



Excellence in Innovation Award

presented by



Overview

The Home Care & Hospice Excellence in Innovation Award, presented by: Cerner BeyondNow has been created to recognize successful and innovative home care programs that advance the practice of home care and hospice and contribute to expansion of the role of these vital services in the nation's health care system.

The goals of the award are as follow:

1. To acknowledge and reward individuals, home care organizations, or hospices that develop innovative programs that expand upon the traditional role of home care and hospice as part of the continuum of health care services;
2. To identify and promote examples of innovations in home care and hospice from which other organizations can learn; and
3. To inspire creativity and encourage further innovation in the home care and hospice field.

As the United States approaches the beginning of the baby boom generation's movement into retirement, all demographics point to an overwhelming demand for health care services. The combined need for continued acute care services with an expanding need for care of chronic illnesses will tax an already stressed system. The aggressive pursuit of broader availability of home and community-based services for the disabled as the result of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Olmstead underscores the vital role of hospice and home care in our Nation's health care system.

In recent years technological innovations have permitted increasingly complex services to be delivered at home. At the same time, organizations delivering home-based services have demonstrated a growing sophistication relative to improving and maintaining the quality of care they provide. Home care and hospice present themselves as a viable means to efficiently and effectively meet our Nation's growing health care needs.

The role of home care and hospice has been driven largely by government payers. However, some leaders in the field have taken steps to look beyond the limitations imposed by payer sources and develop and implement a new vision for home care and/or hospice as part of the health care solution.

This award for innovation in home care services is made possible by a generous gift from Cerner BeyondNow.

Guidelines for Award

Each year (2008/2009/2010) \$10,000 will be available to be awarded to an individual or organization that delivers home care and/or hospice services. Award recipients must have made a positive difference in the lives of clients and their families and/or their formal caregivers through implementation of innovative programs or practices (see below for the selection criteria). Individual home care and hospice organizations or individuals are eligible, as are networked organizations that include a home care and/or hospice agency. Eligible individuals or organizations must be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of their program or practices, as well as a plan for its sustainability.

Individuals or organizations may self-nominate or may be nominated by a third party. The nomination form must be completed in full and must be accompanied by three letters from individuals outside of the organization who have worked closely with the program or have received the benefits of the program (i.e. family members and/or patients themselves) endorsing the nomination.

There is no limit on the number of times an individual or organization may be nominated, provided each initiative for which an organization is nominated is unique. An organization that has been selected for the award can receive the award in future years, provided the nomination is for a different initiative. Only one award will be made each year. If no suitable nomination is received in a given year, the award will not be given.

Deadline for 2008 nominations is August 25, 2008.

Evaluation and Award Process

Award nominations will be reviewed by a committee of 6 to 8 home care experts and stakeholders, from across the country, made up of elected board representatives from NAHC's Affiliated Associations as well as a representative from Cerner BeyondNow. The committee will treat all nominations as confidential. From these nominations, a short list of five individuals or companies will

be developed. Nominated individuals or agencies on the short list may be asked to provide additional information or be interviewed by representatives from the panel of experts. Final decisions will be made by September 15, 2008.

The following criteria will be used in selecting the award winners:

- The program/organization delivers some form of home/community health care services;
- The program/organization has demonstrated that it has made positive differences in peoples lives;
- The program/organization demonstrates innovation in the delivery of home and/or hospice care services;
- The program/organization has bridged gaps in policies and/or services that existed before;
- The program/organizational model or innovation/best practice can be adapted in other organizations or settings;
- While recognizing that it is rare for programs/organizations to have undergone a thorough and formal evaluation, some form of evaluation of the program/organization has been completed and the results of that evaluation have been positive;

- There are measurable and specific outcomes from the program; and
- There is a well-articulated plan for sustainability of the program as well as promote adoption by other organizations.

The award winning individual or organization will be invited to a ceremony during the Opening General Session of the NAHC 27th Annual Meeting & Exposition (taking place October 11 – 15, 2008, in Fort Lauderdale, FL) honoring their efforts, and will be expected to collaborate in disseminating information about their program.

They also must be willing to have a representative available to respond to questions by members of the home care and hospice industry during Exhibit hours as part of the NAHC Annual Meeting Exposition.

The winning individual or organization must also agree that, to the extent possible and needed, its representative(s) will make themselves available for interviews and presentations on the program for which the award was made throughout the year.