October 2016

Message from the Executive Director Jill Mazza Olson

Three weeks into this new role and I already feel like I'm becoming a part of a very special community. In my brief tenure, I've been on four home visits, visited half of our member agencies, attended a fundraiser and submitted comments on the all-payer model. Thanks to all of you for the very warm welcome I've received everywhere I've visited.

In the six weeks or so since the announcement of my appointment as executive director, I've had the opportunity to talk about VNAs to many of our partners, policymakers, friends, and members of my community. The comments of well-wishers seem to fall into three major categories: policymakers and people who have received home care services or had a loved one who did say, "I love VNAs." Health care leaders say, "Home care is the future." And everyone else says, "What's a VNA?" In my first year in this role, with the help of our deeply engaged board and the senior leaders of member agencies, I am developing a strategic plan that will harness the good will VNAs generate every day to achieve our policy goals; help prepare VNAs for the future; and bring new awareness about the essential services VNAs provide to the people who haven't needed us yet. I'm very much looking forward to that work.

Strategic planning and policy development are plenty challenging, but possibly the highest hurdle I've cleared so far is transitioning to an email address that use our domain name. I can now be reached at jill@vnavt.org, which many of you have already discovered. We've also set up a new general mailbox for our website -
Finally, I am looking to hire a part time executive assistant. Click HERE for a link to the ad on our website and please spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

Naylor & Breen Golf Invitational Raises Funds for Hospice

Naylor & Breen Builders, Inc. hosted their second annual golf invitational at Neshobe Country Club in Brandon, Vermont to benefit the hospice program of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR). Nearly $29,000 was raised in support of hospice care in the communities served. In just two years, the tournament has raised nearly $50,000 for hospice.

Chairing this year's tournament was Rob Naylor, Tanner Romano and Peter Breen with committee participation from Rodney Bicknell, Ron Cioffi, Christine Hoard, Pam Horvath, Linda Hurley, Bob Kelly, Marc Miele and Chris Naylor. 30 teams enjoyed a great day of golf and participated in on-course games, a 50/50 and dinner and auction. "We had a great group of people helping to organize this event," said Rob Naylor, President of Naylor & Breen. "We're proud that so many of our friends and business partners joined us help make difference in the lives of terminally ill patients and their loved ones in our community."

"It was a great tournament and we had a fantastic day on the links," said Ron Cioffi, RN, Executive Director. "I thank all of our attendees and sponsors for their generous support. All proceeds benefit our hospice program and will help to ensure that we can continue to help so many in their time of greatest need."

"It is such an honor to merit the support of Naylor & Breen and the many other businesses that participated in the tournament," said Christine Hoard, Director of Philanthropy at the VNAHSR. "We couldn't be more grateful for this wonderful show of support for end-of-life care."
Home Health Clinical Manager Certified in OASIS

Janet McCarthy, RN, MSN, Executive Director for Franklin County Home Health Agency, is pleased to announce that Jodie Archambault, RN, Clinical Manager of the Enosburg Team, has completed the training and is now a Certified OASIS Specialists. OASIS - Outcomes and Assessment Information Set - is Medicare's quality assessment tool for homecare.

"Having staff who are certified in OASIS is not only good for them professionally, but it also enhances our ability to provide the highest quality care," said Janet. "Jodie, as a Manager, can share her knowledge with her whole team."

Each year, Franklin County Home Health Agency's dedicated care givers make about 80,000 visits to provide home health care and support services to over 1,700 people in the comfort of their home. Our care spans all ages, from support of pregnant mothers and new families, nursing and personal care for people recovering from illness or surgery, through long term care and hospice at the end of life.

For information about joining the team of providers at FCHHA, call Jane in Human Resources at (802) 527-7531 or recruitment@fchha.org. For more information about our services, visit www.fchha.org.

Jodie Archambault, Clinical Manager
Dr. Cristine Maloney Named VNH Hospice Medical Director

Dr. Cristine Maloney has joined Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) full-time as Hospice Medical Director after working for the agency for 4 years in the Hospice program. Dr. Maloney is a graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine. She is board certified in Internal Medicine, completing her residency at Yale School of Medicine, and is board certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, having completed her palliative care fellowship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Dr. Maloney most recently worked at Gifford Medical Center as an attending physician in both internal medicine and palliative care, providing primary care as well as palliative care consultation.

Dr. Maloney's primary focus will be on providing increased availability to VNH Hospice patients and the VNH Hospice team. She will be available to do home visits (for patients who do not typically see their primary care providers as often as they did earlier in their illness) and will be conducting more comprehensive reviews of medications to ensure they meet hospice goals of care. In addition to providing additional support for patients and the VNH Hospice team, Dr. Maloney will be involved with admission and discharge planning for the new Jack Byrne Center for Hospice and Palliative Care and will also be working on symptom management for patients in various care settings.

"I'm excited to join the VNH team after working one day a week for the organization for a few years as Associate Medical Director," she said. "I believe there are some great opportunities to further improve hospice care in the area, and I look forward to helping with this process."

"Dr. Cristine Maloney's extensive experience both in the community and the inpatient setting will further advance VNH's role in providing quality care to individuals and families facing end of life," said VNH President and CEO Jeanne McLaughlin. "VNH could not be happier with her decision to join us."
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region Nurses Achieve Hospice Certification

The Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC), formerly the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®), is pleased to announce that Nicolette Beagle RN, ADN, CHPN, COS-C and Cynthia Murray, RN, MSN-ED, CHPN in the Bennington office successfully achieved the Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN®) certification.

Beagle, a two-year employee of the Bennington Area VNA & Hospice, and nurse with over five years' experience, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vermont Technical College and is a member of Alpha Delta Nu, a nursing honor society. Beagle is both Hospice and Oasis certified and served as an RN tutor at Vermont Technical College to help students expand their knowledge of nursing. Beagle lives in Bennington, VT.

Murray, a four-year employee of the Bennington Area VNA & Hospice, and nurse with over 14 years' experience, graduated Cum Laude from Southern VT College and received her MSN-ED from Kaplan University. Murray is Hospice certified and was previously Med-Surg certified. Murray, who lives in Bennington, is an active volunteer and fundraiser for a variety of community events including Relay for Life.

HPCC is the only organization that offers specialty certification for all levels of hospice and palliative nursing care, administrators and perinatal loss care professionals. Each certification is valid for a four year period at which time the certificate may renew their credential. Currently, there are nearly 12,000 nurses who hold the CHPN® credential.

"We are extremely proud of these two wonderful nurses," says Ron Cioffi, CEO of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region. "Their commitment to quality end-of-life care is admirable and will truly benefit patients and families in the communities they serve."

VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region Staff Members Achieve Oasis Specialist Designation

The Outcome Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Certificate and Competency Board announced the following staff from the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Bennington office successfully completed the exam for the Certificate for OASIS Specialist-Clinical and may now use the designation, COS-C: Nicolette Beagle, RN; Mary Driscoll, RN; Alice Hadley, PT; Shauna Nolan, SLP; Amanda Robson, RN, Amber Sherman, RN; Kelli Siracusa, OT; Betsy Tolliver, RN; and Amy Van Der Kar, PT.
OASIS is a quality measure used among home health agencies across the country to enhance care for patients in the home.

"We are extremely proud of our staff," says Ron Cioffi, CEO of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region. "The hard work and dedication of these individuals are the reason we are recognized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid as a 4.5 (out of 5) star agency."

To achieve the COS-C designation, an individual must successfully complete an extensive exam. Since the establishment of this OASIS designation in October of 2004, more than 5,500 home care clinicians from around the country have achieved this status and more than 7,300 home care clinicians have taken the exam.

SURVEY DEADLINE: Extended to December 1, 2016

The University of Vermont, in collaboration with the Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, is conducting a statewide survey of Vermonters caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD). The results from this survey will help Vermont better plan for the growing needs of families dealing with the challenges of caring for a loved one with a memory disorder. To date, the researchers have only received about 100 surveys and need at least 100 more by December 1st to have enough data for a meaningful report. Please help spread the word to family, friends, coworkers, networks and beyond. People are welcome to take the survey online via the link below or print the attached copy and return it by mail. November is National Family Caregiver Awareness Month, a time to honor the critical role that family caregivers play in supporting thousands of Vermonters and millions of Americans. It is also a time to recognize the fact that caregiving can take a toll on the health and well-being of caregivers themselves and build momentum to improve systems and supports for caregivers. Sharing and taking this survey is one way to help in this effort, so thank you very much in advance! Link to the survey

Link to survey online: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADRDCaregiver](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADRDCaregiver)
A copy of the survey is attached if people prefer completing a hard copy. If you need hard copies mailed to you, please contact Angela at angela.smith-dieng@vermont.gov. Completed surveys should be mailed to:

The University of Vermont
Department of Social Work
Attn: Kelly Melekis  
85 South Prospect Street  
Burlington, VT 05405

Looking for a Home Health job anywhere in Vermont? Click here

VNAs of Vermont Calendar

November 15
Tri State Learning Collaborative on Aging  
Join the Conversation! White River Junction Nov. 15

Learn more about the Cross-Border Conversations on Caregiving and Register today.

2017

Jan. 17-19, 2017
2017 Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit Coming to Boston  
For registration form

May 16-18
Save the Date!  
2017 New England Conference, Manchester, NH

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: info@vnavt.org or call 802-229-0579.

Member Agencies

Addison County Home Health and Hospice  
Caledonia Home Health and Hospice
Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice  
Franklin County Home Health and Hospice  
Lamoille Home Health and Hospice  
Manchester Health Services  
Orleans Essex VNA and Hospice  
VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region  
VNA of Chittenden & Grand Isle  
VNH for VT and NH

Visit us at [www.vnavt.org](http://www.vnavt.org)

## VNAs of Vermont Contributors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry, Dunn, McNeil &amp; Parker</td>
<td>36 Pleasant Street, Bangor, ME 04401</td>
<td><a href="http://www.berrydunn.com">www.berrydunn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byram Health</td>
<td>17 Raymond Road, Burlington, MA 01803</td>
<td><a href="http://www.byramhealthcare.com">www.byramhealthcare.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerner</td>
<td>2800 Rockcreek Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64117</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cerner.com">www.cerner.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthwyse</td>
<td>60 Concord St., Wilmington, MA 01887</td>
<td><a href="http://www.healthwyse.com">www.healthwyse.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson Medical Surgical</td>
<td>85 Highland Street, Candia, NH 03034</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mckesson.com">www.mckesson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandata</td>
<td>26 Harbor Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sandata.com">www.sandata.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Vermont Healthcare</td>
<td>825 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vzw.com/healthcare">www.vzw.com/healthcare</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprint New England Account Manager - Joshua Parker</td>
<td>825 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Joshua.Parker@sprint.com">Joshua.Parker@sprint.com</a></td>
</tr>
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