



January 2017

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Substance Use Disorders Treatment Project Expanding

Improving access to care for people with substance use disorders is a high priority in New Hampshire, and the Foundation is assisting with this effort through a \$1.5 million project grant, funded by the NH Department of Health & Human Services' Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. The Substance Use Disorders (SUD) grant is allowing the Foundation to address the need for SUD treatment through two key strategies: increasing the availability of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through hospital affiliated primary care systems, and providing more support for people with substance use disorders who present at hospital emergency departments. The Foundation has partnered with six hospital emergency departments in this effort to date, and the first MAT services development project is getting underway in Concord. In addition, several other MAT service development projects are in the planning stages.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is projecting 470 drug related deaths in 2016 once all the final data is collected. The NH Drug Monitoring Initiative reports fentanyl-related deaths represent the largest single factor among all drug related deaths. In addition, they reported that 544 people sought care for opioid use statewide in hospital emergency departments in December 2016. The majority of people seeking emergency department care were between the ages of 20-39 years old, and Hillsborough and Stafford were the top two counties represented among those individuals seeking care in an emergency department. To learn more about the Substance Use Disorders project, please contact [Shawn LaFrance](#).

SAVE THE DATE

**NH
Comprehensive
Cancer
Collaboration
Annual Meeting**

April 5, 2017
*Partnerships in
Health Care:
Enhancing the
Cancer
Survivorship
Experience*

Foundation Receives CMS Award for Quality Improvement Efforts

The Foundation's NH Partnership for Patients program was recently recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their commitment and dedication to improving quality and patient safety, and for setting bold goals and ensuring better, smarter, and healthier care in hospitals throughout New Hampshire.

Tanya Lord, Director of Patient & Family Engagement at the Foundation for Healthy Communities, accepted the award on behalf of the NH Partnership for Patients Initiative, and pictured with her below from left to right are Dr. Jean Moody-Williams, Deputy Director for the Center For Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), CMS; Ned Holland, J.D., Strategic Advisor for the Partnership for Public Service; Kate Goodrich, Director for the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), CMS; Dr. Paul McGann, Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement, CMS; Tanya Lord, Foundation for Healthy Communities; and Dennis Wagner, Director of the Quality Improvement and Innovation Group, CCSQ.

8:00am - 4:00pm
Grappone Conference
Center - Concord, NH

[Information Here](#)

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**HEAL NH**  
**Creating Healthy**  
**Communities**  
**Workshop Series**

**March 8**  
*Setting the Stage*  
*for Policy Change*  
*in Your*  
*Community*

9:00am - 3:30pm  
Foundation for  
Healthy Communities  
125 Airport Road  
Concord, NH

**[Register Here](#)**

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April 27
Building Effective
Partnerships for
Catalyzing
Change

9:00am - 3:00pm
Foundation for
Healthy Communities
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH

[Register Here](#)

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**Quick Links**

[Foundation for](#)  
[Healthy](#)



## Foundation Launches Next Round of Quality & Patient Safety Improvement Efforts

The Foundation for Healthy Communities recently launched its third round of quality and patient safety improvement efforts through the NH Partnership for Patients, as part of HRET's Hospital Improvement Innovation Network. New Hampshire is the only state that has 100% commitment from all 26 acute care hospitals in this national HRET initiative to improve patient safety and the quality of care they deliver every day.

The Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks are one part of an overall framework established by the Affordable Care Act to deliver better care, spend dollars more wisely, and improve the quality of care that hospitals provide to their patients.

Through 2019, these Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks will work to achieve a 20 percent decrease in overall patient harm and a 12 percent reduction in 30-day hospital readmissions as a population-based measure (readmissions per 1,000 people) from the 2014 baseline.

Since the NH Partnership for Patients began in 2011, New Hampshire hospitals have saved over \$41M in healthcare costs and helped to avoid over 5,000 patient harms as a result of their commitment to quality and patient safety.

For more information on the Partnership for Patients, visit us [online](#).

Communities

New Hampshire  
Hospital Association

HEAL NH

NH Comprehensive  
Cancer Collaboration

NH Health & Equity  
Partnership

CATCH Kids Club

Join Our Mailing List!



## NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration Reports Lower Cancer Screening Rates in Vulnerable Populations

The NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration recently released a White Paper, *Examining Preventive Cancer Screening Rates Among Vulnerable Adults in New Hampshire*, that highlights a significant correlation between social determinants of health and lower cancer screening rates within vulnerable populations.

"The NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration is extremely proud to release this white paper and its findings," stated Robert Gerlach, Chair of the NH CCC Board of Directors. "It's a great example of how partners collaborated to identify a vulnerable population in NH, using employment as a social determinant of health, and targeted the distribution of free cancer screening messages."

The white paper was developed by the Collaboration's Equity Task Force, who used an innovative approach to identify vulnerable populations that are less likely to be screened for cancers, such as breast and cervical. After reviewing numerous data sets, the Task Force selected employment as a key social determinant of health, using industry and occupation data, and compared it with cancer screening rates to identify workplaces where there could be opportunities to reach vulnerable populations. The analysis showed that women working in the restaurant industry were less likely to receive recommended breast and cervical cancer screenings. In addition, the research showed that 39% reported not being up to date on breast cancer screening, compared to the state rate of 21% not being up to date. Access to breast cancer screening is critical, as breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among NH females.

Read the full white paper [here](#).

# New Issues Brief on Awareness of Falls Risk and Prevention

The Foundation for Healthy Communities, in partnership with the NH Falls Risk Reduction Task Force, recently conducted a survey of older adults in order to learn more about the awareness, attitudes and beliefs of NH residents age 60 and older around falls risk and falls prevention programs.

In its latest issue brief, ***Awareness, Attitudes & Beliefs around Falls Risk and Falls Prevention Programs***, key findings indicate that as the rate of falls and their detrimental impact among older adults continue to rise, understanding ways to reach those who are at risk becomes increasingly important.

| Risk Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Has your doctor ever talked to you about your risk of falling? – percent responding YES |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Of the <b>19.5%</b> (71 respondents) who indicated they fell 1+ times in the past 3 months...                                                                                                                                                               | <b>60.9%</b>                                                                            |
| Of the <b>35.6%</b> (130 respondents) who indicated being 'somewhat' or 'a lot' fearful of falling...                                                                                                                                                       | <b>56.6%</b>                                                                            |
| Of the <b>12.4%</b> (45 respondents) during the last 4 weeks who indicated their concern of about falls has interfered with their normal social activities with family, friends, neighbors, or groups either 'extremely', 'quite a bit', or 'moderately'... | <b>59.1%</b>                                                                            |
| Of the <b>41.1%</b> (144 respondents) who 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that others familiar with them might feel they are at risk for a fall...                                                                                                              | <b>51.8%</b>                                                                            |

The 369 responses collected largely from NH senior centers reaffirmed the importance of conversations people have with their health care provider about their fall risk and things they can do to reduce their risk.

Unfortunately, according to this survey, these conversations are not happening often enough. Referrals to evidence based community fall prevention programs like *A Matter of Balance* and *Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance* offered by partners of the Foundation for Healthy Communities can make a difference.

For more information and to download the full brief, click [here](#).

## HEAL NH : Creating Healthy Communities

*Workshop Series designed to help create partnerships, implement policy & change systems for healthier communities*

More than 25 people from 21 different organizations across NH attended ***Effective Practices of Community Engagement and Involvement***, the 5th in a series of 8 workshops being hosted by the Foundation's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL NH) Creating Healthy Communities. Led by Molly Donovan and Sue Cagle of the UNH Cooperative Extension, participants learned to identify target audiences, how to use various engagement tools and improved their skills for developing and executing a community engagement and outreach project in their community.



The next workshop of the series, ***Policy and Advocacy for Local Change***, takes place on March 8, 2017. For more information on the series, including additional workshops, please visit [Creating Healthy Communities](#) on the HEAL NH website.