

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

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Nominations Sought for 2014 Governor's Award for Quality Care

DES MOINES, IOWA (January 13, 2014) – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 Governor's Award for Quality Care in Health Care Facilities. The Governor's Award recognizes Iowa health care facilities that offer unique or innovative activities to enhance the quality of care or quality of life for their residents. Nominations are open to all health care facilities licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135C, which include nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and intermediate care facilities, including those facilities specializing in the care of persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. Not eligible for nomination are assisted living programs, elder group homes, or hospital-based nursing facilities as these facilities are not licensed under the Iowa Code chapter establishing the Award program.

Last year, two long-term care facilities were selected to receive the 2013 Governor's Award – Vera French Pine Knoll, a 60-bed residential care facility for persons with mental illness (RCF/PMI) located in Davenport, and Stonehill Care Center, a 177-bed nursing facility located in Dubuque. Since the first awards were presented in 2001, a total of 47 awards have been presented to 42 individual facilities.

Residents and family members may nominate an Iowa-licensed long-term care facility for the award. Facilities may not nominate themselves for this recognition. In order to be considered for a 2014 Governor's Award, nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2014. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) at 515-281-7102. Forms also may be downloaded from the Department's web site at <http://dia.iowa.gov>.

All nominations must state the reason the facility should be considered, such as any unique services provided by the facility to its residents, and any activities undertaken by the facility to enhance the quality of care or quality of life for its residents. A facility's compliance history and whether it accepts residents for whom costs are paid by the Medicaid program are also factors used in the determination of eligibility for a Governor's Award. Upon receipt by DIA, the nominations will be evaluated and a list of finalists prepared. Under Iowa law, no more than two facilities from each Congressional District may be selected for a Governor's Award.

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