

carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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“Through the collaboration and innovation of these and many other partners, Care New England’s vision to create a community of healthier people is one step closer to being realized.”

In this issue:



Going beyond the traditional “good day” I begin my column with each week, I’d like to acknowledge what was truly a “great day” for Care New England and many others focused on building collaborations within our communities that will ultimately result in high-quality, affordable health care for all Rhode Islanders.

Last Tuesday, the Rhode Island Foundation awarded \$2.7 million in grants from its Fund for a Healthy Rhode Island to improve the quality and affordability of health care across the state. More than \$2 million of this grant funding, including the one received by Care New England, was awarded to initiatives focused on testing payment models that integrate and align incentives to address public health, social services and behavioral health; encourage collaboration; and test safety-net provider participation in payment reform. Of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s “Triple Aim” approach to optimizing health system performance, payment reform is perhaps the most difficult challenge we face.

That is why I am thrilled to report that Care New England Health Care will receive \$520,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Rhode Island to develop a Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO). Its goal will be to more effectively manage the physical and behavioral health of 15,000 Medicaid patients statewide. Working with Integra Community Care Network, Care New England will establish a Medicaid ACO in partnership with Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation, South County Hospital, Thundermist Health Center, federally qualified health centers, the Rhode Island Medicaid office, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and other partners. We will work together to establish the required infrastructure to coordinate care for Medicaid patients, particularly those with multiple co-morbid conditions.

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This project will play a significant role in improving the coordination, integration and value of physical and behavioral health care services for thousands of Medicaid recipients throughout Rhode Island. This is a timely initiative that directly addresses the state's focus on ensuring access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries while at the same time curbing rising per-capita Medicaid costs. We look forward to working with the Rhode Island Foundation as well as our partners to undertake this effort that will help us build our base of experience maneuvering in the accountable care environment.

As if that were not enough, in addition to the grant received by Care New England, the Rhode Island Foundation awarded \$200,000 to Blackstone Valley Community Health Care to develop a community health record program in partnership with Tri-Town Health Center, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, and Women's Care, a member of the Women & Infants Health Care Alliance. The goal is to assemble a medical neighborhood team that will benefit from enhanced data sharing on patients common to several area practices. The collective goal is to improve population health, improve the quality of health care and reduce the overall cost of care, especially for high-risk patients.

As State Health and Human Services Secretary Elizabeth Roberts noted at the press conference announcing the awards, "The varied and innovative programs receiving this new funding strongly reflect the direction the state is heading as we work to build a better, more sustainable health care system in Rhode Island, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of this important work." Neil Steinberg, president of the Rhode Island Foundation, reiterated this sentiment in his remarks, stating that the "goal is to test (payment) models that have the potential to be scaled up. By encouraging imaginative thinking around delivery and administration, we can ensure Rhode Islanders will continue to have access to the health care they need."

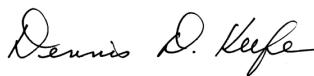
As many of you know, The Rhode Island Foundation is the largest and most comprehensive funder of nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island. In 2014, the Foundation awarded \$34.8 million in grants to organizations addressing the state's most pressing issues and needs of diverse communities. We could not be more appreciative of their work or more thankful for the opportunities they provide to us and others.

If that news did not already meet the requirements for a "great" Tuesday, I am pleased to let you know that on the very same day, a proposal submitted by our ACO Integra to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services to participate in the state's Medicaid Accountable Entity Pilot program was provisionally approved. Integra applied for two separate pilot programs, which will both fall under the Integra Medicaid Accountable Entity (Integra MAE) organizational structure. The Type 1 pilot is for the general Medicaid population in Rhode Island, and will be developed in partnership with the same entities as the grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. The Type 2 pilot will focus on integrating health care for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and will be led by The Providence Center. A great day indeed!

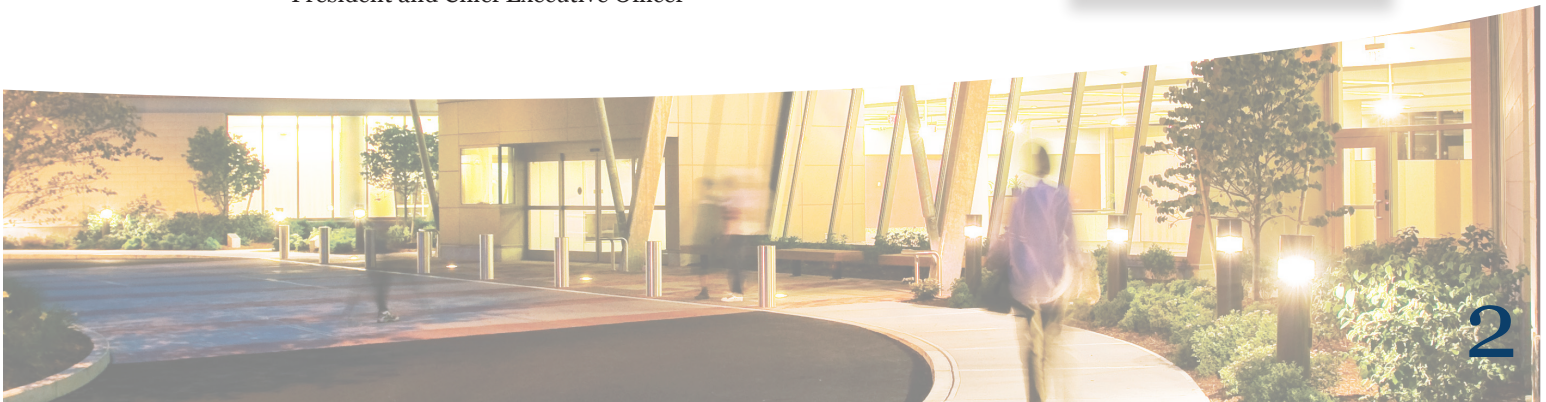
The challenges of a complex and changing health care environment remain, and difficult hurdles remain on the horizon. I think you will agree, however, that through the collaboration and innovation of these and many other partners, Care New England's vision to create a community of healthier people is one step closer to being realized.

Please continue the good work you are doing to make every day a great one.

Sincerely,

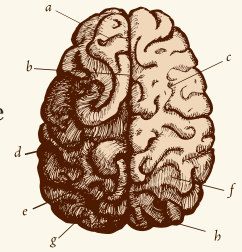


Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Care New England joins consortium to advance neurosciences

Rhode Island's most prominent research institutions engaged in brain science announced last Friday that they have entered into a formal agreement to work jointly toward helping solve some of the many mysteries of the brain. Care New England is partnering with Lifespan, Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and Providence VA Medical Center to identify the causes as well as treatments for a wide range of diseases and disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury and autism.



In the joint news release that was issued, Dennis Keefe said, "Partnerships like this underscore the great potential for collaboration across our state, putting Rhode Island on the map for the incomparable skills, expertise and knowledge in the important area of brain science. This memorandum of understanding (MOU) will enable all of our investigators to work together more formally on brain science activities that will benefit generations to come."

"As we work to crack the code of brain sciences, teamwork is more important than ever to find solutions to keep people healthy," said Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo. "Sharing information and research across our university and health care partners will lead to valuable treatments to improve the quality of life of so many people. Combining our existing neuroscience expertise will also take our research capabilities to the next level, and put Rhode Island on the map as a place of innovation and collaboration."

Rhode Island is the only state in the country to have such a statewide effort of all the major institutions involved in this field.

Leaders from the institutions are confident that collaboration will result in larger, more comprehensive research projects, with institutions leveraging each other's neuroscience work, which includes:

- Lifespan's Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute.
- The Brown Institute for Brain Science (BIBS).
- URI's George and Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience.
- The Providence VA Medical Center's Center of Excellence for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology.
- Care New England's psychiatry research at Butler Hospital and autism work at Women & Infants Hospital.

Rhode Island's federal delegation expressed their support for the collaboration, seeing it as a critical scientific and economic boost to the state.

"We are committed to ensuring Rhode Island is a national leader in neuroscience research and our veterans have access to cutting-edge care. This MOU will allow these institutions to leverage their strengths and resources to enhance their research capabilities and ultimately improve care for patients," said U.S. Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and U.S. Reps. Jim Langevin and David Cicilline in a joint statement from the state's Congressional delegation.

The members of the newly formed Committee on Coordination on Neuroscience Research within Rhode Island are: Lawrence Price, MD; and Steven Rasmussen, MD, from Care New England; Diane Lipscombe, PhD, and R. John Davenport, PhD, from Brown University; John Robson, PhD, and Ziya Gokaslan, MD, from Lifespan; Paula Grammas, PhD, and William Renehan, PhD, from the University of Rhode Island; and Leigh Hochberg, MD, PhD, and Benjamin D. Greenberg, MD, PhD, from the VA Medical Center.



Memorial physician appointed Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) Commissioner for Rhode Island



Noubar Kessimian, MD, director of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Memorial Hospital, has been appointed LAP Commissioner for the State of Rhode Island—Region 1—Northeast USA Commissioner Committee by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Board of Governors. He will oversee the Laboratory Accreditation Program for all the CAP laboratories in the state, with this appointment which begins in 2016.

Memorial's lab is one of more than 7,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide. The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is an internationally-recognized program and the only one of its kind that utilizes teams of practicing laboratory professionals as inspectors. Designed to go well beyond regulatory compliance, the program helps laboratories achieve the highest standards of excellence to positively impact patient care.

During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

Dr. Christine Brousseau elected officer of Rhode Island Medical Society

E. Christine Brousseau, MD, of the Department of Research at Women & Infants Hospital, has been elected as secretary of the Rhode Island Medical Society for the coming year.



Dr. Brousseau is an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She earned her medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine. She is chair of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Rhode Island section and was named a McCain Fellow in 2013.

The Rhode Island Medical Society promotes the art and science of medicine and the improvement of public health; advocates for the provision of quality medical care for all patients; promotes the exchange of information and dialogue among physicians; and enlightens and directs public opinion in regard to challenges facing medicine.

A healthy 'weigh' for 2016?



It's almost the new year and time for new resolutions for you and your family. If weight loss is on your New Year's resolution list, then The Center for Surgical Weight Loss at Care New England is here to help with free monthly information sessions.

The Center for Surgical Weight Loss at Care New England is aimed at helping patients who suffer from obesity and other weight-related diseases to obtain an optimal weight and a healthier lifestyle with surgical options such as the lap band, sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass. The surgical weight loss program is directed by Jeannine Giovanni, MD, a board-certified general surgeon with advanced training in bariatric surgery and extensive experience here in Rhode Island.

Along with Dr. Giovanni's leadership, the program is supported by an experienced team including a certified physician assistant and program coordinator. In addition, a team of cardiologists, gastroenterologists, pulmonologists, nutritionists, psychiatrists, nurses, anesthesiologists and exercise physiologists will provide multi-faceted clinical support to patients helping to ensure the best possible clinical outcomes from consultation to day-of surgery, post-operation, recovery and long-term follow up.

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Obesity is a disease that is chronic and often difficult to treat. It is often the root of many other serious illnesses including diabetes, heart disease, sleep apnea, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, joint pain, infertility, acid reflux and even cancer. Medical treatments such as diet, exercise and pills fail to help keep off the weight for more than 95 percent of obese people. Yet, surgery is successful in more than 80 percent of the time in achieving weight loss outcomes.

Learn more by attending one of our information sessions:

Kent Hospital: Information sessions are held every month at Kent Hospital's Doctors' Auditorium from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The next three sessions will be Jan. 5, Feb. 2 and March 1. Free parking is available on the Doctors' Auditorium side of the hospital by entering the service vehicle entrance on Toll Gate Road. No RSVP is needed.

Women & Infants: Information sessions are held each month, the next three sessions will be on Wednesday, Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 23, at Women & Infants' Auditorium 4 of the Malcolm and Elizabeth Chace Education Center, South Pavilion, 101 Dudley St., Providence, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Sherry Peter at (401) 736-3731.

For more information, please visit <http://carenewengland.org/bariatric>.

VNA holds holiday memorial service

The VNA of Care New England held its annual Circle of Love and Light Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 30, at Warwick City Hall. The event was a night of reflection and remembrance in honor of the VNA's hospice community. The mayor of Warwick was in attendance, along with many families who have lost loved ones this past year. The wife and mother of two former hospice patients spoke about the great care her family members received while under the care of the VNA.



Pictured in photo from left to right: Meredith Sinel, chaplain, VNA of Care New England; Paula Toland, chaplain, VNA of Care New England; Kate Lally, MD, FACP, director of palliative care, Care New England, hospice medical director, VNA of Care New England; and Christine Carpenter, director of hospice, VNA of Care New England.



Run or walk to support the Program in Women's Oncology

The 32nd Annual Christmas 10K run and 5K walk will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 10 am at Rogers High School in Newport. The event is held in memory of Tricia Lovett Stallman and for all women who have been touched by cancer.

All proceeds will benefit the Integrative Care Program in the Program in Women's Oncology, offering therapies such as reiki, massage, acupuncture, reflexology, facials, and yoga to individuals with cancer and their caregivers.

Register online at <http://coolrunning.com> or call (401) 846-0042. 