

Partnering to improve health for all.

Foundation *for* Healthy Communities

August 2021

Executive Director's Message

With so many hardships facing our state, country, and the world right now, it's easy to focus on the challenges in front of us. While attention is appropriately attuned to how we improve for the future, it is also important to celebrate achievements.

You will see below that we have open nominations for two of the Foundation's annual awards and I encourage you to consider nominating a colleague. We hear every day about stories of impact, caring, and skill that help keep us all inspired for the work and foster deep admiration of our peers. Appreciation is always valued and I encourage you to submit a nomination for a Foundation award, but also to find a small moment in the coming days to express your gratitude to a friend or colleague for what they bring to the world.



Peter Ames, MPH
Executive Director

New Hampshire Health Care Quality and Safety Commission Releases 2021 Annual Report

The New Hampshire Health Care Quality & Safety Commission recently released its 2021 Annual Report, marking its 16th year in supporting the patient safety and delivery of care efforts of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs). This past year presented many unique demands and challenges to the state's healthcare system, however throughout the pandemic we continued to bring NH hospitals and ASCs together to focus on continuous learning and the prevention of medical harm.

The intent of the New Hampshire Health Care Quality & Safety Commission is to enable health care providers to share information about adverse outcomes and prevention strategies in learning environments which foster candor and self-critical analysis while maintaining the confidentiality of the information submitted to the Commission, the proceedings of the Commission, and the results of the Commission's deliberations. The Commission's guiding principles are promoting high reliability organizations, establishing 'just cultures' within member organizations, adopting evidence-based practices to improve outcomes, and incorporating the voice of the patient.

The Commission's topics have aligned with other efforts in the state, including the work of many divisions within the Department of Health & Human Services, the Eastern States Quality Improvement Collaborative, Partnership for Patients, and other professional organizations, to complement work, avoid redundancy and maximize efficient use of resources. The Commission extends its appreciation to its members their engagement in sharing their experiences, programs, and methods for promoting the best patient safety practices. Although the data reflecting quality may not show improvement, under the circumstances of the pandemic, the

members have much to celebrate in their achievements.

The Commission began Year 17 in August 2021 with a continued focus on decreasing preventable harm by promoting high reliability organizations, adopting evidence-based best practices and continuing work to establish 'Just Cultures' within each institution.

[Download the 2021 Annual Report](#)



NH Health Care Quality and Safety Commission

New Release: Advance Care Planning Guide & New Hampshire POLST Forms

One of the many outcomes of the 20/21 Legislative Session was the passing of SB 74 which changed the landscape regarding patient choice for medical care. On July 30th, Governor Sununu signed SB 74 into law which includes revisions to the statute governing Advance Directives, Medical Surrogacy, Portable Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and POLST orders. To reflect these revisions, the *Advance Care Planning Guide*, produced by the Foundation for Healthy Communities for medical providers and patients statewide, was updated with the new version now available on our website for download and through the Foundation for procurement.

In addition, New Hampshire recently joined the growing number of states which have adopted a common national POLST form to replace the state form, available through an individual's provider. The passing of SB 74 changed the law and establishes POLST forms as a recognized means of expressing a 'Portable' Do Not Resuscitate Order, to be recognized across medical and emergency response systems.

From its inception, the POLST paradigm has been an evolving, learning movement. It's purpose is to engage patients with known progressive illness or fragility in actively considering care pathways and goals and expressing them in ways quickly recognizable by all points of contact in medical systems. As Physician/APRN/PA orders, the forms are actionable in healthcare settings and reflect the preference and informed consent/direction of the patient.

Advance Care Planning Guide

How to think about, talk about and plan for serious illness or injuries which may keep you from making your own healthcare decisions.

New Hampshire Advance Directives
Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOAH)
Living Will



Download the updated Advance Care Planning Guide

*For more
information on
advance directives,
please visit us online
at healthynh.org
under Advance Care
Planning.*

FHC & NHHA Annual Meeting Session Highlight

Monday, October 18th ~ 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Rebecca Rule, Humorist, Author, Storyteller
Host, Our Hometown, NHPTV

In a time when we need it most, Rebecca Rule is going to provide Annual Meeting attendees with a chance to breathe, relax and



Rebecca Rule

Humorist, Author,
Storyteller

laugh as she presents the Women's Executive Leadership Lunch titled "**Laughter: Leading to Resilience**" presented by New Hampshire's Women Executive Leaders.

Rebecca Rule hosted the *New Hampshire Authors Series* for ten years on NHPTV and now hosts *Our Hometown* on NHPTV. She's been telling stories in New England, especially NH, for more than thirty years. She hasn't visited every town in the Granite State, but has found her way to many of them — speaking at libraries, historical societies, church groups, and charitable organizations. She likes collecting stories because "they're free and you don't have to dust them."

Her books include *N is for New Hampshire*, an ABC book with photographs by Scott Snyder; *The Iciest Diciest Scariest Sled Ride Ever!*, a picture book illustrated by Jennifer Thermes; *Headin' for the Rhubarb, A NH Dictionary (well, kinda)*; and *The Best Revenge*, which was named one of five essential NH Books by *New Hampshire Magazine*. Her latest book is *That Reminds Me of a Funny Story*, Hobblebush Press.

REMINDER - NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

New Hampshire Hospital Association & Foundation for Healthy Communities Annual Awards of Excellence

October 17 - 19, 2021 ~ OMNI Mt. Washington Hotel

The call for nominations for the NHHA & FHC Annual Awards of Excellence is now open for the awards listed below:

New Hampshire Hospital Association Awards

- James A. Hamilton Founder's Award
- President's Award
- Medical Staff of the Year Award
- Outstanding Trustee of the Year Award

Foundation for Healthy Communities Awards

- Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Award
- Noah Lord Patient & Family Engagement Award

Nomination materials can be found [here](#) and can be emailed to info@nhha.org (NHHA Awards) and info@healthynh.org (FHC Awards) and **are due by Friday, September 17, 2021.**

Our 2021 Award Winners will be announced and celebrated during the awards ceremony on the evening of Monday, October 18th at this year's New Hampshire Hospital Association & Foundation for Healthy Communities Annual Meeting. More information about our annual meeting can be found [here](#), and should you have any questions about the event, registration or the awards please don't hesitate to contact us.



Submit Your Nomination
Today!

