



About Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley and the Community Health Connections Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley was an active leader within the NJLN where she notably served as NJLN President from 1986 – 1988.

Dr. Foley had more than 50 years in nursing and had occupied a leadership positions for greater than 40 of those years. She began her nursing career as a staff RN at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, New York City and advanced to be the clinical nursing manager of neonatal ICU. Dr. Foley accepted a position at the Bayonne Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (BVNA) in 1967 and she was the President/CEO and Board Member of the BVNA from 1984 -2016. Dr. Foley proudly and passionately dedicated her career to the BVNA, the community of Bayonne and Hudson County by being responsible for the leadership and overall management of the Agency inclusive of employees, facility, litigious and fiscal matters. She participated in local, state and national matters while advising the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees on matters related to functions, standards of practice, qualifications, compensation and personnel policies.

Dr. Foley led the Agency through some of the most challenging eras of community health nursing with annual mandatory regulatory changes. She and her staff, in response to these changes, applied themselves and immediately implemented the necessary changes clinically, fiscally and operationally. She was a known leader in this effort and shared her experience generously with other Visiting Nurse Associations to accomplish all the necessary changes.

The BVNA as a not-for-profit organization founded in 1921, provided over 91 years of service as a home health and hospice agency working with physicians, families and hospitals. Dr. Foley was instrumental in her 48-years plus tenure with the BVNA in having expanded the Agency into all of Hudson County and Southern Bergen counties with programs such as telehealth monitoring, quality improvement programs for both the home health and hospice programs, initiating an electronic medical record for office and field clinical staff utilization, mentorship and internship programs for bachelor's and master's level students with New York University, St. Peter's University, New Jersey City University, Monmouth University, and Christ and Bayonne Schools of Nursing.

Dr. Foley was appointed by Governor Florio in 1990 to a six-year term on the Board of Nursing. The Board is a regulatory body which oversees and regulates the practice of Nursing in New Jersey. In 1989, she was appointed by Governor Kean to his Nursing Shortage Commission to develop recommendations on how to prepare nursing personnel to meet the health care needs of New Jersey residents effectively and promptly. Nationally, Dr. Foley was a member of the Board of Governors of the National League for Nursing and past President of the New Jersey League for Nursing. She completed 10-terms on the Board of the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP), which is a national organization based in Washington, DC, that oversees Home Health, & Hospice Care and awards accreditations requiring intensive survey site visits. Dr. Foley served on this Board as its Treasurer twice, Vice Chair, Chair, and lastly as their immediate Past Chair.

Dr. Foley also held several academic appointments for teaching and served on advisory boards to Seton Hall University, Wagner University, St. Peter's University, Christ Hospital, and Thomas Edison University.

Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley (Continued)

Dr. Foley was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the National Honor Society of Nursing. Dr. Foley received several citations, inclusive of two separate Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community from Congressman Robert Mendez and one from Congressman Steven Rothman. Another citation was received from the NJ State Assembly for Guiding the Community in All Major Decisions Which Resulted in More Comprehensive Health Care Services in the Community. She received an award for demonstrating leadership at the local, state, and national levels by the National League for Nursing and the National Forum of Administrators of Nursing Services over the years of her 48-year plus career. She also received a Nursing Leadership Award from the NJ State Nurses Association and named to the New Jersey State Nursing Association Hall of Fame.

Dr. Foley was a local, regional, state and nationally requested speaker for Bayonne Medical Center, Bayonne Kiwanis, Bayonne Cable Vision, New Jersey Board of Nursing, New Jersey League for Nursing, Christ Hospital School of Nursing, St. Peter's University, New Jersey State Nurse Association, Nebraska League for Nursing, New Mexico League for Nursing, Home Care Association of New Jersey, New Jersey League for Nursing, Seton Hall University, Union County College, Ocean Medical Center, Ocean County College, Philippine Nurses Association, Community Health Accreditation Program, National League for Nursing, and National Association of Home Care on various timely requested professional leadership, nursing and best practice topics.

Dr. Foley was also the recipient of the prestigious Martha Esposito Award, which recognized her leadership in home health & hospice care from the Home Care Association of NJ. Locally through the years, she had been the recipient of the United Cerebral Palsy Award for Community Service, Distinguished Citizen of Bayonne Ireland's 32 for outstanding contribution for Health Care in the Community, the Kiwanis Achievement Award for contribution to community service, and a Citation from Hon. Joseph A. Doria, Jr. for guiding the community in all major decisions, which resulted in more comprehensive health care services in the community.

Additionally, as a graduate of Holy Family Academy (HFC) and a visionary leader, with a life's passion for the profession of nursing and the educational and career advancement of women, in 2011 Dr. Foley was the recipient of her high schools, inaugural community award, HFA's "Woman of Vision."

Prior to the sale of the Bayonne Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice in 2016, Dr. Foley with her visionary leadership, was instrumental in the creation of Community Health Connections Foundations (CHCF), Inc., a not-for-profit grantmaking private foundation. Albeit CHCF is not as a direct provider of health care services, like the former BVNA, CHCF's mission and purposes are very much aligned with the BVNA's mission and purposes.

The Foundation's proud mission is to operate exclusively to provide support for charitable purposes, by connecting grants and donations to non-profit and federally tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations and programs that are dedicated to health, healthcare services, and health education in the State of New Jersey. Through innovative strategic collaborations and resource connections, the most vulnerable individuals, families and unmet community health needs will most benefit from the services and opportunities that will enable them to achieve their best quality of life and full potential.