Montpelier, VT—Jill Mazza Olson has been appointed Executive Director of the VNAs of Vermont, the 10-member association of non-profit home health and hospice agencies serving all Vermonters. Olson, who worked most recently as the Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS), assumes the role on October 10.

Olson is a demonstrated leader in health care policy and reform with extensive experience in government relations, association leadership, and communications. She has a deep understanding of a range of health care policy issues, including quality and patient safety, value-based payments, health, and payment reform. In addition, she brings strong, working relationships with Vermont state legislators, healthcare executives, and clinical leaders across the state. As a senior leader at VAHHS, Olson oversaw the development of the organization's legislative strategy and served as a vocal advocate for the group, working one-on-one with key representatives at the statehouse in Montpelier.

As Executive Director of the VNAs of Vermont, Olson will call on her policy background and advocacy experience to reposition the VNAs in the state's health and payment reform conversation. "Strengthening the voice of the Association in all arenas is my number-one priority." Olson says that the VNAs of Vermont, and other
community providers, are critical partners in health and payment reform and that if they have the resources to thrive, Vermonter's will thrive too.

Sandy Rousse, CPA, President of the VNAs of Vermont says: "Jill brings tremendous value, knowledge, experience, and relationships to the VNAs of Vermont and the work that she will be doing as our Executive Director. We are confident that Jill will execute her strengths to form a vision that advances our role in healthcare transformation in Vermont."

"I am very excited to be joining the VNAs of Vermont at this critical juncture in Vermont's health care reform journey," adds Jill. "In the coming year I look forward to bringing greater visibility to the role our members play in the lives of Vermonter's and their significant contribution to reducing health care costs."

**Addison County Home Health and Hospice removes interim tag; appoints Sherry Greifzu, RN, MSN, AOCN as Executive Director and Clinical Director**

Chuck Burdick, President of the Board of Directors of Addison County Home Health and Hospice (ACHHH) is pleased to announce Sherry Greifzu's appointment as Executive Director and Clinical Director of the agency. "Sherry's proven leadership ability, combined with her clinical and regulatory knowledge makes her a perfect candidate to lead the organization as we prepare to celebrate our fiftieth year in 2018. She has served as Interim Executive Director since December 2015 and she has demonstrated the ability to improve financial performance while continuing to provide the clinical oversight to the care team for the patients in Addison County", states Mr. Burdick.

"I am excited and privileged to accept this position", commented Ms. Greifzu. "Since I joined the Agency I have enjoyed working with our excellent clinical and support staff and have loved the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other organizations in the area. I am constantly impressed by the quality of care our clinicians provide."

Previously, Ms. Greifzu was Nursing Director of Medicine and Oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center in NYC and she has also served as Director of Practice and Education for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is currently a Faculty instructor in the graduate nursing program at Franklin Pierce University.

Addison County Home Health and Hospice was founded in 1968 and provides home
health and hospice care to residents of all Addison County towns. The organization provides skilled nursing; hospice and palliative care; maternal-child health care; high-tech nursing; rehabilitative therapies including physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy and social work services. In addition ACHHH provides the Choices for Care program, which provides case management and personal support to eligible county residents to enable them to remain in their homes. ACHHH also serves the community by providing 66 free foot clinics a year throughout Addison County for residents over 60 years of age, and provides flu clinics to the community. In fiscal year 2015, nurses, therapists and aides made a total of 78,301 visits, driving 726,636 miles throughout Addison County.

**VNA of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties Adds to Leadership Team Ayeshah Raftery Named Director of Development**

The Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties (VNA) is pleased to announce that Ayeshah Raftery has joined the agency as Director of Development. She will oversee the development of the major gifts program, planned giving, corporate sponsorship, grant solicitation and fundraising events.

Raftery joins the VNA from the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) where she served as Director of Development and Public Education since 2004. In addition to her role at VABVI, she has served on the board and co-chaired conferences for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Northern New England Chapter. Prior to entering the non-profit development arena, Raftery managed customer service efforts for People Express and Continental Airlines at the Burlington International Airport.

"We're thrilled to welcome Ayeshah to the VNA. She has extensive experience in leading successful development efforts and working with communities across Vermont. She understands the importance of building strong relationships and communicating the VNA's mission to ensure high-quality care and support to those in need," said VNA President Judy Peterson.

Raftery looks forward to creating new community connections and partnerships with individuals and businesses in Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties and beyond.

"Over the years I have worked with a network of forward-thinking community leaders
who are actively engaged in making Vermont the very best place to live and work. I look forward to building on those relationships to support the important work the VNA does to promote health and independence for our clients every day," she says.

Ayeshah Raftery can be reached at 802-860-4475 or raftery@vnacares.org.

**Community Gathers to Celebrate Opening Of McClure Miller VNA Respite House**

On a sunny and beautiful day in September, community members and friends of the VNA gathered outside the front door of the new McClure Miller VNA Respite House in Colchester to celebrate the opening of the hospice residence. This new 21-room House named for benefactors Lois McClure and Holly and Bob Miller, is an answer to the increasing number of individuals and families needing the unique care that is provided at Respite House. While our current location in Williston has served us well for the past 25 years, limited capacity and acreage for growth made it necessary for VNA to build this larger House at a new location.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new Respite House, Gov. Peter Shumlin, Rep. Peter Welch and Colchester Town Manager Dawn Francis all offered
words of support. Lois McClure, and Holly and Bob Miller shared their thoughts on the importance of palliative and hospice care and expressed their thanks for the support of the community with this project. The ribbon was ceremoniously cut and the doors opened.

To view a gallery of photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony, please visit www.vnacares.org/RespiteOpening.

Celebrating the Life of Loved Ones at 7th Annual Wings of Hope Memorial Butterfly Release

On September 10, more than 400 butterflies were released and elegantly took to the skies in Lebanon, NH at Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire's 7th Annual Wings of Hope event. Hundreds of friends and neighbors from all across our region came together to attend the butterfly release to celebrate life and remember loved ones lost. The butterflies were very friendly and remained in the area for quite some time, frequently landing on people. The sheer joy and feeling of connection between those in attendance was almost palpable, and it was a truly memorable, beautiful event to be a part of.

In addition to the butterfly release ceremony, the day also featured inspirational reflections from VNH employees and performances from the First Congregational Church of Lebanon Choir & Friends, vocalists Lily and Darcy Sylvester and a Scottish Highland Bagpipe performance by Matt Phelps. Children gathered at the playground picnic table to get their faces painted and color pictures of butterflies, which were displayed on a clothesline in front of the gazebo. A memory board stood tall where people could post notes to their loved ones. "I love you and miss you so much, Pepere," one note read. Next to the memory board, a TV screen displayed a rolling list of the names of those being honored and remembered through the purchase of butterflies.

Proceeds from the event are used to support VNH Hospice programs and services, which are provided to all, regardless of ability to pay, in more than 160 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Wings of Hope Memorial Butterfly Release truly represents new life and hope.
We look forward to seeing you at the 8th Annual Wings of Hope Butterfly Release next year.

To view a gallery of photos and a video from Wing of Hope, please visit www.vnhs care.org/wingsofhope

"It's the end of the world," said the caterpillar.
And what did the butterfly say? "It's only just the beginning."
- Unknown

Quality Improvement Specialist Passes Coding Exam

The Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) is pleased to announce that Ann Pollock, RN, BSN, COS-C, HCS-D, recently passed the Home Care Coding Specialist - Diagnosis (HCS-D) exam through the Board of Medical Specialty Coding & Compliance (BMSC), the credentialing arm of the Association of Home Care Coding & Compliance (AHCC).

The HCS-D credential is earned by professionals with advanced skills in classifying medical data from home health patient records. Coding specialists review patients’ records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis. Pollock, through the exam demonstrated expertise in the application of ICD-10-CM conventions and guidelines and in-depth clinical knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy/physiology, disease processes, pathophysiology, and pharmacology. Professionals with this designation are able to use their coding knowledge to better work with clinical staff in understanding complex coding principles and guidelines, and to ensure proper reimbursement from payer sources.

Pollock, a 26-year employee of the VNAHSR began her career as a staff nurse and has held a variety of managerial positions. She was recently named Clinical Informatics Specialist.
Lamoille Home Health & Hospice will take part in Copley Hospital's Run for the Heart, Saturday, October 1st with a 5k Run along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and a 1 Mile Health Walk. Staff participating include Jennifer Beebe, Jaimie Welcome, Carla Alexander, Christina Bell, Kathy Renaud, Sherry Melanson, Charlene Camire, Kathy Demars, and Mary Collins. The event benefits Copley Hospital's heart programs including cardiology, cardiac rehabilitation and health living programs through Copley's Wellness Center. LHH&H works closely with Copley in support of community health care.

LHH&H's Community Health Conversations Series continues with: Start the Conversation, October 6th, 10:00 a.m. and Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer's Disease, November 3rd, 10:00 a.m.. All three presentations are scheduled to be held at St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, VT, are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mary L. Collins at LHH&H, 802-888-4651; or, mcollins@lhha.org.

Franklin County Home Health and Hospice Annual Blue Jean Ball Goes Fiesta

Party Fiesta style at our 8th Annual Blue Jean Ball on Saturday, October 22, 2016. The Blue Jean Ball is casually elegant, you can dress up in your denim! Get your friends together and reserve your table of 8! Call us at 527-7531. Tickets are $50 each.

This year's quilt is a real beauty! Buy your tickets today. Drawing at the Blue Jean Ball. The Blue Jean Ball is our biggest fundraising effort of the year. Proceeds from this
event help us ensure that we can meet our mission of providing medically necessary home health care to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. If you're not able to make it to the ball, but want to help, please consider making a secure online donation by following the Donate button below. Your contribution makes a real difference in the lives of the people of Franklin County, VT.

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

VNAs of Vermont Calendar

Oct. 23-25 National Association for Home Care and Hospice's Annual Meeting
October 23-25 in Orlando, Florida

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: vnavt@comcast.net 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.com

VNAs of Vermont Calendar

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