

leaders in these highly productive sessions, as well as the active participation, expertise and leadership of the individual Quality Committee and Hospice/Palliative Care Forum members. HCA looks forward to our further work with these participants and will keep the full association membership closely apprised of our progress.

For further information, please contact a member of the HCA Policy staff.

Vote for NY Nurse Dea Kuiper to Receive 2013 NAHC Nurse of the Year Award

Voting ends on August 13 to select the National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) 2013 Nurse of the Year. Nominees include **Dea Kuiper** of HCA Member VNA Homecare in Syracuse.

HCA urges colleagues to vote for Ms. Kuiper's nomination on NAHC's website at <http://www.nahc.org/consumer-information/2013-nurse-of-the-year-nominees/>. (Click the "Vote Here" button on the bottom of the page.)

Members will recall that Ms. Kuiper appeared on the cover of HCA's 2011 *Faces of Home Care* calendar. The May 2013 edition of NAHC's *Caring Magazine* also has Ms. Kuiper on its cover for a story which highlights the 50 award finalists. Ms. Kuiper is among the top ten finalists nationally. The winner will be announced at NAHC's Annual Meeting & Exposition on October 31 to November 3, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Here's Ms. Kuiper's story, as excerpted from NAHC's website:



I'm Dea Kuiper, and I'm a nurse at VNA Homecare in Syracuse, New York. My 10-year-old patient Fardowsa Suleiman had Eisenmenger's Syndrome and weighed 63 pounds. She had respiratory problems, was oxygen dependent, and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after watching her parents killed in Somalia's civil war. She had come here with her aunt, Sadya Dahir, seeking surgery or a heart/lung transplant. When I visited their humble home I saw a brave woman who cared deeply for her niece and a small girl who didn't let suffering rob her spirit. I helped them by making sure Fardowsa was home schooled, bringing a fan to lessen the heat that aggravated her condition, and arranging for payment of the expenses incurred in running oxygen 24/7. Fardowsa couldn't speak English, but she thanked me with smiles and touches of her hand.

For more information, please visit www.nahc.org.

MLTC Updates

On last week's Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Implementation Advisory Group call, the state Department of Health (DOH) provided some updates on the mandatory MLTC enrollment of individuals receiving non-institutional long term care services for more than 120 days.

The updates included the following:

- Mandatory MLTC enrollment for Orange and Rockland counties has been delayed pending approval by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). While the initial general education letters