

In-Touch

Newsletter



In-Home Care | Independent Living | Assisted Living

September - October 2024

Theresa Pichelmeyer, EdD, RN
President & CEO

As we look forward to approaching fall and the last quarter of the year, it is time I provide an update on my eventual departure from Valley VNA. As I shared previously, I will be leaving to explore a new chapter of my life at the end of 2024. I hate the word retire because I will be working somewhere, just haven't decided what that will be yet! With that in mind, the VNA Board has searched and confirmed the new CEO who will take my role, Becky Reichelt.

Becky had worked here at VNA in the past as a member of the Alzheimer Association which had an office here when I first came in 2007. She left to go to St. Paul Elder Services in 2008 and has been a valuable member of their leadership staff, as Executive Vice President. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation and a Master of Science degree in Management. Becky and I have had various occasions to work together over the years and we are excited for her to join the team.

With the completion of a very time and energy-consuming building project, I have every confidence that Becky will help lead and guide Valley VNA in new and exciting directions and endeavors. Becky will begin her orientation and transition starting in mid October.

One of the bright spots as fall approaches is the end of our Caring for Generations endeavor! We anticipate being fully completed with the remodel by the end of September. We are thankful to Community Living Solutions for guiding us through this process and all of the many companies that worked to make this a reality (though I won't miss all of the construction vehicles, etc.). Please feel free to come and tour, just give us a call ahead of time! More importantly, a huge THANK YOU to all of the donors and community members who helped make this possible!!

Below is an excerpt from an Op Ed written by our President of WALA in response to some disparaging articles about Assisted Living. Some of you may have seen them in national news print. I think the information provided here is important to know the "whole story". Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at theresp@valleyvna.org.

Wisconsin's aging population is driving significant demand in the state's assisted living industry, with the population aged 65 and older expected to grow by 72% between 2015 and 2040. Currently, over 40,000 seniors are served by more than 4,000 assisted living facilities, which offer a range of care from relatively independent living to specialized care for those with advanced dementia or disabilities. Despite the challenges highlighted in recent media reports, the vast majority of these facilities provide quality care, with over 72% receiving zero complaints in 2023.

The industry is highly regulated, with the state conducting unannounced surveys and investigations to ensure compliance and quality care. Admission to assisted living is carefully assessed and tailored to individual needs, and the state offers waivers for additional care hours when necessary. However, challenges remain, particularly in securing adequate Medicaid funding through the Family Care program, which currently underpays for care, making it difficult for facilities to offer competitive wages to caregivers.

As Wisconsin's senior population grows, the need for sustainable funding and resources for assisted living will become even more critical. The industry is committed to overcoming these challenges to ensure that all seniors in Wisconsin receive the quality care they deserve.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place Jewelers Mutual Group on 9/14/24. Join Valley VNA's Walk team, it is always free to register and free to attend. Register now to join the Valley VNA Team! act.alz.org/foxcities

Spotlight on Resident Rights

Spotlight on Resident Rights #9

We respect and support our residents in exercising their rights. The Department of Health Services has established a list of resident rights for Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) in the state of Wisconsin. Over the course of several newsletters, Valley VNA will highlight some of these rights. A full list is in your Resident Handbook

Right to have the least restrictive conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of the resident's admission.(DHS 83.32(3)(L)).

Listed under the “respect” heading in the Resident Rights document, this right makes sure that we are looking at each resident individually and the specific safety needs that they might have, instead of basing conditions on a court or area of the building. This may include evaluating the need for a wander guard, frequency of safety checks, or amount of supervision for cares. Resident's safety needs may change over time, and it is important to continually evaluate what is best for each person.

Reminders

With back to school starting and flu season just around the corner we want to keep residents safe and healthy. If you aren't feeling well, we ask that you postpone your visit until you are well.

Tips for staying healthy:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your cough and sneezes
- Disinfect all surfaces
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

Angela Franz

Executive Director of Independent Apartments & Assisted Living

Happy Fall everyone,

Excited to share that we are in the final weeks of our remodel project in our Assisted Living. Sapphire was our final phase and work is almost complete. We are on track to have our final inspections done the week of September 16th. It has been a long process and at times inconvenient for you, however everyone has been very understanding and wonderful through this journey. We thank you all for your patience and support throughout the entire project. As many of you are aware, Julie Roh's last day with Valley VNA as our Volunteer Coordinator was Aug 30. Julie has been great in recruiting and organizing volunteers to assist not only residents but also with work that is needed around the building and gardens. Julie is eager to spend more time with her family and we wish her all the best. We are happy to share that Kristi Armstrong will be joining our team as our new Volunteer Coordinator, she will be coming around introducing herself and getting to know all of you later this month. Some of you may recognize her as she has helped in the past with some of our events and her son, Kyle was a dedicated volunteer here.

FLU / COVID VACCINE CLINIC:

We will be having our Flu / COVID vaccine clinic through Morton's Pharmacy on Thursday September 26th here at Valley VNA. We work with Morton's to have this clinic here so we can help best protect the health of our residents and staff.

This clinic will be for both flu and COVID vaccines, you may choose to receive both or only one of the two. As in previous years, we do need the most up-to-date insurance supplement cards as well as the signed form to receive either of the vaccines at the clinic.

Please come to the front desk between the hours of 8:15 am and 4:30 pm Monday - Friday to have a copy of your insurance card made and to sign the form(s) no later than Friday, September 20th. A healthcare POA or Guardian is required to sign forms for residents who have their healthcare POA activated. If signed forms and insurance cards are not turned in by Friday, Sept. 20th you will not be able to receive a vaccine at this clinic. If you are the health care POA for your loved one and you live out of town please call Marian at 920-727-5544.

If you have any questions about either of the forms please call Marian at the front desk at 920-727-5544 between 8:15 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday. Thank you

As we enter the holiday season if you wish to reserve one of our spaces for a gathering please call the front desk to make this request. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate large groups for meals served here at Valley VNA but you are more than welcome to bring something in to share with your loved one.