



Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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Phil Scott, Lieutenant Governor

March 25, 2014

Beth Rusnock
National Life Group Community Foundation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05609

RE: Grant application by Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice

Dear President Rusnock:

I write today to offer my support for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice's letter of interest for a grant for its Telehealth Program. I understand that this program received NLGCF grant funding in 2012, and I believe it's worthy for serious consideration again in 2014.

During my four years as Lieutenant Governor, I've spent nearly 30 days working at various Vermont businesses as part of my "Everyday Jobs" Tour. One of my jobs was at CVHHH, where I saw first-hand the positive impacts the Telehealth Program has on both patients and caregivers. Given Vermont's aging population and our financial constraints, the benefits of this program cannot be underestimated. Monitors are placed in the homes of clients, which are able to convey blood pressure, glucose levels, oxygen levels and weight to a central Telemonitoring Nursing station at CVHHH's offices in Berlin. The nurse is then able to immediately review the readings and contact the client by phone to re-check any anomalies, and even contact the client's primary care physician to advise them of any readings of concern to the client's health.

Hospitalization rates for patients in the Telehealth Program are below the state and national averages and overall costs to the health care system are often reduced. Furthermore, the Program indicates improved patient behavior related to decisions about diet and exercise, for example, as the patients embrace more personal accountability, especially in the comfort and privacy of their own homes. I am also aware that the nonprofit Home Health Industry is working with our State Legislature and Congressional Delegation to address reimbursement for this important program, which does not currently exist.

Technology continues to develop in this arena and funding from the National Life Group Community Foundation will help CVHHH update and continue this significantly important service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott". The signature is stylized with a large "P" and "S" and a cursive "Scott".

Phil Scott
Lt. Governor, State of Vermont