

HORIZON HAPPENINGS

UPDATES, EVENTS, AND CARE INSIGHTS

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LEADERSHIP

A Familiar Presence

I (Coleen Schmidt) have been employed at Horizon since 1999 and have recently been appointed as Horizon's new **President and CEO**. Our past CEO (Mary Haynor) and I worked together for over 30 years, and I'm honored to be leading such an important organization. In fact, there are several leadership changes at Horizon I'd like to share:

- **Jessica Lisinski, Chief Operating Officer (previously our Hospice Director)**
- **Elena Sherr, Hospice Director (previously our Hospice Manager)**
- **Shannon Bronson, Hospice Manager (previously a Hospice Educator)**
- **Dave Arnold, Director of Development (previously a Community Liaison)**

With their proven track record of dedication and success within our organization, each is well-positioned to bring fresh perspectives and insights to their role. We look forward to their continued contributions and leadership as we navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Welcoming New Faces

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth 'Izzy' Bukowy, our new **Chief Medical Director**. With her extensive experience, certified as a Medical Director and certifications in Geriatrics and Palliative Care, Dr. Bukowy brings a wealth of knowledge, vision, and leadership to our organization. She will play a pivotal role in guiding our strategic direction and driving sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Stay Connected

These leadership changes represent an exciting new chapter in our organization's journey. We invite you to stay connected and engaged with us as we embark on this journey of change and growth. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to sharing more updates with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Warm regards,



Coleen M. Schmidt
President/CEO
Horizon Home Care & Hospice, Inc.



HORIZON PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Horizon's Palliative Care Team Plays a Crucial Role in the Community

Horizon's Palliative team provides an essential service to those in the community requiring symptom management, goals of care discussions, and coordination of care. Listed below are the main components of Palliative Services at Horizon:

1

Quality of Life: Palliative care focuses on enhancing the quality of life for individuals facing serious illnesses. It addresses physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, aiming to alleviate suffering and improve overall well-being.

2

Holistic Approach: Palliative care takes a holistic approach to patient care, considering not only the medical aspects of a person's illness but also their emotional and psychosocial needs. This comprehensive approach ensures that individuals receive personalized care that respects their values, preferences, and goals.

3

Support for Families: Serious illnesses can take a significant toll on families and caregivers. Palliative care provides support and guidance to families, helping them navigate complex medical decisions, manage caregiving responsibilities, and cope with the emotional challenges of caring for a loved one with a serious illness.

4

Symptom Management: Palliative care specialists are skilled in managing symptoms such as pain, nausea, fatigue, and shortness of breath, which are common in serious illnesses. By effectively managing these symptoms, palliative care improves patients' comfort and quality of life, allowing them to better engage in daily activities and maintain independence for as long as possible.

5

Coordination of Care: Palliative care teams work collaboratively with patients, families, and other healthcare providers to coordinate care across different settings, including hospitals, hospices, and the community. This coordination ensures continuity of care, minimizes gaps in communication, and prevents unnecessary hospitalizations or emergency room visits.

6

Advance Care Planning: Palliative care encourages discussions about advance care planning and helps individuals clarify their goals, values, and preferences for future medical care. By having these conversations early on, patients can make informed decisions about their healthcare and ensure that their wishes are honored.

7

Cost-Effective Care: Research has shown that palliative care can lead to cost savings by reducing hospital admissions, intensive care unit (ICU) stays, and invasive treatments. By focusing on patient-centered care and symptom management, palliative care helps optimize resource utilization and improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery.

8

Bereavement Support: Palliative care extends support to families and caregivers during the bereavement period following the death of a loved one. This support may include counseling, support groups, and other resources to help individuals cope with grief and adjust to life after loss.

UPCOMING EVENT

Golf Fore Horizon

Save the date! The 6th annual Golf Fore Horizon will be Monday, August 26th, 2024 at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit horizonhomecareandhospice.org/golf.



WHAT'S NEW AT HORIZON

Embracing Innovation: Introducing Our New Electronic Health Record System

Horizon is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in our commitment to providing high-quality care and enhancing the patient's experience: the implementation of our new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, **Homecare Homebase**. This cutting-edge technology represents a transformative step forward in how we manage and deliver healthcare services, enabling us to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and deliver even better care to our patients.

Our clinicians now have all they need at their fingertips, documenting patient services has never been easier. All patient care services are documented on their mobile device. Documentation is completed during the patient visits, which supports Horizon's culture of safety, as timely documentation promotes accuracy, which promotes safety for the patient.

In addition, Horizon will be rolling out a patient/family portal, facility portal, and finally a physician portal. These portals will enhance access to information and engage all to be empowered in their health care decisions.

As we embrace the opportunities that our new EHR system brings, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering compassionate, patient-centered care to our community. Together, we are building a healthier future for all.



NURSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Launching Our Nurse Residency Program: Empowering the Next Generation of Home Health and Hospice Nurses

Horizon is excited to announce the launch of our Nurse Residency Program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at nurturing and developing the next generation of home health and hospice nursing professionals. This program represents our commitment to excellence in patient care and our dedication to supporting the growth and success of new graduates entering the field of home healthcare and hospice.

Comprehensive Curriculum

At Horizon, we recognize the unique challenges and opportunities that come with providing care in the home setting. Our Nurse Residency Program offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines classroom instruction, hands-on clinical experience, and mentorship from experienced home health and hospice nurses. Participants will learn essential skills such as wound care, medication management, patient assessment, and care coordination, tailored specifically for the home care and hospice environment. In addition to clinical training, our Nurse Residency Program includes educational sessions on topics such as communication skills, cultural competence, patient advocacy, and self-care.

Mentorship and Support

One of the cornerstones of our Nurse Residency Program is the opportunity for participants to work closely with experienced preceptors who will provide guidance, feedback, and support as they navigate their roles and responsibilities. Through shadowing, precepted visits, and supervised practice, participants will gain confidence and competence in delivering high-quality care to patients in their homes.

Empowering New Graduates

Overall, a home health and hospice nurse residency program is designed to prepare new graduates for success in the dynamic and rewarding field of home healthcare and hospice. By providing structured training, mentorship, and support, our program empowers nurses to deliver compassionate, patient-centered care in the comfort and familiarity of patients' homes.

