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Your Nonprofit Home Health & Hospice Agencies

State Dedicates Conference Center to Honor Sen. Sally Fox



The Vermont Legislature has named the new conference center in the restored Waterbury State Office Complex in honor of the late Senator Sally Fox. Sally, a long-time friend of homecare, dedicated her entire legislative and professional career to helping those in need.



Extending Moratorium, Adequate Funding Top Priorities

Extending the moratorium to January 1, 2020 that prohibits granting a new home health care certificate of need and securing adequate funding for the switch from fee-for-service Medicaid payments to a prospective payment system, which will begin this July, are the top state legislative and regulatory priorities of the VNAs of Vermont.

Other state priorities include securing reimbursement rates for home- and community-based service providers that are commensurate with increases to Medicaid rates for nursing homes (S. 192) and assuring that the legislation likely to pass that guarantees earned time off for all employees not only benefits the employees but also mitigates the costs to the agencies.

Legislation has been introduced (S.256) that would extend the current moratorium against granting a certificate of need for a new home care agency. Key sponsors are Senators Ginny Lyons, Clare Ayer, Rich Westman and Robert Starr. The current suspension, which sunsets June 30, 2017, was established to give the state and the home care industry time to refine the standards under which home health applications are measured. Unfortunately, that job was not completed as there still is no definition for unmet need, a key factor to determine whether a new home care agency is needed.

Federal priorities include extending the rural payment "add-on", fixing the problems with the "face-to-face" rule concerning physician oversight and stopping any move to add a home care copayment.

[To read the State Priorities](#)

[To read the Federal Priorities](#)

ACHHH Selected as Hannaford Helps Beneficiary



ACHHH Board members show off Hannaford Helps Reusable Bags. Back row (l-r): Dr. Bill Fifield, Student Intern Hossain Ghassemi, Bob Stetson, President Chuck Burdick, Co-Secretary Elissa Cobb, and Anne McMenamin. Front row: Treasurer Bryan Young, Pat Morrow, Karen Lueders, Executive Director/Clinical Director Sherry Greifzu.

Addison County Home Health & Hospice (ACHHH) was selected as a beneficiary of the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program for the month of January.

This program was designed to create revenue for deserving local nonprofits like ACHHH. For every blue Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag purchased at the Middlebury Hannaford, ACHHH will receive a \$1 donation in order to help fulfill its mission of enhancing the health, dignity, and independence of Addison County residents through comprehensive, patient-centered home health and hospice care. The bags retail for \$2.29.

[To read more](#)

A Ski Season Made Possible by Home Health

Today, more and more people are staying active as they age. Home Health is playing a big part in helping to make this possible for many people, like Roy. As an avid skier and a long-time member of the volunteer ski patrol at Mad River Glen, nothing is going to stop Roy from skiing this winter - not even hip surgery. "To ski slowly is better than not skiing at all," says Roy. "That's my motto."

Roy is no stranger to this type of surgery, having had a replacement on his other hip in 2011. He had used VNA Home Health services in the past for his recovery from that surgery and for some knee surgeries and knew that he wanted to use the same services this time. He was happy to learn that he'd be working with Paula, the same physical therapist he had before.



Paula structured exercises for Roy to do around the house and worked with him to help him regain his strength and balance. He progressed quickly from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane. And now he can walk independently, cross his legs, and climb stairs. And he and his wife have started discussing taking another European cycling trip this summer.

But, most importantly, Roy has a goal. "I will go skiing this winter," he says.

VNAs of Vermont agencies are working closely with hospitals and physicians to help more patients go home after a joint-replacement. This benefits the patient's recovery process and increases overall satisfaction. It is also another example of how home health delivers value to our health care system through lower cost care without compromising outcomes.

Lamoille Home Health Announces Community Conversations

A series of community conversations on important health topics for Seniors was launched January 19th at the Lamoille Senior Center presented by Lamoille Home Health & Hospice. The first presentation was entitled: "Caring For a Loved One with Alzheimer's Disease." The discussion was led by Meredith Vaughan, RN, Long Term Care Director at LHH&H and Mary L. Collins, Marketing Director. Future presentations will be announced at locations throughout the county.

[For more....](#)

Jeanne Dube, Nurse Manager for Franklin Home Health

Jeanne Dube, BSN RN, has been named as Hospice Nurse Manager for Franklin County Home Health Agency.

"Working in hospice allows me to use my clinical skills while also giving more attention to patients and their families," said Jeanne. "One of the things I like best about working in hospice is that it truly improves quality of life for people in their final days."

Jeanne has been employed for the last 15 months as the agency's Clinical Nurse Manager in their Enosburgh office. She has extensive clinical experience in Critical Care Nursing for both adults and pediatrics and is also an Advanced EMT and Assistant Medical Examiner.



Joel Perry, New Development Director for RAVNAH

Joel Perry is the new Business Development and Marketing Director for the Rutland Area VNA and Hospice. The Rutland agency is part of the VNA of the Southwestern Region which services Rutland and Bennington Counties.

Perry, from Fair Haven, Vermont, graduated from Plymouth State University with a degree in Business in 1996. He spent six years working in Boston, MA mainly in project management and IT recruiting. After moving back to Vermont in 2002, he joined Tuttle Printing, a print management company, where his focus was on sales, marketing and business development.



Perry currently lives in Rutland, with his wife Molly and their two children Owen (13) and Jillian (10). He enjoys coaching both middle school football and 5 & 6 grade basketball, hiking, skiing and traveling with his family.

VNH Celebrates its Fleet with Employees

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont & New Hampshire (VNH) kicked off 2016 with a celebration of the success of its fleet of vehicles. The pilot program began in 2013 with leases for 15 Nissan Versas that were labeled with the agency's logo. Three years, five additional cars, and one updated logo later, the original 14 are being replaced by brand-new 2016 Versas. VNH marked the arrival of the new cars with an employee celebration. Employees were also given the opportunity to purchase the original vehicles.



[To read more...](#)

VNAs of Vermont Calendar

- April 4-5 **National Association for Home Care and Hospice's (NAHC)** - March on Washington. Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC.
- April 6-8 **VNAA Annual Meeting 2016**
April 6-8, Miami, Fla.
- May 16-18 **The 2016 New England Conference** - Foxwoods Grand Pequot Tower, Details soon.
- Sept. 14-15 **VNAA's Public Policy Leadership Conference 2016**
Sept. 14-15, Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 23-25 **NAHC Annual Meeting** - October 23-25 in Orlando



THE SIXTH ANNUAL
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HOME CARE & HOSPICE
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The VNAVt newsletter is published monthly. VNAVt is the professional association of Vermont's 10 home care and nonprofit hospice providers. Send questions or comments to: vnnavt@comcast.net or call 802-229-0579.

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