

# Community Health

## Dr. Melissa Volansky our new executive medical director

Dr. Melissa Volansky, a doctor at Stowe Family Practice since 1999, is the new executive medical director for Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley. She will continue to see her panel of patients at SFP, in addition to overseeing CHSLV's medical practices. Volansky replaces Dr. David Coddaira, who has stepped down as executive medical director, but will continue to practice medicine at Morrisville Family Health Care.

Dr. Volansky has a special interest in adverse childhood experiences and how they relate to chronic diseases. "The more adverse conditions children endure, the more likely they are to have diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, depression, and addiction," she explains. "We want to develop an approach to these patients that increases their resilience and lowers their health risks. This is an exciting area of medicine that is being researched worldwide."

She would also like to see improvements in the way electronic medical records are incorporated into the medical field, so that they don't take away from practitioners' time and enjoyment of work. "Electronic medical records have been a challenging adjustment for the entire field of medicine. I am committed to improving our use of the EMR for both the patient and practitioners' experience."

Another concern is opioid addiction. "Our opioid addicted population is a crisis. We need to keep a strong support staff, including Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the MAT (Medication

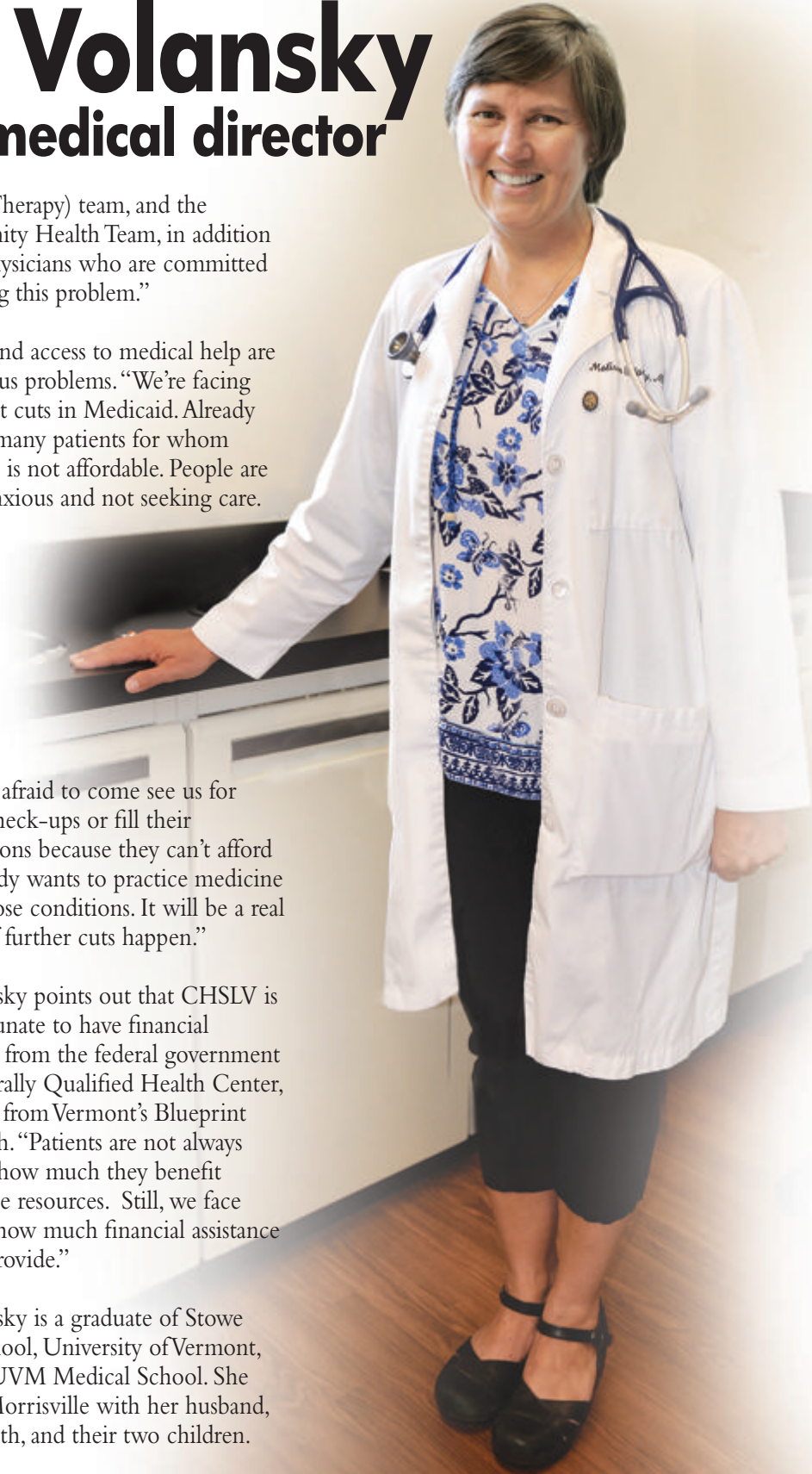
Assisted Therapy) team, and the Community Health Team, in addition to our physicians who are committed to treating this problem."

Poverty and access to medical help are also serious problems. "We're facing significant cuts in Medicaid. Already we have many patients for whom insurance is not affordable. People are feeling anxious and not seeking care.

They are afraid to come see us for regular check-ups or fill their prescriptions because they can't afford to. Nobody wants to practice medicine under those conditions. It will be a real disaster if further cuts happen."

Dr. Volansky points out that CHSLV is very fortunate to have financial assistance from the federal government as a Federally Qualified Health Center, as well as from Vermont's Blueprint for Health. "Patients are not always aware of how much they benefit from these resources. Still, we face limits in how much financial assistance we can provide."

Dr. Volansky is a graduate of Stowe High School, University of Vermont, and the UVM Medical School. She lives in Morrisville with her husband, Shap Smith, and their two children.



# CHSLV Annual Meeting 2017

This year's CHSLV annual meeting was held on Monday, June 26th, at the Charlmont in Morrisville. Speakers included Kevin Kelley, president/CEO; Rich Jacobs, CHSLV's incoming board chair, and David Coddaira, MD, executive medical director. George Twigg, state director, office of rep. Peter Welch at the U.S. house of representatives was guest speaker. The evening was complemented with a ceremony awarding CHSLV Annual Spirit Awards. The awards were presented by Kevin Kelley, president/CEO and Rich Jacobs, CHSLV's incoming board chair.



Board Spirit Award recipient, Max Neal



Board Spirit Award recipient, Valerie Valcour



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Meghan Albrecht  
LICSW/AAP



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Mary O'Toole  
Case Manager, AAP



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Anne Pilbin,  
CPC



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Darcy Bohannon,  
CPC



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Danielle Mears,  
Dental Assistant



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Stephanie Borts,  
MSW



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Carol Kapusta



Annual Spirit Award recipient, Hallie Barney



Unsung Hero Award recipient, Barb McWherter



Board Spirit Award to the staff recipient,  
Ann Reed, RDH



Board Spirit Award to the staff recipient,  
Nichole Bailey, LPN

Annual Spirit Award recipients, not in attendance, include: Laurie Dore, RN; Gloria Tuthill, RN; and Ashley Barry. Diana Smith received the Board Spirit Award to the staff.

David Coddaira, MD,  
executive medical director,  
addresses the attendees.



George Twigg, state director, office of rep. Peter Welch at the U.S. house of representatives was guest speaker.

