

# 2020 Rural Health Champions

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Ceremony Moderated By:

Nancy Gildersleeve, AHI

Executive Director of DSRIP Operations & Fulton PHN







# *History of the Rural Health Champion Awards*

- ❖ Since 1987, AHI has been an independent, non-profit organization supporting hospitals, physician practices, behavioral health providers, community-based organizations, patients and others in our region by sharing the vision and mission of transforming health care and improving population health.
- ❖ For the past six years, the Adirondack Rural Health Network (ARHN), our longest running program at AHI, has asked the region to nominate individuals that exemplify the selfless, community-minded, “can do” spirit that prevails in rural America.
- ❖ This year, ARHN sought to identify individuals who showed exemplary selflessness, leadership and continued delivery of outstanding care in the community during these unprecedented times.



# *Congratulations to our 2020 Rural Health Champions!*



**Angela Bashaw**  
**UVMHN – Alice Hyde**  
**Medical Center**



**Marco DiGirolomo**  
**Senior Plant**  
**Older Adults Technology Services**



**Jacqueline Foster**  
**820 River St., Inc.**  
**The Baywood Center**



**Rebecca Leahy**  
**North Country Home Services**



**Dr. Erica Mahoney**  
**Hamilton County**  
**Public Health**



# 2020 Hospital Rural Health Champion

Angela Bashaw, Director of Programs and Practice Support  
UVMHN – Alice Hyde Medical Center



Excerpt from nomination:

*“As a sole rural hospital, we are always searching for ways to meet the variety of mandates placed on us with shrinking reimbursements. The concept of conversion to Rural Health Clinic status was introduced to us several years ago and Angie Bashaw took the lead on this transformative project. She researched and learned the process that the change required and has led the transformation of our four community health centers and recently our adult primary care center to RHC status. This effort was tremendous and it allows us, as a small organization, to continue to provide quality care and have funds to meet mandates and re-invest in our future needs. Angie's leadership in this conversion is one example of the many projects and initiatives for which she represents our facility.”*

Nominated By: Emily Campbell, AVP of Patient and People Experience  
and Kelly Beach, Director of Medical Practice



# 2020 Community Empowerment Rural Health Champion



Marco DiGirolomo, Program Manager  
Senior Planet/Older Adults Technology Services

Excerpt from nomination:

*"I believe Marco DiGirolomo should be nominated because of his exemplary leadership of Senior Planet North Country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Marco worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County to ensure that their collaborative exercise classes continued during this time. These classes have amassed over 700 older adults from all across the region. With doing all of this, Marco has remained humble and a magnificent leader to all of the Senior Planet North Country team."*

Nominated By: Jamie Sutton, Senior Planet/Older Adults Technology Services



# 2020 Transformation Rural Health Champion

Jacqueline Foster, Director of Outpatient Services  
820 River St., Inc., The Baywood Center



Excerpt from nomination:

*“Before the word Pandemic was used to describe COVID, Jackie was already researching ways in which the Baywood Center could continue to provide services. Jackie's understanding of the disease of addiction knew that continuing care was a necessity in addictive behaviors was looming and she wanted to be pro active before that statistic increased. She spent endless hours in the evening working reports, rewriting policies, finding solutions to every hurdle that she encountered so that our services were never interrupted. Client care has always been Jackie's primary focus throughout her 11 years with this Agency. She never disappoints, goes above and beyond, sacrifices family time and never complains. (at least not openly) What a treasure we ALL have in our midst!”*

Nominated by: Jennifer Neifeld, 820 River St., Inc., The Baywood Center



# 2020 Advocacy Rural Health Champion



Rebecca Leahy, President & CEO  
North Country Home Services

Excerpt from nomination:

*“Becky began her 34-year career in home health care after 17 years as a Registered Nurse working for 7 years in a hospital and 10 years in college health services. She has been an active advocate for access to quality home care in our rural region. Becky is an active member of the Tri-Lakes Aging in Place Task Force and the Caregiving Working Group of Essex and Franklin Counties, facilitated by Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, where she is a leading advocate for promoting the aims of the Home Care Workforce Shortage Crisis Campaign in the Adirondacks. She is a bold and innovative leader in pursuing new opportunities to recruit, retain, and value home care personnel.”*

Nominated by: Donna Beal, Mercy Care for the Adirondacks



# 2020 Public Health Rural Health Champion



Dr. Erica Mahoney, Director of Public Health  
Hamilton County Public Health

Excerpt from nomination:

*"Erica Mahoney's drive and passion for the well-being of Hamilton County residents has always been evident. Often working nights and weekends, Erica has collaborated with multiple stakeholders to ensure the safety and welfare of residents, and employees throughout the county. Despite the chaos and stress the pandemic has created, Erica comes to work each day with a positive attitude, ready for what the day may bring with the team she has assembled at Public Health. Erica continues to create a safe and stable work environment, where her door is always open. This positive energy and positive leadership serves as an example for her staff and for the communities as well."*

Nominated by: Julie Wolfe, Hamilton County Public Health





# *Celebrating our Regional Rural Health Champions*



- ❖ To celebrate our regional champions and to spotlight National Rural Health Day in November, all of the Rural Health Networks of Northern New York have created an advertisement, which will be displayed on social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- ❖ The congratulatory ad will also be featured on the Adirondack Rural Health Network webpage, at [ahihealth.org/arhn](http://ahihealth.org/arhn).
- ❖ A news release will be sent out to the local news outlets announcing the 2020 Rural Health Champions in November.





*Thank you for joining us today!*  
*Congratulations again to our*  
*2020 Rural Health Champions!*

