

LONG TERM CARE SERVICES

William F. Sturtevant, Director

The past year continued to bring significant changes, challenges, and issues to the Rockingham County Nursing Home.

Over the past five years the lack of qualified nursing personnel has had an adverse effect on the operations and availability of services. 42 beds remain off line on a semi-permanent basis along with other beds in the facility as we attempted to recruit personnel in the nursing department. This year we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of agency personnel filling vacancies within the nursing department and hope the trend continues.

In February, the County Convention approved the recommendations of the Board of County Commissioners to renovate the vacant Fernald One unit to increase the Assisted Living Facility. At the annual meeting, the Convention voted unanimously to authorize a bond for this project. Warren Street Architects and Milestone Construction were selected by the County Commissioners, staff, and administration through rigorous research and planning. Work began in late fall for the expansion of the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community and renovations to the Fernald Two Nursing Unit in the nursing home. The project is expected to be completed in November 2005.

In July, the Bureau of Health Facilities arrived for its Annual Survey of Long Term Care Facilities as required by the federal government. The results were excellent with only two deficiencies.

In August, we welcomed to the management team Susan Denopoulos to the Long Term Care Services Department. Susan replaces Nancy Lang as the Assistant Administrator following Nancy's move to become the Director of Assisted Living.

We continue our working relationship with the New Hampshire Community Vocational College System. In September, two freshman nursing student classes were hosted, which averaged 8 students per class. We look forward to seeing new students in the fall of 2005.

The "Employee of the Month" program continued as peers, residents, families, visitors, volunteers, or any other individual who has an interest in the Rockingham County Nursing Home may nominate employees. Recognized in 2004 were:

January	Beverly Thibeault, Food Services
February	Lorraine Shaw, Nursing Department
March	Regina Crowell, Food Services
April	Judy Walker, Environmental Services
May	Lorraine Downing, Nursing Department
June	Cathy Ordway, Physical Therapy
July	Gail Carignan, Nursing Department
August	Estelle Nichols, Environmental Services
September	Jenny Kaichen, Food Services
October	Donna White, Nursing Department
November	Arline Janvrin, Administration
December	Penny Alexander, Nursing Department

