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February 4, 2010

## **2010 TECHNOLOGY FORUM A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!**

On January 21, providers from Maine and New Hampshire attended the association's first-ever Technology Forum at the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. By all accounts, it was an exceptional program which offered continuing education credits for sessions conducted by nationally-renowned speakers, and a special keynote address, on trends in the industry which illustrate how technology can improve health care, preserve independence, and ensure quality of life for seniors. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with and see demonstrations by firms which offer innovative technology solutions for providers and seniors.

Here are just some of the comments which attendees shared:

*"This was the best program I've ever attended!"*

*"Our Director of Facilities attended the Technology Forum and gave a presentation at our Leadership Team meeting today. He spoke very highly of the forum, brought back a lot of material, and really promoted the products and services. He said he could have spent 3 days there because he found it so interesting. It was nice having a "nonclinical" person come back so excited about products and services that promote quality of care for our residents. As a direct result of his presentation this morning, we will be pursuing at least one of the technologies."*

*"I found the conference so worthwhile. I wasn't so sure when I registered, but...it far exceeded my expectations. I found the technology fascinating - and can't imagine what will be available in 4-5 years when we'll be getting our new CCRC ready for occupancy."*

The first program, "From the Fun House to the Smart House—Integrating Adaptive and Smart House Technologies Into Your Community," was presented by Jack York, Founder and CEO of It's Never 2 Late; and Jeff Noce, CEO of WellAWARE Systems™. During this session, attendees learned about a variety of adaptive and multi-media technologies that are designed for older adults with physical and cognitive disabilities, particularly dementia; heard about various "smart house" technologies and outcome-based research as to the benefits of using this type of technology in assisted living and home-based environments; and saw case studies of multiple communities throughout the country that have integrated adaptive technology into their programming.

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**Aging Services of Maine and New Hampshire**

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The keynote presentation was offered by David Stern, a Commissioner with the Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST), an affiliate of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). Mr. Stern reviewed the important role that CAST has as it leads the charge to expedite the development, evaluation and adoption of emerging technologies that can improve the aging experience. In his comments, he noted that the proliferation of aging services technologies that aim to improve the care process are closely tied to policies and legislation, which may either facilitate or impede this process. He described the kinds of telehealth technologies now being covered under some Medicaid waivers, and spoke about the federal HITECH Act general landscape as well.

The afternoon session was a two-part program entitled, "Telemedicine Technologies for Long Term Care: Applications and Benefits," presented by Craig Lehmann, Ph.D., CC (NRCC), FACB, Interim Executive Dean for Health Science and Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management at Stony Brook University; and Tony Joseph, Administrator of the Presbyterian Home for Central New York. During the first part of the session, "The Reincarnation of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Digital Health, e-Health Technology," Dr. Lehmann discussed a new healthcare paradigm that includes remote patient monitoring, community health workers and inviting public health back into the clinical care setting. Linking digital health with community health, with the needs of the aged, along with the latest medical and social services, affords the opportunity to empower seniors to navigate health and social systems, thereby increasing their ability to advocate for themselves and pinpoint resources that better satisfy their needs (e.g., physical, psychosocial, social and economic).

Mr. Joseph continued the session with, "Telemedicine and Technology Applications for Those with Parkinson Disease." In 2001, Presbyterian Home for Central New York became the nation's first skilled nursing facility to open a residence specifically for those with Parkinson Disease and other movement disorders. Based on the unique needs of those with Parkinson Disease, a part of the Presbyterian Home facility was transformed into an utterly unique, innovative residence which provides patients with the highest level of care, safety and independence. Mr. Joseph shared the organization's innovative approach to overcoming the many unique challenges presented by Parkinson Disease and their exploration and use of the newest health care technologies, including telemedicine.

Attendees were also provided the opportunity to meet with technology firms during the day to learn more about their products and services. Our thanks to the following firms for their participation in this year's Technology Forum:

#### **CARETRACKER BY RESOURCE SYSTEMS**

Linda Bodin  
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[LBODIN@RESOURCESYSTEMS.NET](mailto:LBODIN@RESOURCESYSTEMS.NET), [WWW.SEECARETRACKER.COM](http://WWW.SEECARETRACKER.COM)

An innovative electronic documentation system proven to improve reimbursement accuracy, clinical outcomes, and compliance using touch screens and portable computers.

## **DAKIM**

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Dakim BrainFitness engages the brain with challenging exercises across six cognitive domains, and turns rigorous cognitive exercise (based on standardized neurological tests and exercises) into a compelling and entertaining experience. Virtually all seniors can benefit from this system, from those with normal brain functions to those with mild cognitive impairment and even moderate dementia...the system is designed to enable seniors to use rigorous cognitive stimulation to prevent or slow the development of dementia.

## **HARPER TECHNOLOGY GROUP (on behalf of GrandCare Systems)**

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Harper Technology Group and GrandCare provide the industry's most comprehensive home and facility health technology infrastructure system that combines communication, wellness, cognitive stimulation, and monitoring for a single, easy-to-use affordable system.

## **IT'S NEVER 2 LATE**

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It's never too late to introduce the power of technology to the elders in your community. At It's Never 2 Late, we build computer systems that empower individuals to connect, engage and enjoy life through the benefits of today's technology, and we've been doing it longer than any other company. 400 care centers across the United States use our systems to provide their residents' activities, internet access and rehab.

## **LIVING INDEPENDENTLY TECHNOLOGY**

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Our program is known as ContinuaCare. We provide products and services that allow the elderly to remain home and independent through the use of technology specializing in the medical home model.

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Serving over 800 customers and 150,000 residents worldwide, Touchtown is the senior living industry's first choice for community information solutions, providing lifestyle and safety-enhancing product lines. All Touchtown products work as an integrated solution, linking senior community residents, families, staff and prospects with each other, keeping them safe and connected with the life of their community. Touchtown provides value to its customers by increasing operational efficiency, extending marketing reach, reducing risk, and improving overall resident satisfaction, thereby increasing sales, occupancy and referrals.

## **WELLAWARE SYSTEMS™**

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WellAWARE™ Systems develops next-generation wellness monitoring solutions for the full continuum of senior care including home health, independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing. These technology-based systems are designed and engineered to provide meaningful physiological data to caregivers and family members in support of improved healthcare. WellAWARE™ Systems, in partnership with Volunteers of America (VOA) and The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society (GSS), offers the opportunity for proactive, unobtrusive and passive monitoring through an innovative approach to wellness and safety.