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Home Health Care ■ Hospice Care ■ Private Care

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VNA of Boston Course on Caring for Clients at the End of Life
15 Home Health Aides and Companions Participated



L-R: 3rd row: Keren Diamond, Margo Bourne, Jameela Philip, Adele Pike, Julia Luby, 2nd row: Cheryl Colbert, Katie Tardiff, Patricia Caron of Commonwealth Corporation, 1st row: Carline Charles, Jennifer Udemba, Louisiana Cenat Francois, Ballard Andrews, Ursula Philip, & Sarah Sheriff.

Boston, MA – The VNA of Boston (VNAB) & Affiliates Hospice and Palliative Care Course is complete! This summer, 15 VNA Private Care (*the private pay affiliate of the VNAB*) Home Health Aides and Companions completed a six part course focused on caring for clients at the end of life. The course was made possible through a Clinical Skills Grant of the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI), funded through the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, administered by the Commonwealth Corporation.

Classes covered topics such as “Who are the Members of the Hospice Team”, “When and Where Aides and Companions Should Call for Help”, “How Aides Can Help Ease a Client’s Pain”, “Anxiety and Shortness of Breath”, “Aide’s Role at the Time of Death”, and “How Aides and

Companions Can Take Care of Themselves When Caring for Hospice Clients”. Additionally, there were skills sessions where participants learned to give hand massages and use distraction and relaxation techniques as well as learning how to help clients take medications using the hand over hand method and other techniques.

According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization it is estimated that more than 1.45 million people received hospice services last year. Home Health Aides and Companions are integral to the Hospice Care Team and provide an incredible amount of support and help to the patient and their family. The VNAB is proud of the continuing education classes they offer to employees. It is because of these courses that VNA Private Care is now able to offer caregivers that are specially trained in Memory Care for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and Dementia and caregivers trained in Hospice and Palliative Care for those needing end of life support. For more information on VNA Private Care and the services they offer, please call (781) 431-1484 or visit us online at www.vnaprivatecare.com.

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Celebrating our 125th year, the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston & Affiliates provides home healthcare through the VNA of Boston, end-of-life support through VNA Hospice Care and private pay services through VNA Private Care. We coordinate superior care across the continuum – for all ages, healthcare needs, and income levels – so that our patients and their families throughout Greater Boston have peace of mind and, most importantly, can live independently at home. We are accredited by the Joint Commission and certified by Medicare and Medicaid.