in a number of New Hampshire media outlets seeking a local angle to a national story.

Meanwhile, the FDA action pleased Kate McNally, co-chairman of the NH CCC's Tobacco Work Group, although she said more must be done. "It's a great first step to helping reduce access to tobacco and electronic cigarettes," she said, "New Hampshire is one of the states that included the electronic cigarette in its clean air law, so we're ahead of the game compared to some."

To read the *Emerging Issues Brief* on e-cigarettes, [click here...](#)

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