



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaskans honored with Quality and Patient Safety Awards

ASHNHA recognizes health care professionals during unprecedented public health crisis.

Anchorage, AK -- The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) has announced the winners of its annual *Quality and Patient Safety Awards* to recognize exemplary work within Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and communities.

"In these unprecedented times when we have all seen the incredible responses and sacrifices by our healthcare workers, we are especially honored to recognize this year's awardees for their hard work, innovations, and compassion," said ASHNHA CEO, Jared Kosin. "They are individuals, teams, and organizations who are leading the charge to continually improve quality and patient safety for all Alaskans."

ASHNHA 2020 Quality and Patient Safety Award Recipients

Frontline Staff Award:

- Charlee Gribbon, Bartlett Community Hospital
- Vivian Knop, Cordova Community Medical Center

Golden Stethoscope Award:

- Team: Foundation Health Partners -Dr. Angelique Ramirez, Dr. Mishelle Nace, Dr. Mark Simon, Dr. Laura Brunner
- Individual: Dr. Lynn Prysunka, SEARHC Wrangell Medical Center

Innovation of Patient Safety and Quality Award:

- Central Peninsula Hospital
- Samuel Simmons Memorial Hospital
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Honorable Mention: Providence Alaska Medical System

Innovations in Social Determinants of Health Award

- Facility Award: Providence Valdez Medical Center
- Individual Award: Dr. Dick Mandsager



Beacon Award:

Awarded for collaborative effort to stand up drive through testing site:

- State of Alaska, Division of Health and Human Services: Dr. Anne Zink,
- Providence Alaska Medical Center: Dr. Michael Bernstein, Caleb Terpstra, Ella Gross
- Alaska Regional: Julie Taylor, Dr. Keri Gardner
- Alaska Native Medical: Roald Helgesen, Donna Marsteller
- Municipality of Anchorage: Natasha Pineda, Drielle Welch

Long Term Care Frontline Fighters Award

- Awarded to all 20 Alaska Long-term Care facilities in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to the safety of residents and staff.

The **Golden Stethoscope Awards** are given to a healthcare provider and a health care team that demonstrate extraordinary commitment to safe patient care. Lynn Prysunka MD, SEARHC Wrangell Medical Center, received the award for her twenty years of service and forward-thinking ability as she leads the local response to COVID-19 and keeps the community a step ahead. The team award goes to a group of committed physicians at Foundation Health Partners in Fairbanks for their work to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in the Interior. The team is also known as the “Fantastic Four” and includes Angelique Ramirez MD, Mishelle Nace MD, Mark Simon MD, and Laura Brunner MD. Each utilized their superpowers as they tirelessly worked to share information and resources to support their community.

The **Frontline Staff awards** recognizes individuals who demonstrate above and beyond safety related performance in the workplace. There are two award recipients. Charlee Gribbon, Bartlett Community Hospital is recognized for promoting patient and staff safety within the hospital and as a resource for the greater community. Vivian Knop, Cordova Community Medical Center coordinated emergency operations and ensured collaboration within Cordova to respond to COVID-19 while managing her regular duties.

This year the **Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality Award** is given to four hospitals to recognize their work to implement and sustain innovative initiatives improving patient safety with measurable outcomes. Alaska Regional Hospital sustained a multi-year reduction in hospital acquired conditions, Central Peninsula Hospital established a Safe Companion program providing wrap around services for individuals experiencing stress, Samuel Simmons Memorial Hospital for improved use of tools to support communication and patient safety processes, and Providence Alaska Medical Center is recognized for serving as a leader in innovation.

A new award category this year is the **Innovation to Address Social Determinants of Health Award** which recognizes a team and an individual that has shown exemplary commitment to



address social determinants of health and eliminate health care disparities. Providence Valdez Population Health Team is recognized for spearheading an initiative to improve care to seasonal

fish processing workers. Dr. Dick Mandsager is recognized for a lifetime of work to improve health and quality of life in Alaska and especially his recent efforts to create more a complete, cohesive homeless service system.

The **Beacon Award** recognizes the effort to quickly stand-up a drive-through testing site for COVID-19 in March 2020 with a collaborative effort initiated by Dr. Anne Zink and led by Caleb Terpstra Providence Alaska Medical Center along with community partners Alaska Native Medical Center, Alaska Regional Hospital, Department of Health and Social Services, and Municipality of Anchorage.

The final award is the **Long Term Care Frontline Fighters award** recognizing the twenty Alaska long term care facilities for their extraordinary commitment to the safety of residents and co-workers.

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association represents over 65 hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare organizations, spanning across the state from Ketchikan to Utqiagvik. ASHNHA's vision is that Alaskans are healthy and have access to world-class care. We are working together to build a healthier tomorrow.

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