

LeadingAge™ Wyoming

September 2023

Vicki Croft Receives Daniel J. Lex Award for Outstanding Service in Long Term Care



Vicki Croft

Vicki Croft, of New Horizons Care Center in Lovell was presented the Daniel J. Lex Award for Outstanding service in Long Term Care. She received the award during the LeadingAge Wyoming annual meeting on August 30, 2023.

Vicki currently serves as a nursing supervisor and manager of the restorative care department at New Horizons Care Center. She exemplifies what it means to be a caring and compassionate long-term care nurse leader. Vicki has demonstrated a strong commitment to the profession of nursing by nurturing those around her. As a mentor, many of those she has worked with have gone on to pursue additional education and leadership positions in this organization. In the rural healthcare environment, her positive influence has contributed significantly to our workforce. Having pursued her nursing degree as a non-traditional student herself, she effectively relates to and encourages professional growth among all those within her sphere of influence.

Among her peers, Vicki has a reputation that is above reproach. She is highly respected. When she speaks, people listen, and her leadership credibility extends far beyond her formal title. Vicki elevates and sees the good in others, regularly nominating those around her for rewards and recognition. She has also been recognized by leadership and her peers, receiving both employee of the year and leader of the quarter awards for North Big Horn Hospital District.

Vicki puts residents and family members at ease. She has been known to stay late to console a mourning family member or to bring a resident a favored snack from her own home. She laughs big laughs and sheds real tears with her residents in a way so uniquely full of love that it must be observed to be fully appreciated. Perhaps the sincerest way I can think of to convey how powerful she transmits compassion to her residents is this; Other than my own family, if I could choose but one person to care for me in a dire circumstance, I would choose Vicki Croft. While she understands the science of nursing, it is her artistry in the realm of compassion that sets her apart.

Vicki's creativity and innovation were on full display throughout the COVID pandemic. She

developed a traveling program for restorative care, which brought services to individual resident pods and allowed New Horizons residents to continue to receive high quality restorative services in a safe manner. She also helped manage a COVID infusion clinic housed in the nursing home for residents, which was approved under CMS 1135 waivers. Beyond COVID, she regularly contributes resident centric ideas to the interdisciplinary team to improve quality of life.

Above all, Vicki has been dedicated to high quality care over multiple decades. No one makes it that long in nursing without a strong passion for providing high quality care. Vicki is a regular facilitator of QA/QI activities and has been instrumental in New Horizon's CMS star rating improvements.



Wyoming Nursing Homes Receive Quality Health Care Awards

Mountain Pacific is proud to announce the Wyoming recipients of the 2023 Nursing Home Quality Awards. This year's award criteria were based on a quality measure point system that included decreasing adverse drug events, preventing infection, decreasing readmissions, improving resident vaccination rates for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines and a bonus category that acknowledged nursing homes that were never referred to Mountain Pacific from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for a COVID-19 outbreak.

Five Wyoming long-term care facilities met these goals and received their awards during the Wyoming Hospital Association conference held by Leading Age Wyoming in Cheyenne on Wednesday, August 30.

One facility received the Excellence in Quality Award, the top award
South Lincoln Nursing Center

Four facilities received the Achievement in Quality Award:

John's Health – Sage Living
Green House Living for Sheridan
Amie Holt Care Center
Rocky Mountain Care – Evanston

“All our nursing homes in Wyoming have persevered through trials of the pandemic,” said Callie Perkins, Wyoming account manager for Mountain Pacific. “Each has shown a dedication to providing quality care to our communities. Mountain Pacific is thrilled to present these awards and will continue to partner with long-term care facilities across our region to help ensure every resident receives the safest, highest quality of care possible.”

CMS Issues Proposed Rule on Minimum Staffing in Nursing Homes

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Sept. 1 issued a [proposed rule](#) regarding staffing requirements for nursing homes that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. CMS estimates that about 75% of nursing homes would have to increase staffing in their facilities under the proposed standards, which exceed those existing in nearly all states.

Comments on the rule are due 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

As proposed, the policy would:

- require nursing homes to provide a minimum of 0.55 hours of care from a registered nurse per resident day and at least 2.45 hours of care from a nurse aide per resident day;
- implement and enforce standards, regardless of individual facilities' patient case mix;
- require an RN to be on-site at all times; and
- revise requirements to the content of nursing home care assessments.
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If finalized, more than 75% of nursing facilities nationwide would have to increase their staffing.



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