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**Billie Lynn Allard Designated as American Academy of Nursing Edge Runner for
Accountable Community of Health**

*Implementation of Nurse-Designed Model of Care with Broad Spectrum of Community Programs
Improves Patient Outcomes by Addressing Root Causes Impacting Health*

Washington, D.C. (October 8, 2018) — The American Academy of Nursing today recognizes Billie Lynn Allard, MS, RN, as an American Academy of Nursing Edge Runner for her program, Accountable Community of Health. Edge Runners are nurses who have designed innovative models of care or interventions which improve health, impact cost, and influence policy. Ms. Allard serves as administrative director of Population Health and Clinical Ambulatory Services at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

To provide an effective alternative to the fee-for-service model of health care in the United States, Billie Lynn Allard designed a program which engages multiple community sectors, reduces duplication in services, and shifts acute care resources into the community as part of an integrated care delivery system free to patients. From primary care offices, to hospitals, to skilled nursing facilities, Accountable Community of Health engages cross-sector professionals including nurses, social workers, pharmacists, physical therapists, and community partners to improve patient health through prevention, timely and responsive quality care, and coordination of services.

“The Accountable Community of Health model not only responds to patients’ needs, it anticipates them and puts knowledgeable, caring professionals in position to meet patients’ needs when it matters,” said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, Rn, FAAN. “Being part of a community, whether in the context of a neighborhood or in the Accountable Community of Health model, is an essential aspect of well-being.”

Through its cross-sector programs, Accountable Community of Health achieved 56.1% reduction in hospital admissions and observations status visits among high risk patients over 180 days, with a sustained decrease of 46.8% over a one year period. Patients working with a Certified Diabetes Educator in primary care practices saw a 12.4% reduction in their A1C. After six months of intervention, these and other successes from the model’s programs are estimated to result in significant cost avoidance.

“I am honored to be designated an American Academy of Nursing Edge Runner,” Ms. Allard said. “As a nurse it is a privilege to work with and on behalf of community members to transform care delivery while meeting the quadruple aim in a value based payment model.

Read of full profile of this Edge Runner program here: <http://www.aannet.org/initiatives/edge-runners/profiles/edge-runners--accountablecommunity>

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