CT Lt. Governor honored by Regional Hospice and Home Care

Source: Regional Hospice and Home Care Website

Regional Hospice and Home Care’s friends, supporters and staff recently gathered in honor of a special advocate, CT Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. Surrounded by the peace and beauty of the Memorial Gardens at the Center for Comfort Care and Healing, Wyman was presented with an inscribed paver serving as an enduring reminder of her dedication and support. Wyman, in partnership with Governor Dannel Malloy, was instrumental in supporting hospice regulations that changed the way care was provided in the state of Connecticut. In addition, the team supported the expansion of the Healing Hearts Center for Grief & Loss with a $1.2 million grant.

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Upcoming Events

For all upcoming events check out our online calendar of events.

- The Trifecta for Home Health Performance Improvement Webinar Series
  Date: 7/12/2016
  Time: 2:00-3:00 PM
  Register

- Fall 2017 Home Health Aide Teleconference Series: The Aide’s Role in Recognizing Elder Abuse
  Date: 7/14/2016
  Time: 3:00-4:00 PM
  Register
FDA Releases Information on Coping with Memory Loss

Source: NAHC

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released information for consumers on coping with memory loss. The FDA consumer update includes information about potential causes of memory loss as well as steps for prevention.

"The goal is to rule out factors that are potentially reversible and determine if the memory loss is due to a more serious brain disease," said Ranjit Mani, M.D., a neurologist in FDA's Division of Neurology Products.

HHS Releases Guidance on Preventing and Responding to Ransomware Attacks

Source: AHA July 5, 2016

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security, recently released guidance for organizations to prevent and respond to the occurrence of ransomware attacks. Health care and other organizations face an increasing threat of ransomware attacks, in which criminals encrypt or block access to important files and demand a ransom to release them. This most recent guidance follows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) releasing its own guidance earlier this year (see previous NAHC Report article here).

In a letter to organizations announcing the guidance, HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell said it provides in-depth recommendations to
both prevent and respond to ransomware attacks.

Continue Reading

Register for HHA PEPPER Webinar

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is expected to make available the second release of free provider-specific comparative data reports for Home Health Agencies (HHAs) on July 18, 2016. The Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) summarizes Medicare claims data for these areas that have been identified as at higher risk for improper Medicare payments:

- Average Case Mix
- Number of Episodes
- Episodes with 5 or 6 Visits
- Non-LUPA Payments
- High Therapy Utilization Episodes
- Outlier Payments

CMS has contracted with TMF® Health Quality Institute to develop and distribute the reports. For more information on obtaining your PEPPER, visit the PEPPER Distribution - Get Your PEPPER page at PEPPERresources.org.

TMF will conduct a Web-based training session for HHAs reviewing information on PEPPER, how you can obtain your PEPPER and use it to support auditing and monitoring efforts. The session has been scheduled for Thursday, July 28 at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

The HHA PEPPER is a “free” report comparing an HHA’s Medicare billing practices with other HHAs in the nation, Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) jurisdiction and the state. Statistics are reported in tabular and graphical format for the most recent three calendar years. HHAs can use the data to support internal auditing and monitoring activities.

To register for the training, click here. Because registration is limited to 1,000 sites, HHAs are encouraged to coordinate internally to prevent duplicate registrations and to allow as many HHAs to participate as possible. For those unable to participate, the session will be recorded and posted on PEPPERresources.org in the HHA “Training and Resources” section by August 12, 2016.

At any time, questions about PEPPER or requests for assistance with obtaining PEPPER can be submitted to the Help Desk at PEPPERresources.org.

Call for Nominations - Annual Awards of Distinction

Nominations are now being accepted for five (5) awards of distinction to be presented at the October 18, 2016 Annual Conference & Expo at the Hartford Marriott Downtown.

The awards are to recognize individual and agency excellence, innovation and leadership in the delivery of home health and hospice.
Submit nominations for yourself, a colleague, or your agency by Friday, August 26, 2016.

Here are the awards to be considered this year:

- **Legislator of the Year Award** (Individual)
- **Judith Hriceniak Career Achievement Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership** (Individual)
- **Healthcare at Home Innovation Award** (Agency or Team Award)
- **Friend of Healthcare at Home Award** (Individual or other entity)
- **The Triple Aim Award** (Individual or Team)

Click on the award above for the nomination forms. Awards can be submitted to Rebecca Taylor via fax at 203-949-0031 or email at taylor@cthealthcareathome.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deborah Hoyt at hoyt@cthealthcareathome.org or 203-774-4939.

### Exhibitor & Sponsor Opportunities at Annual Conference

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**Healthcare at Home: The Value Proposition in Transformative Care Delivery Models**

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION
October 18, 2016 | Hartford Marriott Downtown | Hartford, CT

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