



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

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Honoring Alaska's Health Care Workers - ASHNHA Announces 2021 Quality & Patient Safety Awards

September 16, 2021 – During the pandemic, Alaska's health care providers have worked through incredibly challenging circumstances to continue to deliver high-quality patient care programs and support sustainable improvements in quality and patient safety. ASHNHA's annual Quality & Patient Safety awards honor health care workers across the state. This year, the recognition comes at a critical time as health care professionals work long and demanding shifts to battle rising COVID cases and are forced to make incredibly difficult decisions as hospitalizations escalate and capacity is strained.

ASHNHA asks the public to join us in celebrating physicians, front-line workers, care teams, and laboratory staff across four categories. Congratulations to the 2021 awardees – further information can be found about each online at <https://www.ashnha.com/news>.

2021 QUALITY & PATIENT SAFETY AWARDEES:

Innovation in Transformation of Patient Safety- High Reliability Award:

[Denali Center Staff, Denali Center - Foundation Health Partners \(Fairbanks\)](#) Awarded the High Reliability Award for enhancing patient safety through an organizational commitment to high reliability by motivating team members to act, reduce risk, and prevent harm.

[Night Shift Nursing and Telehealth Provider Team - Providence St. Elias Specialty Hospital \(Anchorage\)](#) Awarded the High Reliability Award for the implementation of new telehealth technologies leading to a profound, positive impact in patient safety and quality of care.

Golden Stethoscope Award:

[Dr. Karen Mailer, MD, CMD](#) Medical Director - Providence Transitional Care Center & Providence Extended Care (Anchorage) Awarded the Golden Stethoscope for above-and-beyond ingenuity, improving lives and workforce well-being, while enhancing safety through patient and family engagement.

[Dr. Michael R. Burton, MD](#) Medical Director, Emergency Department - Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (Fairbanks) Awarded the Golden Stethoscope for twenty years of dedication and implementation of hospital-wide initiatives leading to measurable improvements in quality and patient safety.

Front-Line Staff Award:

[Intensive Care Unit Team - Providence Alaska Medical Center \(Anchorage\)](#) Awarded the Front-Line Staff Award for interdisciplinary teamwork and demonstrated excellence in patient safety and quality through an unwavering commitment to improving patient care in the ICU.

[Emilie Otis, Physical Therapy Assistant - South Peninsula Hospital \(Homer\)](#) Awarded the Front-Line Staff Award for vigilance and longevity of effort leading the Unit Peer Leader program which has been instrumental in improving quality patient care while ensuring staff safety.

Beacon Award:

[Southcentral Foundation, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Medical Center, Dr. James J. Tiesinga](#) Awarded the Beacon Award for unwavering commitment to health equity as evidenced by a comprehensive statewide COVID-19 vaccine distribution program and increased lab testing capabilities for the State of Alaska.

ABOUT ASHNHA

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) represents hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and other health care organizations. Our membership is distributed across Alaska's vast expanse of over half a million square miles, from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Southeast Alaska to Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital in Utqiagvik, north of the Arctic Circle. Our diverse association unites every small rural hospital, nursing home, and large hospital system in the state around common goals. For over 60 years, ASHNHA members have worked together to improve health care in Alaska. For more information, please visit www.ashnha.com.