



7125 Fauntleroy Way S.W. • Seattle, WA 98136-2008 • (206) 937-2800
www.thekenney.org

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**Contact: René F. Dumas, Executive Director
(206) 937-2800 or RDumas@TheKenney.org**

The Board and Administration of The Kenney are announcing a new direction for care services. This new direction will offer residents new opportunities for quality skilled nursing care with expanded therapy services, access to more Medicare advantage plans and other benefits. The new direction will also increase emphasis on wellness and preventative care, as well as increase care services in less institutional settings.

The first step in this new direction is to close The Kenney Health Center effective February 1st, 2018. This may come as a surprise to residents and staff, but rest assured that this decision was arrived at after a long period of thoughtful consideration. In recent years the use of the Health Center by Kenney residents has been limited, and the small size of this operation has limited what we are able to offer our residents. On a regular basis, Kenney residents face the dilemma of not being able to use a number of Medicare advantage plans at the Kenney, because the Kenney is not able to be a provider in many networks. Additionally, the small size of the Kenney Health Center limits the type and frequency of therapy services that can be provided, and the benefits from those services that our residents need and deserve. In making this change, the Kenney will be joining a growing number of continuing care retirement communities nationwide who are moving away from operating their own skilled nursing facility on-site.

We believe we can offer more opportunities and a high quality service to our residents by partnering with other skilled nursing facility providers, and we have taken steps to solidify those partnerships to assure access for our residents. To address this need, The Kenney is partnering with Kline Galland, Seattle Washington and surrounding area Skilled Nursing Providers. These are five-star rated providers with a long history and reputation for providing quality care in our community, and are providers that many Kenney residents have utilized previously. Current residents of The Kenney Health Center and their families are being notified of the upcoming change, and are being offered assistance with the transition. Information will be provided to Kenney residents soon, outlining the coordination support that will be provided for residents needing to transition in the future either to expanded assisted living services at the Kenney, or skilled nursing care provided at our partner providers.

Carefully transitioning our skilled nursing facility residents to the care of competent, quality partner providers is a significant and important first step. Once this process is completed, we will be focusing on new opportunities to enhance preventative care, wellness and supportive services that help residents maintain independence and health for as long as possible. As we move forward with these changes we are committed to assist those employees impacted directly by the transition to other opportunities, including other positions at The Kenney where possible.

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