

Clarion Forest Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.
2022 Business Review

2021, like all healthcare providers, has proven to be a busy year for the Clarion Forest VNA. The agency staff completed 1,385 patient admissions to the agency and provided 25,054 patient visits in 2021. We continue to do our very best to take care of those in our community. We are very grateful to have experienced Clinical Managers and a Patient Scheduler who come in every day, roll up their sleeves, and take care of business. The field staff are resilient and understanding of the frequent schedule changes to make sure patients are cared for.

The Clarion Forest VNA, Inc. (CFVNA) functions as an independent non-profit organization. CFVNA offers Home Health, Hospice, Palliative Care, and Maternal/Infant services. These programs include: skilled nursing, physical/occupational/speech therapy, medical social workers, home health aides, and registered dietician services. We also have 2 certified wound nurses on staff. The Hospice program also includes our Medical Director, Hospice Spiritual Counselor, and our Bereavement and Grief Counselor. We also provide a telehealth monitoring program. In addition, CFVNA operates a VNA Extended Care Service, which offers private duty care and an Adult Daily Living Center. CFVNA provides services in Clarion, Forest, and Jefferson counties.

The Hospice program is separately certified by Medicare and Medicaid. This program also accepts most major insurances. We have contracts with Clarion Hospital (now part of Butler Health System) to provide general inpatient hospice care and with skilled nursing facilities in our service areas to provide hospice care in nursing homes. The program includes the same services as the home health program in addition to chaplain, counseling, bereavement services and a volunteer program. Dr. Robert Luderer is the Medical Director and Dr. Catherine Cunningham is a hospice physician employed by the VNA.

VNA Extended Care Services, Inc. is a separate agency but it is affiliated with the VNA. Extended Care provides private duty care which offers a variety of services including help with personal care, meal preparation, reminders and assistance taking medications, light housekeeping, laundry, and socialization and companionship. These services may be paid for by long-term care insurance or veteran's benefits, but typically they are paid for out-of-pocket.

Clarion Forest Adult Daily Living Center (ADLC) is a program within VNA Extended Care Services, Inc. It is licensed by the PA Department of Aging. The Center was recently painted by a dedicated staff member and her family (who was a professional painter!). We are in the process of redecorating the center to offer clients a comfortable and attractive environment. The facility is fully handicapped accessible and is locked daily to prevent wandering. A health check is also provided quarterly by a staff nurse. The ADLC offers therapeutic activities to promote socialization, maintaining and /or increasing the client's present level of function. The ADLC provides personal care, health monitoring, noon meal, and routine blood work. Information and support are also provided to caregivers. The ADLC continues to function to meet the regulatory requirements put in place because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CFVNA has had many exciting changes this past year. We were able to purchase 50 brand new telehealth monitors. We are excited for the opportunity this brings to our community to help improve patient outcomes by monitoring patients remotely on a daily basis when an at home skilled visit is not scheduled. We have seen many positive outcomes as a result of telehealth monitoring and are excited to have more monitors available to our patients.

We are also anxiously awaiting the implementation of new software with high hopes of improving less time on the computer for our staff and more time with the patient. Although our agency is innovative, we are supportive of direct one-on-one patient care.

We sadly, have had a big year for retirements at the CFVNA. Sherri Kapp, RN retired in May after 27 years of service. Jonette Smerkar, RN, retired in September after 36 years of service. Cindy Selker RN, retired in December after 16 years of service. Pam Kahle, RN retired in December after 28 years of service. Randy(hospice chaplain) and Sue Evans (Bereavement and Grief Counselor) both retired in December as well. Randy had 18 years of service. Sue had 9 years of service. We thank all of these employees for their dedication and support of the VNA and wish them a happy retirement!

May 26, 2021 marked our 10th anniversary at our current location of 271 Perkins Road, Clarion, PA. Many of us recall the move to our current location and the excitement we all had to finally have space to meet all of our needs! We would like to thank all of those who served on our Building/Fundraising Committees for their hard work and making our current location a reality

CFVNA continues as a top employer in Clarion County. We currently have positions available. Please contact CFVNA at 1-800-262-2118 for more information.