

*Partnering to improve health for all.*

Foundation for Healthy Communities

## e-News November 2018

### Executive Director's Message

During this season of gratitude, we give thanks to our many partners who have helped us advance our mission in 2018. I believe sustained health improvement is best achieved through collaborative relationships and we are fortunate to have many partners who share the same cooperative approach. We have seen several transformations throughout the year with long-standing programs departing and new ones beginning as we adapt to address the health needs of our state and partners.

The Foundation team and I have learned much from you over the year, and we appreciate the dedication, compassion and wisdom we find in our relationships with you in our collective work. I wish you health and happiness during the holiday season as we look forward to the opportunities of the new year!



Peter Ames, MPH  
Executive Director



### 2018 Annual Meeting Focuses on Behavioral Health, Patient Safety Efforts in New Hampshire

The Foundation for Healthy Communities and the New Hampshire Hospital Association recently held their Annual Meeting at the OMNI Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, bringing together over 330 healthcare leaders and partners from across the state to celebrate the work being done by all, and to honor those who have made significant contributions to hospitals and the healthcare field.

This year's annual meeting, *Leading the Way to a Healthier New Hampshire*, reminded us how leading together to find solutions to the challenges we face as a state is what makes our work so meaningful. As community leaders, responsible for delivering high quality, compassionate care to the patients and communities who depend on us, there are multiple challenges and demands organizations must balance so that we can deliver on the promise of the blue and white H that we see in our communities of being there when patients and families need us most.

We had the pleasure of honoring New Hampshire's healthcare leaders and executives who have made significant contributions to their hospital or the healthcare field - congratulations to all of our award recipients! And lastly, this meeting would not be possible without the support of our event sponsors, many of whom have partnered with us on this event for years; we thank you for your continued commitment to both the Foundation and the New

Hampshire Hospital Association.

Visit us online to learn more about our [2018 Award Recipients](#), [event highlights](#) or to download the [session presentations](#).

We look forward to hosting you all in 2019!

**Annual Meeting Save the Date: October 20 - 22, 2019**

## **Dartmouth-Hitchcock Named 2018 Recipient of Inaugural Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Award**

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, the Foundation for Healthy Communities had the pleasure of honoring Dartmouth-Hitchcock with its inaugural **Honoring Excellence in Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Award**. This award honors a team of health care professionals within New Hampshire hospitals who demonstrate a continued commitment to providing quality care to their patients, lead the charge for quality improvement, promote transparency to improve health care, and achieve better outcomes through the implementation of a strong culture of safety.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock was recognized for their organization-wide commitment to high reliable, exceptional quality, patient-centered care, and their successful efforts to develop and promote improvements in quality of care for the patients they serve. Congratulations to the entire team at Dartmouth-Hitchcock for receiving the 2018 *Honoring Excellence in Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Award!*



Pictured above: Peter Ames, Executive Director, Foundation for Healthy Communities; George Blike, MD, Chief Value & Quality Officer, Dartmouth-Hitchcock; Lori Key, Director, Quality Assurance & Safety, Dartmouth-Hitchcock; Joanne Conroy, MD, President & CEO, Dartmouth-Hitchcock; Anne Diefendorf, Associate Executive Director, Vice President, Quality & Patient Safety, Foundation for Healthy Communities.

[Learn more about all of our 2018 Award Recipients](#)

**Celebrating the Power of Rural:**



## New Hampshire's Rural Health Coalition Named 2018 Community Star

The Foundation for Healthy Communities and New Hampshire Hospital Association recently celebrated the state's critical access hospitals on November 15th, National Rural Health Day, to recognize those who serve the vital health needs of nearly 60 million people residing in America's rural communities, and the importance of rural healthcare providers who work tirelessly to address the barriers patients face in accessing healthcare when they need it.

New Hampshire's 13 Critical Access Hospitals support their communities by delivering high quality healthcare in very rural, underserved areas of the state. Beyond the issue of care, rural hospitals also serve as economic engines for the communities they serve, often existing as the largest employers in their communities for generations of families. New Hampshire's rural hospitals recruit and sustain physicians, specialists and other clinicians to provide care, and the availability of that care is an important factor in attracting business and industry to our state.

It is because of their efforts in ensuring access to care and status as community and economic anchors, that the Rural Health Coalition (RHC), which helps to coordinate the work of New Hampshire's 13 critical access hospitals, was honored with the **2018 Community Star** recognition from the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), along with colleagues across the country for delivering excellence in rural health settings over the past year. Led by a CEO of a critical access hospital, the RHC was led by Maria Ryan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville as Chair this past year, with Mike Peterson, President of Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin, serving as Chair in 2019.

We congratulate the Rural Health Coalition and thank them for their continued commitment to ensuring access to healthcare for their patients and families!



## Partners Launch Statewide Opioid Disposal Education Campaign



The Foundation for Healthy Communities and New Hampshire Hospital Association, along with Governor Sununu, the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) and other partners, launched a statewide Opioid Disposal Education Campaign focused on educating patients and their families on how to safely dispose of leftover prescription medications; a first of its kind effort in New Hampshire. To date, hospitals across the state have ordered more than **50,000 deterra pouches** for patients to help reduce prescription abuse by promoting zero left.

The safe and proper disposal of unused prescription medications is a critical element in fighting opioid addiction, and this statewide campaign aims to educate patients and their families on the safe disposal of unused prescription medications through the Zero Left Campaign and the distribution of Deterra bags, which are drug deactivation pouches that render prescription medications useless when water is added.

The Zero Left Campaign was founded by Jim & Jeanne Moser after losing their son, Adam to an opioid overdose. In June of 2017, inspired by the Mosers and their loss, Granite Health and its 5 hospitals launched the Zero Left Campaign by distributing deterra pouches to patients along with educational material on the safe disposal of unused prescription medications, installing medication take-back boxes in their facilities and training providers to prescribe opioids in alignment with standards adopted by the medical boards.

Hospitals statewide are proudly participating in this campaign in an effort to raise awareness around the importance of patient education, safe prescribing practices and Zero Left as key elements in preventing prescription abuse.



## **Foundation for Healthy Communities Selected to Continue Partnership for Patients Efforts**

New Hampshire, as a part of the American Hospital Association/Health Research & Educational Trust Hospital Engagement Network, has been selected to continue efforts in reducing preventable hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions under the NH Partnership for Patients initiative. The Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) extended the contract for six months so that hospitals could continue building upon the collective momentum of improving patient safety and the quality of care delivered to patients statewide as part of a broader effort to transform our health care system.

Congratulations to the 26 New Hampshire and 2 Vermont

Contact us to learn more  
about the NH  
Partnership for Patients

hospitals for their continued success, whose commitment to improving patient safety and quality has helped to avoid over **5,200 patient harm events**, resulting in **\$42.4 million savings in healthcare costs** for patients and insurers!

## Foundation for Healthy Communities to Launch Behavioral Health Clinical Learning Collaborative

The Foundation for Healthy Communities is excited to announce that it will be launching a Behavioral Health Clinical Learning Collaborative focused on supporting emergency department and community mental health center staff in the immediate evaluation, management and treatment of patients with behavioral health emergencies.

A two-year project beginning in 2019, the learning collaborative will bring together diverse stakeholders to improve the quality of care in hospital emergency departments by implementing evidence-based strategies for clinical improvements and outcomes measurement that will establish and promote an efficient, consistent system of care for these patients and their families. The Foundation is currently seeking a ***Program Director*** for the learning collaborative to help launch the program and be responsible for oversight and facilitation of the collaborative.

For more information on the learning collaborative, please contact ***Peter Ames***.

## Foundation for Healthy Communities & New Hampshire Hospital Association Release RFP for Strategic Planning Consultant

The Foundation for Healthy Communities and the New Hampshire Hospital Association have recently released a Request for Proposal for a consultant to facilitate the development of new strategic plans over the next year to assist both organizations in effectively meeting their missions on behalf of the partners and members they serve.

The new strategic plan will provide direction for both organizations in identifying key objectives and high impact strategies for achieving them, thereby enhancing their ability to improve health and health care delivery in New Hampshire over the next three years (2020 – 2022). In addition, the strategic plan will be used as a supporting document for seeking future state and federal funding, including private grants, so that the Foundation for Healthy Communities can continue to expand and strengthen its work within New Hampshire's communities.

Those interested in providing a proposal to facilitate this process should do so by Friday, December 14, 2018 to ***Peter Ames***, Executive Director, Foundation for Healthy Communities.

[Download the Strategic Planning Consultant RFP](#)

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