



News from the Foundation for Healthy Communities

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Partnership for Patients Averts \$40 Million in Healthcare Spending in NH

New Hampshire hospitals and health systems have prevented nearly 5,000 patients from being harmed and saved more than \$40 million in healthcare spending as a result of a reduction in hospital-acquired conditions from 2011 through June of 2014.

These numbers result from a reduction of 4,300 in the number of patients readmitted to the hospital following an acute illness, and also from preventing an additional 700 patients from experiencing harm during hospital care involving nine clinical areas common to most hospitals.

The efforts were part of the federal Partnership for Patients initiative - coordinated for hospitals in New Hampshire by the Foundation for Healthy Communities - over the past three years.

Nationwide, more than 3,000 participating hospitals prevented 1.3 million patient harms and readmissions and saved more than \$12 billion in health spending, according to a report issued recently by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In New Hampshire, the greatest improvements were in the number of hospital readmissions prevented; reduction in elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks gestation; fewer patients experiencing a pressure ulcer; fewer injuries from patient falls; fewer adverse drug events; fewer infections following surgery; fewer incidences of urinary tract infections and fewer incidents of blood clots.

"Greater coordination of care among the State's hospitals, physician practices, long-term care facilities and home care agencies has begun to make a measurable difference for patients," said New Hampshire Hospital Association President Steve Ahnen. "Patient safety and quality of care have always been paramount to our hospitals, but through this collective effort, we have further enhanced our ability to improve care and to reduce all causes of harm."

SAVE THE DATE

February 26
HEAL
Community
Network
Meeting
125 Airport Road,



Departing Trustees were recognized for their service at this month's Foundation for Healthy Communities board meeting. From left, Board Chair Scott McKinnon, Past Chair Stephanie Wolfe-Rosenblum, MD, Foundation

Concord, NH
9:00 am-Noon

April 1
[NH CCC Annual Meeting: Aligning Strategies to Improve Cancer Care](#)

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

Executive Director Shawn LaFrance and Board Member James Roche, President/CEO of the Business and Industry Association of NH.

Foundation Honors Departing Trustees, Welcomes New Board Members

The Foundation for Healthy Communities (FHC) honored departing board members Stephanie Wolfe-Rosenblum, MD, from Southern New Hampshire Health System and BIA of NH President James Roche at its most recent board meeting. The FHC also welcomed three new board members. They include:

- Helen Taft, Executive Director of Families First in Portsmouth;
- Corin Dechirico, DO, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Southern NH Health System in Nashua, and;
- Peter J. Evers, President/CEO, Riverbend Community Mental Health Center in Concord.

Three current Board members were re-elected to second terms, including:

- Jeanne Ryer, Director, Citizens Health Initiative/University of New Hampshire, Concord;
- Greg Walker, President/CEO, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, and;
- Michelle McEwen, President/CEO of Spere Memorial Hospital in Plymouth.

In addition, Scott McKinnon, President/CEO of The Memorial Hospital in North Conway was re-elected to another term as Board Chair, as was Vice Chair Mary Deveau, President and CEO of the Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association.

Foundation Sets Forth New Vision, Values, Mission and Objectives

In 2014, the Foundation for Health Communities' Board of Trustees engaged in a year-long organizational assessment of the Foundation. The Board then engaged staff and other stakeholders to update the Foundation's mission and key objectives, and it established a vision statement and values as follows:

- **VISION:** Residents of New Hampshire achieve their highest potential for health and well-being in the communities where they live, work, learn, and play.
- **VALUES:** Respect, Integrity, Excellence, Innovation, Engagement, Equity and Continuous Learning.
- **MISSION:** Improve health and health care in communities through partnerships that engage individuals and organizations.
- **Objective 1:** Improve health by promoting innovative, high value quality practices and within organizations and communities.
- **Objective 2:** Lead change strategies that educate, create and sustain healthier communities and make the healthy choice the easy choice.
- **Objective 3:** Work to promote access to affordable health care and resources that supports the well-being of all people.

"We are eager to work toward the vision established by the Board, and to apply our values in reaching our three core objectives," said FHC Executive Director Shawn LaFrance.

Quick Links

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[HEAL NH](#)

[NH Comprehensive Cancer Collab.](#)

[NH Health & Equity Partnership](#)

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NH CCC Grants Will Aid Research Funding for Partner Organizations

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NHCCC) has awarded funds to three partner organizations to support initiatives that advance key priorities of the Collaboration.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in New Hampshire, with nearly 8,500 new cases and 2,700 deaths each year.

"We are pleased to support three innovative projects that will make a difference by promoting the latest scientific screening practices to reduce lung cancer deaths, improving the utilization of palliative care and mobilizing high school youth toward healthier communities," said NHCCC Board Chair Barbara Kimball.

The NHCCC provided funds to support the following organizations and projects:

- 'Promoting and Coordinating Best Practice Lung Cancer Screening in NH' (American Lung Association of the Northeast) - The ALAN will convene a summit of key stakeholders to define lung cancer screening in the state and take practical steps toward implementing a comprehensive screening system for NH that follows current evidence-based guidelines.
- 'Improving Utilization of Palliative Care' (New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHHPCO) - The NHHPCO will seek to improve health care systems by targeting educational opportunities and other resources to providers who diagnose and treat people with cancer in NH. Clinicians will learn about best practices, existing tool kits and palliative care service reimbursement that will allow time for them to have conversations with patients and families about goals for their care and quality of life while living with a serious illness.
- 'Mobilizing Youth for Healthier Communities' (Trustees of Dartmouth College) - This initiative will educate high school students about the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure, promote healthy choices among the students, and provide them with research, and advocacy and public policy skills to use as they develop into engaged community members.



Lynn Davey (standing) was fully engaged with attendees during the NH Health & Equity Partnership's first forum on communications

NH Health & Equity Forum March 10: 'Communicating for Change'

The NH Health and Equity Partnership (NHHE&P) will host an afternoon workshop on March 10 in Manchester as a follow-up to last fall's session entitled "Communicating for Change: How to Talk About Causes, Consequences, and Solutions to Health Inequity."

In that last session, Lynn Davey, Ph.D., of Davey Strategies outlined the framework of a successful approach to communicating for social change to more

than 70 participants. In the upcoming gathering, Davey will share materials she developed based upon local needs.

"The first session was valuable in providing another stepping stone in the journey to build a Collective Impact effort to advance health and equity in New Hampshire," said NHHE&P program director Rebecca Sky, "and we're looking forward to having Lynn with us once again."

For more information, contact [Rebecca Sky](#).

Nominations Open for 2015 Clint Jones New Hampshire Nursing Award

The Foundation for Healthy Communities is accepting nominations for the 2015 Clint Jones NH Nursing Award. This award recognizes a registered nurse, new to the profession of nursing, who exemplifies the practice of high quality nursing care and demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the nursing profession.

The deadline for nominations is March 27. Selection criteria include a demonstration of excellence and enthusiasm in the delivery of patient care; communication with patients, their families and healthcare colleagues; commitment to nursing as a career; and inspiration to other nurses and healthcare professionals as a role model. In particular, the award is designed for an RN who has been in practice at least one year but no more than six years.



Clint Jones

This annual award honors the late Clint Jones, who directed the NH Nursing Workforce Partnership through the Foundation for Healthy Communities and was a founder of the NH Nursing Summer Camp.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the award, the man it honors, and to download the nomination form.

Foundation Cites Publication of Granite State's First COPD Plan

The Foundation for Healthy Communities wanted to share with you the first [New Hampshire COPD Plan](#), published in November 2014 by Breathe NH. Based on many of our site visits we understand that many of you have been focusing on this patient population, as this disease may often be a primary diagnosis for your patients being readmitted.

In the words of the plan: "The scale and complexity of COPD requires the coordination and commitment from a diverse group of stakeholders working together to implement and continue refining the recommendations in this New Hampshire COPD Plan. Ultimately, our goal is to reduce the burden of COPD and improve lung health. That translates into a healthier state and better quality of life for everyone."

In the spirit of "All Teach, All Learn" we are interested to know:

- Have you been tracking readmissions specific to this diagnosis?
- Of focused improvement efforts in this area;
- What practices you may have implemented to successfully reduce hospitalizations for this vulnerable patient population?;
- What community partners you have been working with (Home Health, LTC, DME vendors, Pharmacies, etc.) in this area?

Please share the plan with others in your organization and contact [Anne Diefendorf](#) with news of your successes.