

Home Health of Midwest Covenant Home

The Midwest Covenant Home Board of Directors met in 2016 to create a strategic plan offering direction for the future of health care services in our area. One of the goals in that strategic plan was to create a home health agency with local providers to complete the continuum of health care services delivered by Midwest Covenant Home. In May 2017, the first step on this quest was taken. Home Health of Midwest Covenant Home became a licensed home health agency by completing a two day survey by a State of Nebraska inspector. At that time, we learned that we had much to achieve before receiving the gold seal awarded by The Joint Commission signifying accreditation and therefore, certification in Home Health. Our quest for the gold seal had started.

The first patient was admitted for care on May 17, 2017. The staff consisted of an RN, a Home Health Aide and contracted physical and occupational therapy staff. Staff was excited to serve this inaugural patient in their home. The first milestone in this quest was to reach an unduplicated census of 10 patients. So we welcomed the referrals for new patients. In July 2017, we added another RN to help with these many referrals. In early October 2017, the unduplicated census number was reached as well as an active patient caseload of seven patients – the second milestone of the quest. We anxiously awaited the inspection from The Joint Commission. Finally in February 2018 after delays and more inspections, Home Health of Midwest Covenant Home met the requirements from The Joint Commission and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to be awarded the gold seal of accreditation from The Joint Commission. CMS has assigned Home Health of Midwest Covenant Home the certification number allowing billing for Medicare and Medicaid services effective February 15, 2018. It was not a quest for the faint hearted as we experienced numerous highs and lows in this process. The dedication to this mission and support received from the Midwest Covenant Home Board of Directors has been invaluable. They supplied the vision to propel Home Health of Midwest Covenant Home toward completion of this quest.

To date, we have made 546 skilled nursing visits, 242 PT visits, 88 OT visits and 246 Home Health Aide visits for a grand total of 1122 home visits! If you are interested in hearing more about home health care in our area, please feel free to call 402.764.2348 and talk with any of our staff. We are available to provide skilled services in the comfort of your home by skilled professionals who live right here in our community.

Until June, the agency had been housed within the campus of Midwest Covenant Home but had planned, from inception, to find an office location closer to the downtown of Stromsburg. Allen and Cindy Miller, of Family Barber, located at 101 W 5th Street, Stromsburg, agreed to lease the south side of their building to the agency and on Tuesday June 5, the agency made the big move.

The staff has settled in and is enjoying the new location. This new site offers an opportunity to be closer to downtown while having space dedicated exclusively to the home health services. Within the first several weeks, the agency staff has already had several inquiries for services simply by seeing them at the new location.

Director of Home Health Services Sheila Bjerrum and Staff Nurse Talia Peterson are both working from the new office and can be contacted there throughout the week but they do not have specific office hours each day so calling ahead is always suggested. The contact information for the agency remains the same. Staff can be reached at 402.764.2348 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

