



July 27, 2021

Thank you for submitting a nomination for Kate Burkholder.

Overview

Thank you for your 2021 Community Star Nomination. Here is a copy of the nomination for your records. If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at bcorsaro@powerofrural.org.

Your Information

Mark Depman

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Community Star Nominee: (Organization)

Kate Burkholder

LADC

Treatment Associates, Inc

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Have Questions? Contact:

powerofrural.org | nosorh.org | bcorsaro@powerofrural.org



Which best describes the organization your nominee is associated with?

Rural Health Stakeholder

Please describe your connection to the individual or organization you are nominating.

I am an Emergency Department physician in our rural community hospital and I participate in the Central Vermont Prevention Coalition, our regional substance use and addiction partnership with 21 organizations that support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. We are currently the recipients of a 3-year HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Implementation grant and I serve as Program Director for the grant. Treatment Associates has been a key member of the coalition since its inception and has been key to the needs assessment and strategic plan supporting the work of our grant. In a coalition where everyone is fully engaged in our mission, I continue to be in awe of their “way above and beyond” commitment to our rural communities and people, including those who flow through our ER in crisis.

Please explain the individual’s or organization’s connection to or interaction with their State Office of Rural Health.

Treatment Associates is an addiction medicine clinic that serves as a Preferred Provider for Vermont's Department of Health where the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care resides. It treats people with drug and alcohol addictions, as well as those with co-occurring mental health conditions. In Vermont's Hub and Spoke model for opioid addiction, Treatment Associates is a provider of MAT (Medicated-Assisted Therapy) and

behavioral therapy for many hundreds of individuals and families. Treatment Associates is a highly active member of the Central Vermont Prevention Coalition, which has representation from the Vermont Department of Health's Prevention consultant and District Director, who are actively engaged in our activities.

The Community Star Recognition Program is designed to honor those whose contributions are making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication. What do you believe to be your nominee's "star" qualities? Provide examples of how your nominee demonstrates these qualities in their work and service.

Treatment Associates, led by Dr. Scott Stone and the indefatigable work of Kate Burkholder (LADC) and Clinical Director Anthony Zarriello, have demonstrated a mission-driven willingness to work with community partners and the Emergency Department of our rural community hospital in order to bring the very best of evidence based clinical practice to our patients regardless of ability to pay. They have gone above and beyond anything I have ever seen from a clinical practice. They have been eager partners in innovative programs such as Rapid Access to MAT and referral to treatment through the ER, with a track record of getting patients into treatment and recovery. They have innovated in effective contingency management programs in their clinic, now being adopted in other area clinics. Kate, Anthony and Dr. Stone's leadership in working with the ER this year in developing a pilot program for rapid access to treatment for alcohol addiction (the "elephant in the room", exacerbated by the stressful years now of COVID-19) has been truly remarkable for busy clinical practices. The model we are building for an alcohol-Hub & Spoke model of treatment and referral has already been identified by the state of Vermont as the likely template for state-wide adoption, and TA's example-setting role as "Hub" is critical. Their case management team work tirelessly to help patients and

families overcome barriers to care, assuring their impact across all populations in our region, especially those most vulnerable.

The 2021 Community Star Selection Committee will review and evaluate nominations, making recommendations for which stories to include in this year's book and other NRHD activities based on the following merits. Please review these and select all that apply to your nominee.

Cultivates a vital, innovative rural health landscape and infrastructure. ,
Develops leadership capacity to grow rural population health and health equity. , Builds capacity for rural data-driven program planning and decision making. , Contributes to rural health innovation, education, collaboration, and communication.

Describe in as much detail as possible, examples of your nominee's work and accomplishments that correspond with your selections to the question above.

In addition to that already described, I will focus on commitment of Treatment Associates to our coalition's new initiative "Refocus on Alcohol Dependence (ROAD)". In an already extremely busy, complex, challenging, and effective practice largely focused on opioid and other drug use disorders, Kate, Dr. Stone, Anthony and their staff immediately stepped up and agreed that alcohol addiction and misuse ("the elephant in the room" frustratingly identified by our Emergency Department and primary care staff) needed to be addressed in a new and fresh way. They recognized that Vermont's very workable Hub & Spoke model for treating opioid addiction could be replicated for alcohol use disorders, and volunteered to become a "Hub" accepting patients medically stabilized in the ER or hospital in a 2-year pilot project, with primary care practices coming online as "Spokes" and referral sources. Kate, Anthony, and Dr. Stone have led a collaborative planning group this past year, even during the restraints of COVID-19, bringing forward best clinical practices and data-driven processes that will

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demonstrate program effectiveness. As we move into our implementation phase through 2022 they will be the best examples of “teachers and innovators” that I can imagine having as community partners.

I can confirm that the individual or organization is making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication, and is located, working, or volunteering in a designated rural area.

Yes

I can confirm that I have notified the nominee of their nomination, and the nomination will be accepted.

Yes

How did you learn about the 2021 Community Star Recognition Program?

Other

Technical Assistant at HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

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