



June 2017

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In This Issue

[Elliot Hospital RN
Awarded 2017 Clint
Jones Award](#)

[HEAL NH Director
Receives Outstanding
Achievement Award](#)

[Nominations Being
Accepted for the 2017
Noah Lord Award](#)

[NHCCC Celebrates
Partnerships in
Healthcare](#)

[NH Hospitals
Addressing Opioid Use
Disorders](#)

[Patient & Family
Engagement - A
Community Perspective](#)

[FHC Welcomes New
Med Bank Volunteers](#)

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Culture Training**

Elliot Hospital RN, Ashley Brandes, Awarded 2017 Clint Jones Nursing Award

The Foundation for Healthy Communities is pleased to announce Ashley Brandes, RN, BSN, Elliot Health System, as the 2017 recipient of the Clint M. Jones New Hampshire Nursing Award. This is the second year in a row that a nurse from the Elliot Health System has received this prestigious award.

Brandes, a graduate of St. Joseph College, received the annual award in front of her peers during a special Nurses Week celebration held Wednesday, May 10th at Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH.

The Clint Jones Nursing Award was created in 2006 by the Foundation for Healthy Communities to honor the memory of the former director of the Foundation's N.H. Nursing Workforce Partnership. The award recognizes a registered nurse practicing in New Hampshire for at least one year but not more than six years, who exemplifies quality, compassionate nursing care and demonstrates a commitment to a career in nursing.

Brandes joined the staff at Elliot Hospital in 2011 and currently works on the hospital's Pediatrics Unit working with pediatric patients and their families, and serves as Chair of the Unit Practice Council focusing on improving the quality and delivery of patient care.

For the full press release, click [here](#).



Pictured are Leslie and Matt Jones, wife and son of the late Clint Jones, with 2017 Award Recipient, Ashley Brandes, RN, Elliot Health System.

HEAL NH Director Recognized for Impact on Health and Wellness in NH

for NH Providers

June 26

8:30am - 11:00am
NHHA / FHC Offices
125 Airport Road
Concord

[Register Here](#)

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## NHHA / FHC Annual Meeting

**September 10-  
12**

*What's Next?  
Navigating the  
Future of Health  
Care in NH*

OMNI Mt.  
Washington  
Bretton Woods

[Information Here](#)

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Hospital Association](#)

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[NH Comprehensive
Cancer
Collaboration](#)

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Terry Johnson, Director, Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL NH), was recently honored by the Governor's Council on Physical Activity and Health with the 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award for making a difference in New Hampshire's health.

The Outstanding Achievement Award for Physical Activity and Health is awarded to those for their distinguished service and outstanding achievements in promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activity and wellness services and programs. Johnson has nearly 25 years of experience developing and directing health promotion and clinical programs in community, medical and work-site settings to lead the New Hampshire Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative. He works with many state and community partners to establish policies and programs that support healthy eating and active living where New Hampshire's residents live, learn, work and play.

Johnson has been the Director of Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) NH at the Foundation for Healthy Communities since 2008, and upon the program's conclusion, will assume the role of Director for the NH Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration effective June 19th upon the retirement of its current director, Judy Proctor.



Foundation Accepting Nominations for the 2017 Noah Lord Award

The Foundation for Healthy Communities is pleased to announce it is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Noah Lord Patient & Family Engagement Award!

The Noah Lord Patient & Family Engagement Award recognizes the innovative work being done to better engage patients and families with Patient Family Advisors and Patient & Family Advisory Councils to improve patient safety, quality improvement and the patient experience in a New Hampshire hospital and / or health system. Designed to facilitate the sharing of success stories across the state, this award celebrates efforts to create change through improving communication between patients, families and the medical team.

Noah Lord was a vibrant, fun, silly, 4-and-a-half-year-old, whose outgoing and inquisitive nature drove him to explore the world around him. His constant questioning of the details had his parents endlessly scrambling for answers that would satisfy his insatiable curiosity. Discussions of dinosaurs, Star Wars, death, life, playgrounds, work, Toy Story and so many other topics were a constant in Noah's household. He spent many days cooking with his mom and planned with great enthusiasm to be a "chef cooking man" when he grew up.



Sadly, those dreams were never

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realized. Noah died from a series of medical errors following a tonsillectomy, errors that could have been prevented. Noah's constant quest for answers inspired his mom, Tanya, to seek answers related to his premature death. After a job transfer for Noah's dad, Glen, brought them to New Hampshire, Tanya began her search in earnest. She found that the circumstances surrounding Noah's death provided many opportunities for healthcare improvement, including the importance of engaging patients and families at the bedside, as well as within the organizational structure.

The Noah Lord Patient & Family Engagement Award was created by Noah's mother, Tanya Lord, PhD, MPH, Director of Patient & Family Engagement at the Foundation for Healthy Communities, to recognize the innovative work being done in New Hampshire hospitals to better engage patients and families in improving healthcare.

To learn more about the award, eligibility and criteria, or to download the 2017 Application, please click [here](#).

Celebrating Partnerships in Healthcare

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NH CCC), an initiative of the Foundation for Healthy Communities, hosted its 12th Annual Meeting at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord on April 5th. Its program, *Partnerships in Healthcare: Enhancing the Cancer Survivorship Experience*, was an opportunity for more than 150 attendees to learn about the positive outcomes of collective impact on cancer survivorship at community, environmental and individual levels.

NH CCC Board Chair, Robert Gerlach, MPA, opened the Annual Meeting with a comprehensive review of the Collaboration's progress in achieving its goals as outlined in New Hampshire's 2015-2020 Comprehensive Cancer Plan, followed by Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, President & CEO Emeritus of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Benz, in his keynote address, illustrated the importance of institutional strategic partnerships in advancing cancer care and research. Mandi Pratt-Chapman, MA, Associate Director for Patient Centered Initiatives & Health Equity at George Washington University, presented new national research results to inform implementation of survivorship care planning.

Breakout Sessions provided attendees with opportunities to identify local and national resources, and practical strategies to assist health systems in improving survivorship outcomes. Topics addressed included:

- Optimizing cancer survivor quality of life
- Tobacco cessation
- Creative survivorship care planning and implementation models
- Environmental concern of arsenic in private well water

Attendee response to these sessions has resulted in interest to pursue new initiatives in two areas:

- Quality of life enhancement for cancer survivors (E-mail Janice McDermott at jmcdermott@nhhpco.org)
- Creation of an exploratory network to identify and implement interventions needed to address arsenic and other environmental-health issues in the state (E-mail Kathrin Lawlor at Kathrin.Lawlor@darthmouth.edu)

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, Hester Hill Schnipper, LICSW, BCD, OSW-C, shared her insight into what it means to live well after cancer. Reflecting upon her experiences as chief of oncology social work at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and as a cancer survivor, Schnipper explored the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of well-

being from a professional and a personal perspective.



National speaker Hester Hill Schnipper with Foundation for Healthy Communities Interim Executive Director and Vice President for Quality & Patient Safety, Anne Diefendorf.

The Annual Meeting presentations are available online at www.nhcancerplan.org.

NH Hospitals Take on New Initiatives to Address Opioid Use Disorders

New Hampshire hospitals are rising to the challenge of expanding access to treatment for people with Opioid Use Disorders through partnering with the Foundation for Healthy Communities on a grant funded by the NH Department of Health & Human Services' Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. This grant is focused on implementing two types of projects within NH hospitals:

- **Bridge to Treatment** projects are intended to grow emergency department resources and protocols for addressing harm reduction and connecting patients with community treatment, supports and services.
- Projects to increase the availability of **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)** in hospital affiliated primary care systems. In addition to increasing accessibility of the services, embedding them in primary care will serve to normalize the care, helping to overcome stigma.

Projects to increase the availability of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in hospital affiliated primary care systems. In addition to increasing accessibility of the services, embedding them in primary care will serve to normalize the care, helping to overcome stigma.

Since March, eight new projects have been added to the roster, bringing the total number of projects to 15 happening throughout NH. Seven hospitals are engaged in "Bridge to Treatment" projects, while eight hospitals are initiating plans to add MAT to their primary care practices, the need for both of which evident in the latest [data dashboard](#) produced by the NH Drug Monitoring Initiative. Statewide Opioid related emergency department visits increased during the months of January through March in comparison to the previous year. In April, residents from Hillsborough

County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 5.89 visits per 10,000 population. The age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits is 30-39, representing 35% of all opioid related ED visits for April.

Partner hospitals include:

- Weeks Medical Center
- Lakes Region General Hospital
- Franklin Regional Hospital
- Concord Hospital
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Monadnock Hospital
- Cheshire Hospital
- Frisbie Memorial Hospital
- Catholic Medical Center
- Elliot Hospital
- Southern New Hampshire Medical Center

To learn more about the Foundation's Substance Use Disorder project, please contact [Rebecca Sky](#).

Patient & Family Engagement: A Community Perspective

For the last four years, the Foundation for Healthy Communities, has worked with NH hospitals to enhance or begin their Patient and Family Engagement programs under the Partnership for Patients grant, which is through the American Hospital Association / Health Research & Educational Trust Hospital Engagement Network. Many of the NH hospitals have a Patient and Family Advisory Councils consisting of hospital staff and Patient/Family Advisors (PFA) who are community member volunteers. The PFAs work on a variety of projects and committees throughout the hospitals. The consensus among hospital leadership is that the patient voice is an important part of improving patient safety, quality, and patient experience. However, there are many voices missing and many areas where the patient voice is still not being heard. In New Hampshire, the extent to which patients and families are involved as advisors is not clear. Federally qualified community health centers require consumers on their board of directors but other health providers such as home care agencies, long-term care facilities do not have this requirement.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities was recently provided an Endowment for Health grant to evaluate the level of engagement across the continuum of healthcare and to explore the opportunities to develop a PFA training that can be centralized or available to all organizations to consistently prepare and empower community members to be advisors and/or advocates at the bedside, organization and policy levels.

The first phase of the grant is to determine the level of engagement and preparation at healthcare organizations within each of the pilot communities Nashua and Laconia, and then through collaboration with these organizations a training curriculum or other method will be developed. The goal is to have a consistent community approach that engages, informs, prepares, and empowers patients, families, and community members to be effective advisors at the direct care, organizational and policy levels across the continuum of healthcare. Currently we have met with many healthcare organizations in the two communities and are starting to better understand the needs, barriers and opportunities to effective patient and family engagement. For more information about the grant or to participate in this first phase please contact Tanya Lord at tlord@healthynh.com.

FHC Welcomes New Med Bank Volunteers!

The Foundation for Healthy Communities recently welcomed four new volunteers to the NH Med Bank Program who responded to a request for volunteer pharmacists that was sent out to pharmacists throughout New Hampshire in April.

The NH Med Bank Program is New Hampshire's only charitable pharmacy that collects unused, unexpired, non-controlled medications from licensed healthcare facilities and dispenses them by mail to low income New Hampshire patients with a prescription for free. The Med Bank Program is a unique collaboration between the Foundation for Healthy Communities, the Manchester Community Health Center and Catholic Medical Center.

Run by a team of volunteer pharmacists who donate their time to dispense medications, the NH Med Bank has dispensed over \$50,000 worth of medications to patients, providing them with the medications they need - medications that would have otherwise been incinerated since opening in January 2016.



Pictured left to right are MedBank Volunteers Cheryl Legg, Karen Radwanski, Sudheer Mantena, and Viral Shah.

For more information on the NH Med Bank or to sign up as a volunteer pharmacist, call the NH Med Bank at (603) 225-0900.