For Immediate Release

March 26, 2018

SAVE THE DATE: Decisions Day Café
The Importance of Healthcare Decision Making

Attleboro, MA – Despite recent gains in public awareness of the need for advance care planning, studies indicate that most Americans have not exercised their right to make decisions about their healthcare in the event that they cannot speak for themselves.

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) was established to help Americans understand that making future healthcare decisions includes much more than deciding what care they would or would not want; it starts with expressing preferences, clarifying values, identifying care preferences and selecting an agent to express healthcare decisions if patients are unable to speak for themselves.

Make your decisions now, rather than later. Attend Decisions Day Café, Wednesday, April 18th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Mansfield Adult Day Health Center, 300 Branch Street, Mansfield, MA. This program is free and open to the public. Decisions Day Café is designed to help families understand issues related to healthcare decisions and to initiate what can often be difficult conversations related to advance care planning. Topics will include: health care proxies, durable power of attorney, living wills, comfort care orders, MOLST (Massachusetts Orders of Life Sustaining Orders), and advance care directives. Speakers will include a physician, hospice nurse, social worker, and legal expert.

For additional information, or to register, please call 508.222.0118, ext. 1308, or email register@communityvna.com.

The NHDD initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

According to Kathy Trier, Executive Director and CEO, “Community VNA is committed to increasing
awareness of the benefits of advance care planning so that community members will be familiar with how to obtain and complete a healthcare power of attorney and/or living will, and will be able to talk to others about their decisions.”

According to the Pew Research Center
- 71% of Americans have thought about their end-of-life treatment preferences,
- 95% have heard of a living will, but
- only 29% had a living will.

Similarly, according to a study conducted by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, only 26.3% of respondents had an advance directive.

“In addition to this event, Community VNA staff are available to answer questions for those who want to learn about advance care planning, to assist with completing advance directives and to honor those wishes when they become clinically relevant,” Trier said.

About Community VNA
Community VNA has been dedicated to enhancing health, wellness and quality of life for more than 100 years, providing a range of services, including: Home Health Care, Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Private Care, Adult Day Health Care, Alzheimer’s Assistance Program, as well as Lifeline services and annual Elder Dental Clinics.

Community VNA has been awarded 2017 Home Care Elite Status (ranked among the top 25% of home health care agencies nationwide) marking the sixth year of this recognition. This recognition is based on publicly available performance measures in quality outcomes, best practice implementing patient experience, quality improvement and consistency, and financial performance.

About Adult Day Health Care
Community VNA adult day health centers in Mansfield, Norwood and Taunton serve frail elders, adults with medical needs, and disabled adults of any age who need nursing care, social services and supportive assistance during the day. Adult day health care offers an affordable cost-effective day program that provides professional medical care as well as caregiver respite. Services can be covered by various programs, such as HESSCO Elder Services, Bristol Elder Services, Old Colony Elder Services, Tri-Valley Elder Services, Medicaid, and certain long term care insurance as well as private pay.
Press Release

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All inquiries about care for your loved one, rates and transportation are welcome. Please contact the centers to schedule a visit, or for more information, as follows:

Mansfield Adult Day Health Center
300 Branch Street
Mansfield, MA 02048
508.339.2119
mansfieldadhc.com

Norwood Adult Day Health Center
595 Pleasant Street
Norwood, MA 02062
781.769.4495
norwoodadhc.com

Harmony Adult Day Health Center
725A Myles Standish Boulevard
Taunton, MA 02780
508.880.3000
harmonyadhc.com

For more information, visit www.communityvna.com, or follow Community VNA on Facebook.

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