



Foundation for
Healthy Communities

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**Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services Wins First Place in Innovation Challenge
Awarded \$100,000 to Help Solve the Health Care Workforce Shortage**

Concord, NH – With an emphasis on improving job flexibility and a genuine commitment to innovation, Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services of Berlin was named the winner of HealthForce NH’s Innovation Challenge and awarded \$100,000 toward its project, “The IDEA,” (Inter-Disciplinary Elite Aides) last evening.

“HealthForce NH’s focus is on the recruitment, retention, and sustainability of the health care workforce in New Hampshire, and AV Home Care Service’s proposed initiative intends to address all of these elements and more,” said Kate Luczko, senior director, HealthForce NH, an initiative of the Foundation for Healthy Communities. “They truly exemplify the spirit of innovation.”

Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services’ The IDEA (Inter-Disciplinary Elite Aides) intends to build a local LNA hierarchy, trained in every community health care organization (HCO) serving one rural community. LNAs will be trained, tested and "certified" to work in each HCO, essentially completing an orientation to learn work, its routines, culture, etc. These LNAs will then be eligible to access a web-based scheduling system on which all partner HCOs will post open shifts. LNAs will be able to choose any day/time/shift/health care organization 24/7 to work when they so desire, thereby filling needs on a day-to-day basis and relieving the pressures of real time short staffing, not just short staffing due to vacant positions in the HCOs.

“I like to think of this idea as the ‘Uber of health care,’ transforming the way health care staffing is scheduled and delivered by developing a system that is more accessible, efficient, and user-friendly, and offers schedule flexibility, which we often hear is a top priority for health care workers,” said Luczko. “I believe it has the potential to be a real driver in addressing health care workforce challenges.”

Lightcap Health of Durham was awarded \$60,000 for second place in the Innovation Challenge. Its project, “PULSe,” (Personality-Based, Understanding, and Long-term Support for Healthcare Workers), will be an innovative video subscription as a service (SaaS) platform aimed to reduce nurse burnout. The program will do so by offering videos tailored towards people’s personalities based on a holistic approach to education and goal setting for healthy behaviors. Third place went to New Hampshire Hospital in Concord for its project addressing mental health workforce

development. New Hampshire Hospital was awarded \$40,000 towards their project to recruit and develop a workforce from underserved populations (new Americans and low-level offenders or those seeking a “second chance”) to serve the unique needs of acute psychiatric patients in the Granite State while being paid a living wage during training to meet current and future mental health workforce needs. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Geisel School of Medicine in Lebanon and Second Start in Concord were also semi-finalists.

“While we are thrilled to recognize our winners, I want to congratulate all the nominees for the creativity, passion, and excellence put forth in their proposals. We are excited to see what other innovation sparks over time following the launch of this competition,” said Luczko.

The competition was open to individuals, established organizations, or new organizations within any industry. All proposals needed to reflect original thinking or original adaptations and applications of existing programs, changed to be unique, and had to be focused on health care workforce in New Hampshire. After an application process that included comprehensive proposals being submitted, semi-finalists were selected to participate in a live pitch event. The final winners were selected after extensive evaluation and deliberation by a panel of judges.

“We look forward to the start of the projects and are excited to see where they lead us,” said Luczko. “They will surely have a positive impact on our mission of solving the workforce challenges facing the health care industry in New Hampshire today and into the future.”

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About the Foundation for Healthy Communities and HealthForce NH

The Foundation for Healthy Communities (FHC) is a non-profit organization that builds healthier communities for all by leading partnerships, fostering collaboration, and creating innovative solutions to advance health and health care.

HealthForce NH, an initiative of FHC, takes a broad, systemic approach to, leveraging their cross-sector position and offering leadership to the field while convening partners to cultivate resources, amplify existing efforts, and monitor the health care landscape. HealthForce does this work with a shared goal of creating an environment where current and future members of the health care workforce can flourish.