Moving Needles on Vaccination Rates Doesn’t Have to Be a Heavy Lift

When it comes to change, Ms. Sobczyk stressed that while she and her team are encouraging AMDA members and their facilities to get involved, they aren’t expecting major changes or burdens on staff and practitioners. “We want AMDA members to think about simple steps they can take in their day-to-day work,” she said. “We want to start small because change is more sustainable when it begins with incremental efforts.”

The Moving Needles team has seen that facilities are committed to improving vaccination rates and welcome some support. Ms. Sobczyk said, “We have heard from our sites that having a standardized process is important. We also have gotten many requests for resources and tools such as posters to promote immunizations to staff and residents in a meaningful way.” She stressed, “We have assembled a website with many of those resources and are working on developing other needed materials they can use to support their efforts.”

Ms. Sobczyk and her team are covering all the bases, including ways to use technology such as EHRs to improve assessments and documentation, as well as track vaccination rates. “We are working with EHR vendors to standardize immunizations as part of assessments, enable data to be pulled at the site level, and other changes that support the interventions the pilot sites are implementing,” she said. She stressed that everything they are asking facilities to do involves evidence-based recommendations and guidance from the scientific literature, the CDC, and the National Vaccine Advisory Committee. “We know that what we are asking them to do will improve immunization rates,” she noted.

Not only are these efforts important for the health of communities and facilities, Ms. Sobczyk stressed, they also could have a positive impact on these entities’ financial health, with fewer emergency department visits and hospital stays and fewer outbreaks and related complications. Ms. Sobczyk urges AMDA members to get involved by visiting the Moving Needles website (https://movingneedles.org) and signing up for the newsletter. These steps will start them on the journey to higher immunization rates.

Join Us at the EDGE for Mapping the Future

Mapping the Future of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PALTC) is the theme for the EDGE22 Virtual Symposium being held on October 28. Applicable to everyone who works in this care setting, the program will cover controversial and cutting-edge issues facing practitioners throughout the PALTC continuum.

This year’s EDGE symposium will explore practical approaches to tackling the future of PALTC through engaging lectures, panel discussions, and facilitated small group interaction. Attendees will leave with practical takeaways they can apply to their practices in real time. Among the topics to be addressed are leadership, advocacy, and policy; ethics; behavioral health; staffing challenges; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and DIVERGENCE, a series of debates on controversial topics in PALTC.

Speakers include many thought leaders and luminaries in PALTC including Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN; Nicole Brandt, PharmD; Timothy Holahan, DO, CMD; Alan Horowitz, Esq., RN; Rajeev Kumar, MD, FACP; CMD; Diane Sanders-Cepeda, DO, CMD; Victoria Walker, MD, CMD, FAAFP; and Lea Watson, MD, MPH. Go to https://bit.ly/37shq8g for a full list of presenters and to register for the virtual program. CMD, CME, and MOC credit is available for the symposium.

Honor a Deserving Colleague; Submit a Nomination for an Excellence Award

Each year, the Foundation for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine recognizes the unique and exceptional qualities of the AMDA membership. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards, which will be presented at PALTC23 in Tampa, FL, in March.

- Medical Director of the Year recognizes those individuals whose vision, passion, leadership, knowledge, and commitment succeed in taking patient care to exceptional levels of quality, excellence, and innovation.
- Clinician of the Year recognizes a practitioner in the PALTC setting who embodies excellence in patient/resident care. Consider the exemplary clinicians in your settings or organizations who have gone above and beyond in optimizing the quality of life for individuals.
- The James Pattee Award for Excellence in Education recognizes significant contributions to enhance the Society’s educational structure and framework, to advance education specific to PALTC practice, and to promote AMDA leadership via educational endeavors within the LTC continuum.
- The William Dodd Founder’s Award for Distinguished Service recognizes significant contributions to building the Society’s organizational strength, image, and mission by promoting the development of competent, compassionate, and committed medical practitioners.

The deadline for nominations for all four awards is Friday, November 11. Nominations may be submitted on the Foundation Website: https://paltcfoundation.org/award-programs/

Please email Victoria Hann, director of the Foundation, at vhann@paltc.org for more information or assistance.