

PRESS RELEASE



Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.

NKHS bids farewell to beloved Psychiatrist, Dr. Paula Kirby-Long.

Eric T. Grims
Executive Director

A farewell reception was held on Thursday, June 29th at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum to honor Dr. Paula Kirby-Long who is leaving Northeast Kingdom Human Services to pursue a fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. The reception was attended by many community primary and behavioral health services providers as well as staff and Board members of NKHS.

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Dr. Long has been a full-time staff psychiatrist for NKHS for the past seven years, serving primarily Community and Rehabilitation Treatment consumers in the St. Johnsbury office.

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Because NKHS seeks to treat the whole person and therefore understands the need to integrate mental health, substance abuse and primary care, NKHS began collaboration with Northern Counties Health Care and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Corner Medical to provide behavioral health services in primary care settings in 2005. Dr. Long provided psychiatric evaluations and consultations at the Danville Health Center (where referrals from all the Northern Counties Health Centers were seen) and Corner Medical one day per week. These unique services help to eliminate barriers to treatment by allowing access in a stigma free environment for individuals to get the care they need.

www.nkhs.net

This initiative will continue once a new psychiatrist is hired. NKHS is actively recruiting nationwide with interest being shown from doctors in California, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Florida.

The agency recognizes the need to treat the person and not the disorder, thus, they have integrated mental health and substance abuse programs under one division. The goal is to create one door for patients, excellent evaluations, appropriate referrals, person centered, strength-based treatment and an environment that supports recovery.

To that end, NKHS has begun construction of new, 24,000 sq. ft., state of the art office building on Portland Street that will house all programs under one roof. Co-locating mental health, substance abuse and developmental services in one facility will promote true integration of treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders and reduce administrative costs of staffing two outpatient facilities.

The overall mission of Northeast Kingdom Human Services is to provide responsive and efficient community-based consumer-sensitive, Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services to residents of the Northeast Kingdom; Orleans, Essex and Caledonia counties.

Providing
Community-Based
Behavioral Health,
Substance Abuse
and
Developmental Services

Tri-County
Substance Abuse Services

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