

For Immediate Release
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Karen Morris Receives NYSHFA/NYSCAL Nurse Leadership Award for Excellence



ALBANY, NY – **Karen Morris, RN, MS**, has received the “Nurse Leadership Award for Excellence” from the New York State Health Facilities Association/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL) for her vast contributions to long term care. Ms. Morris was presented with her award on May 4th at the NYSHFA/NYSCAL Annual Nurse Leadership Conference in Verona, NY.

Karen has been the Director of Clinical and Quality Services at NYSHFA for the past 15 years servicing over 350 Skilled Nursing Facilities across NYS on Clinical, Quality and Facility Operational issues. She successfully completed her undergraduate work with a BSN from SUNY Plattsburgh and continued her post graduate work at Russell Sage College, Troy, New York, earning a Master’s degree in Public Health and Nursing Administration. Karen’s vast experience ranges from acute and long term care nursing and administration including Director of Nursing Services for over 15 years. She has served as adjunct faculty at the SUNYIT School of Nursing and Health Sciences in Utica, New York for the past 12 years. During her tenure, she has taught, developed and evaluated the curriculum for multiple training programs including the Foundation for Quality Care’s comprehensive Leadership Institute for all levels of skilled nursing facility staff from administrators to CNAs. Karen also assisted in developing and facilitating the NYSHFA/NYSCAL Nurse Leadership and Social Work and Activities conferences over the last 15 years. She served on several state and national committees and advisory groups both within the association and in the LTC community and has been published in professional journals. In addition, she has co-authored NYSHFA’s “Investigation Guidelines” for SNF, assisted with the development of a number of NYSDOH programs including the Paid Feeding Assistant Program, the Preventing Elopement Manual and the Incident Reporting Manual. Karen’s commitment to her professional colleagues is evident by her active involvement on the Board of the Association of Nursing Service Administrators, member of the American Medical Director Association, Association of Practitioners on Infection Control.

She also served on American Health Care Association’s Clinical Practice and Survey and Regulatory committees recently providing specific, practical input and recommendations to CMS’ new Requirements of Participation.

Through her career, she has consistently mentored new nurses coming into the field and has been a valued colleague to those she worked alongside. Her strong value of ensuring the resident and their family remain the central focus of all our work was not only modeled in her work life but also as she cared for her parents as they aged.

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The New York State Health Facilities Association/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL) is a member-driven association of providers of long term care services, caring for individuals of all ages in proprietary, not-for-profit, and government-sponsored skilled nursing, post-acute, rehab, adult care and assisted

living communities across the state of New York. NYSHFA/NYSCAL is dedicated to assisting its members in achieving excellence in the provision of efficient and effective quality long term care services through leadership, professional development and active involvement in the shaping of public policy.