



## In This Issue

- [Regional News](#)
- [Employee Shining Stars](#)
- [Student Affiliation Program & Clinical Instructors](#)
- [SPOTLIGHT Annual Awards](#)

March 2011



## LETTER FROM THE President



Thankfully Spring is finally here despite the fact that more snow may be on its way! 2011 came in with a bang as we yet again face additional changes to rehabilitation reimbursement (MPPR). Thank you for hanging in there as we embarked on the largest change to our delivery of services since the inception of PPS team in 1998! The fact that there is no better team than PTS was made clear as we recognized leaders and therapists at our year end LTC (see Leadership Training Conference article below).

The year's first newsletter will focus on YOU, continuing the excitement and energy of the December LTC. I am always inspired by the discussions and networking that occurs at our LTCs. Collective commitment to quality, idea sharing and employee recognition are the cornerstones of our LTC and the December conference did not disappoint. We recognized all facilities identified as EXCELLENT in their annual CQI audit, as well as individuals who embody the PTS MISSION. Such a sense of pride! Congratulations to ALL! We also had round table discussions and networking opportunities. At the LTC I heard loud and clear that quality and timely documentation are your top challenges. We have already begun to explore options to overcome some of the challenges we discussed and DOCUMENTATION is the company's focus for 2011. I think we all agree we need to find ways to streamline the process, yet maintain the quality required for regulators. We are exploring all options with the intention to move to quality electronic documentation. You'll be hearing more about it as we progress toward the goal. I have no doubt that we will succeed because of the strength of our premier network of rehabilitation professionals! Just take a look in this newsletter to see how great we are! Be sure to read the US News and World Report "Best Nursing Homes 2011" where you will find 18 facilities as the BEST OF THE BEST...NATIONWIDE. Of the 18 facilities (out of 16,000), three are PTS customers! WOW! Congrats to Alzheimer's Resource Center, Lourdes and Orzac!

Our company mission will be strengthened by the challenges before us and our ability to rise to this challenge will determine our success! I will not give up on this! From my meeting in DC, it is clear that our professions are in the bull's eye target of regulators and lawmakers in an effort to fund healthcare reform. We must continue to proudly represent ourselves as professional clinicians, delivering the highest quality services to our patients and customers. We know the impact we have in our patients' lives every day and so do their families and caregivers. In a time of cost containment, we must make lawmakers, third party payers and regulators aware that by improving patient functional outcomes (by increasing strength, endurance or balance and coordination or improving quality of life by developing compensatory strategies or caregiver education/training) we will save the healthcare system money. Left untreated, the most frail among us in society will not only be forgotten which is unacceptable, but will cost the healthcare system even more in the future. In order to get this point across, we must demonstrate (document) our interventions and record objective, measurable functional outcomes as well. CMS already plans to measure outcomes as they ready for pay for performance or bundling of services for reimbursement. We need a jump start and this is the year to do it! We are all committed to our success which is defined by excellent clinical outcomes for our patients and residents as well as operational success!

I am well aware of the increased burden placed upon all of us with today's scrutiny of our services, but remember, the expectation is that you, as a member of the PTS family will always strive for excellence! There is no doubt that this radical change in reporting, scheduling and documenting our services presents challenges, but know that you are prepared, supported and qualified to rise to the challenge. You are held in high esteem by this company, our facilities and most importantly the patients and their families whose lives you impact every day.

Liz

## Regional NEWS

Looking back at 2010, PTS continued its growth and expansion! The Pines at Utica, The Pines at Catskill and The Pines at Poughkeepsie were added to our ever-growing list of facilities.

With major renovations complete in 2010, The Pines at Utica touts a spacious rehab gym that has increased their treatment space by 600 square feet. It's fully equipped with a re-training kitchen and bathroom, Nu-Step, hi/low mat table, hi/low ADL table, parallel bars and an array of various weights, therabands/tubes, gross motor and fine motor ROM and strengthening equipment. Their full and part time staff of fifteen team members is led by manager, Jason Calcara MS, OTR/L, TPM.



The team at The Pines at Catskill



is comprised of sixteen therapists whose experience includes training in assessment tools such as the Allen Cognitive Level Screen. Ken Dechman, OTR is a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist who has been trained in the unique home modification needs for the older adult population. In addition to a fully equipped physical therapy area, The Pines at Catskill also has a satellite room which houses cardiovascular equipment and acts as a group therapy or quiet treatment room for those patients who need a tranquil exercise environment.

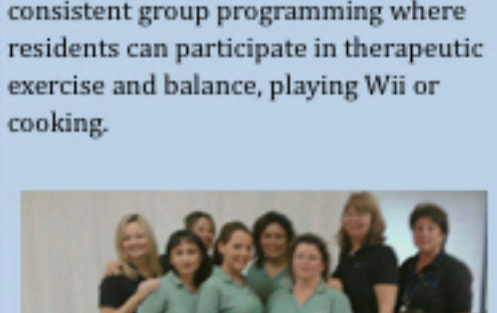


The Pines at Poughkeepsie led by TPM Rean Enriquez, PT, MBA, CSSGB has a newly renovated therapy gym that is equipped with state of the art treatment modalities and exercise equipment. The department provides therapy services seven days a week and also conducts home evaluation to facilitate safe discharge of our short-term rehabilitation patients back to their homes in the community. Also, their rehabilitation department has now become the preferred destination for patients requiring cardiac and orthopedic rehabilitation.

We're pleased to report that our oldest or very first facility, Riverside Rehabilitation, a 2010 Facility Excellence Award recipient, is busy and thriving. Lesley Hodas OTR/L, TPM and recipient of the PTS Leadership Award in 2009 leads a cohesive team at Riverside.



As active participants in the PTS student program, the rehab team educates a large number of therapy students each year. In addition to student programming, the long standing team at Riverside has embraced all methods of treatment provision and maintains consistent group programming where residents can participate in therapeutic exercise and balance, playing Wii or cooking.



## Employee Shining Stars

PTS proudly recognizes its employees who have gone beyond the scope and requirements of their job to further their knowledge, credentials and certifications.

EMPLOYEE	WHY THEY SHINE
Jessica Shaw, PT Cambridge Manor	Credentialed as a CI; Geriatric health and wellness certified
Chandra Rogers, PT Candlewood Valley	Credentialed as a CI
Darlene Piraino, OT Regional	Credentialed as a CI
Tara Bianca, PT Belair	Credentialed as a CI
Vinsee Tang, PT Marlborough Health Care	Certified Lymphedema Therapist
Elizabeth D'Souza, SLP Ludlow	Enrolled in cognitive commun. disorder course
Jennifer Tuz, DPT Regional	Completed DPT program at Univ. of Montana
Brenda Achorn, OT Rutland	Certified Traumatic Brain Injury Therapist
Rean Enriquez, PT, MBA, CSSGB Poughkeepsie	Enrolled in online Doctorate in Health Admin. program

## Student Affiliation Program AND Clinical Instructors

PTS' Student Affiliation Program, which celebrated its first anniversary in December, has impressively grown from nineteen students in 2009 to forty three in 2010! The program has students from fourteen area colleges, ten PTS sites where students can train and twenty two new Clinical Instructors.

PTS' Clinical Instructors who have trained the most students include:

- Angela DiNapoli, OTR/L, Belair: 4 students
- Genevieve Pellicari, OTR/L, Village Crest: 3 students
- Christopher Frombach, OTR/L, Marlborough: 2 students
- Kathleen Boyce, OTR/L, Candlewood: 2 students (one observation student)
- Mary Elizabeth Shaheen, OTR/L, Candlewood: 2 students (one observation student)
- Jill Jeffreys, OTR/L, Maywood: 2 students
- Adrianna Senes, COTA/L, Milford: 2 observation only students
- Pamela Pitts, OTR/L, Riverside: 2 students
- Mark Guzman, OTR/L, Belair: 2 students
- Tara Conway, PT, Belair: 2 students

The following have completed PTS' CI requirements and/or are certified to train future students: Stacy Gaudenzi, OTR/L, Chandra Rogers, PT, Jessica Shaw, PT, Kimberly Alessi, PT, Karen Hansen, PT, Lorraine Dawson, OTR/L, Kimberley Francois, OTR/L, Luz Rivera, PTA, Vinsee Tang, PT, Pavel Kosover, OTR/L, Jessica Lathey, PT, Antonio Zarlengo, OTR/L, Rebecca Irving, OTR/L, Gwen Simon, OTR/L, Jane Mendez, PT

## spotlight

### Annual Awards Presented to Deserving Preferred Employees and Facilities

Preferred Therapy Solutions is proud to acknowledge many members of our exceptional staff who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and leadership. Their outstanding performance warrants these special awards of appreciation and recognition.



#### The Preferred Award

This year's recipient demonstrates leadership, clinical excellence and has achieved the highest net income for the company in a new state-of-the-art social model of delivery care facility. Tina Baronas, COTA/RTL, Mary's Meadow

#### The Leadership Award

The recipient of this award is recognized for his demonstration of sound guidance, decision making and commitment to Preferred. Joseph Menendez, PT/TPM, Orzac

#### The Clinical Excellence Award

This award recipient has demonstrated outstanding clinical skills, patient treatment and contributions not just to the facilities but to the entire company. Chandra Rogers, PT, Candlewood Valley



#### The Wizard Award

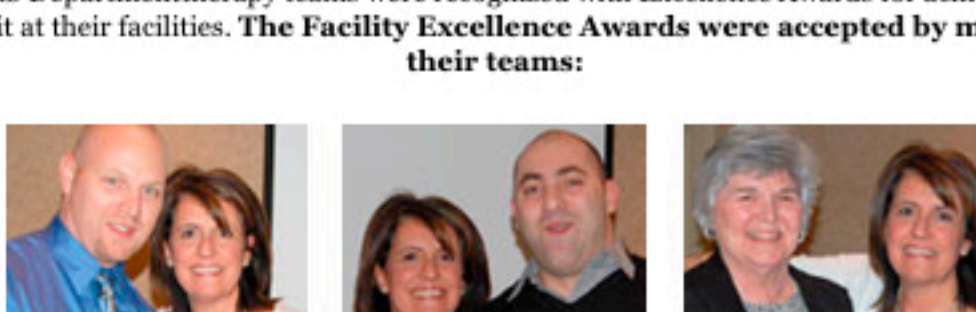
This award winner has the ability to "magically" succeed despite challenging situations and still find time to mentor and lead others! Tara Lyon, OTR/Regional Director

#### The Innovation Award

This award winner has been recognized for her recent commitment to the innovative development of the Student Affiliation Program by taking the program to statewide and nationwide recognition as a stellar industry example for clinical training and experience. Laurie Kolosky, CESC

#### The Facility Excellence Award

The following PTS Rehab Department therapy teams were recognized with Excellence Awards for achieving outstanding scores on the annual CQI audit at their facilities. The Facility Excellence Awards were accepted by managers on behalf of their teams:



1. Mapleview Manor (accepted by David Kusmierski, PTA/TPM), 2. Maywood Center for Health & Rehab (Saif Salim, PT/TPM), 3. Mont Kusmierski Health Care Center (Maureen Burriss, OTR/RTL)



4. Mary's Meadow (Tina Baronas, COTA/RTL), 5. Providence Care Center of Lenox (Kate Gleason, OTR/RTL), 6. Riverside Healthcare & Rehab Center (Lesley Hodas, OTR/TPM)



7. The Pines at Rutland (Wilma Winters, PT/TPM), 8. Belair Care Center (Mark Guzman, OTR, TPM)