

carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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In this issue:



Good day!

We have talked many times in this column about the transformation of health care in Rhode Island. It is not about the future. It is about the here and now.

Last week we were proud to announce that we are part of Rhode Island's first accountable care entity to be launched for people served through Medicaid. Our involvement comes through Integra Community Care Network, LLC, Care New England's own accountable care organization, in partnership with UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island. In creating this Medicaid accountable care entity, we will be working to fulfill the promise of health care and payment reform: to improve health outcomes, increase patient satisfaction and reduce the overall cost of care. The news of this announcement was carried in almost 200 media outlets and industry posts across the country.

Through our joint effort, UnitedHealthcare and Integra will now work closely to better coordinate patients' care, using shared technology and information about emergency room visits and hospital admissions, and services that help patients manage their chronic health conditions and encourage healthy lifestyles. This will make it easier to share important health information among physicians involved in patients' care. More than 20,000 people enrolled in UnitedHealthcare's Medicaid health plans in Rhode Island will benefit from this collaboration.

This work began with passage of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo's Reinventing Medicaid Act of 2015. The Reinventing Medicaid Act of 2015 created a comprehensive, progressive package of reforms that positions Rhode Island to transform its Medicaid program and achieve tens of millions of dollars in savings each year without cutting Medicaid eligibility or reducing benefits, according to the

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state. I was honored to co-chair the work group that developed the recommendations which was the basis for this reform.

“From the start, our work to Reinvent Medicaid was driven by the goal to expand access to care, improve quality and coordination, and lower costs for taxpayers,” said Gov. Raimondo in the announcement issued last week. “Accountable entities like this will reward collaboration and help spark transformation throughout Medicaid. I applaud Integra and UnitedHealthcare for leading the way on this effort.”

The Integra care provider network is composed of the Care New England and South County Health systems, Rhode Island Primary Care—the state’s largest primary care organization—and a number of independently employed and community physicians. In addition, Integra has formed a network of primary/urgent care providers who have extended hours in the evening, weekends and holidays. This network will give patients access to needed care during off-hours without requiring a visit to a hospital emergency room.

James E. Fanale, MD, chief clinical integration officer of Care New England and chief clinical officer, Integra Community Care Network, LLC, said, “The goal of an accountable entity is to improve the health and health care of the people we serve. We believe that the state’s patient-centered medical home initiatives established a strong foundation for this approach. UnitedHealthcare has been a long-time supporter of the value primary care providers can bring to coordinating care and thereby better controlling costs.”

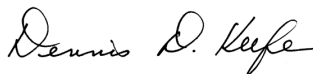
“Rhode Island Primary Care’s mission has always been to provide the best possible care to our patients,” said Albert Puerini, MD, president of Rhode Island Primary Care. “We feel that this innovative partnership will help our patients better navigate the complicated health care system. Our goal is to keep the patient central in the health care continuum through broad coordination of care emphasizing prevention, education and positive lifestyle changes.”

UnitedHealthcare will support overall population health, giving the entire care team clear, actionable data about individual patients’ health needs, potential gaps in care and proactive identification of high-risk patients. Community-based health workers and care managers will also be used to support community-based care coordination, such as helping with planning after a patient is discharged from the hospital and scheduling follow-up appointments. UnitedHealthcare serves nearly 300,000 Rhode Island residents with network of 15 hospitals and more than 4,500 physicians and other care providers statewide.

We are enhancing how the health care system cares for patients. This is what it’s all about.

Have a great week ahead!

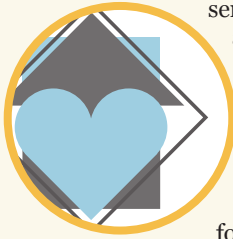
Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



VNA of Care New England to host 'Nursing in the Community' series



The VNA of Care New England will host an upcoming "Nursing in the Community" seminar series. The series will focus on the future of community-based health care and will be led by three well-known and respected nursing leaders in Rhode Island. It will offer opportunities for attendees to meet with representatives from the VNA and learn firsthand about fulfilling careers and some of the benefits of loan forgiveness, day-time hours and a sign-on bonus.

The "Nursing in the Community" seminar series will take place in the Kent Hospital Doctors' Auditorium, 455 Toll Gate Road, Warwick, on Wednesday, April 27, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 18, 4 to 7 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 14, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each seminar is eligible for one contact hour.

Guest speaker, Lynn P. Blanchette, PhD, RN, program director, BSN Program at Rhode Island College School of Nursing will lead the continuing education portion of the program on April 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Diane Cocozza Martins, PhD, RN, associate professor, University of Rhode Island College of Nursing, will lead the continuing education portion of the program on May 18 from 5 to 6 p.m. Guest speaker, Joanne F. Costello, PhD, MPH, RN, professor, Rhode Island College of Nursing, will lead the continuing education portion of the program on June 14 from 10 to 11 a.m.

"This promises to be an exciting seminar series for the many nurses in our area looking to learn more about community-based health care and the exciting career opportunities available to them," said Kathleen Peirce, vice president of clinical operations, executive director, chief nursing officer, VNA of Care New England. "The opportunity to hear from nursing leaders on the future of community nursing, while exploring firsthand exciting new community-based nursing opportunities presents attendees with tremendous opportunity and access to those helping shape the future of this time-honored profession."

The VNA of Care New England plays an important role in the community. More and more patients will be receiving care in their homes instead of the hospital. The role of visiting nurse is an exciting career offering the flexibility to travel the state, care for patients in a one-on-one, home-based environment, while offering the personal touch that defines the nursing profession.

RSVP to Lyndsey Keener at (401) 921-7590 or by emailing seminar@vnacarenewengland.org with the seminar date of your choice along with your first and last name. For more information, please visit <http://vnacarenewengland.org/nursing>.

Kent Hospital is a joint provider of this series. Kent Hospital is an Approved Provider Unit of Continuing Nursing Education by the Northeast Multi-State Division (NE-MSD), an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity is free of bias and conflict of interest.

Former nursing exec at W&I honored

Gov. Gina Raimondo presented Mary Dowd-Struck, RN, MS, CNM, of Wakefield, former SVP of patient care services at Women & Infants Hospital, with a prestigious Jefferson Award for Community Service at a State House ceremony last Monday. Mary was one of three Rhode Island citizens recognized for her community service at the ceremony. In the past 10 years since retiring, Mary has fostered 15 children with developmental or physical challenges with the help of Children's Friend.

Pictured, left to right: Michelle Hirst, Children's Friend Permanency Worker; Dana Mullen, vice president Programs for Children's Friend; Children's Friend president and chief executive officer David Caprio; Gov. Gina Raimondo and Joyce LaFrance Tormey, Children's Friend Foster parent recruiter and retention worker. (Photo credit: Children's Friend.)



TPC employee honored by state

The RI Department of Health has named The Providence Center's Heidi Samayoa the first recipient of the Family Visitor of the Month Award for the month of April. Heidi is a family assessment worker and works in TPC's Healthy Families America (HFA) program, an evidence-based family visiting resource designed to work with overburdened families to promote positive family functioning, healthy child development, and parenting resources. Working with families comes naturally to Heidi, and TPC has found that a high rate of families enroll after meeting with her. Because this work is grant-funded, it does not replace any insurance-based services, but complements them. TPC is committed to providing culturally-competent, family-centered care for pregnant women and families. To refer a family, contact Bryna Hebert, supervisor, Healthy Families America at (401) 276-4144.



Kent Hospital and Rotary Club of Warwick to host May Breakfast



Kent Hospital is pleased to partner for the fourth year in a row with the Rotary Club of Warwick to host a traditional May Breakfast, Monday, May 2, 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Kent Hospital. The proceeds will benefit Rotary charities. Kent previously hosted the Rotary May Breakfast in the mid-1980s through the 90s, and is pleased to again partner with the club to partake in a Rhode Island tradition begun in 1867 at the Old Quaker Meeting House in the Oaklawn section of Cranston.

This year's May Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, French toast with warm maple syrup, oatmeal, juice and coffee. Tickets for the breakfast may be purchased at the door for \$8 per person from all Warwick Rotarians or at the Warwick Beacon office located at 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick.

The Rotary Club of Warwick is part of Rotary International, the purpose of which is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services locally and throughout the world. Local beneficiaries include Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, Warwick Boys & Girls Clubs, RI Family Shelter and Honor Flight RI, the Warwick schools third grade dictionary project and annual scholarship funds for one senior from Hendricken, Pilgrim, Toll Gate, and Warwick Vests high schools.

There's still time to sign up for March for Babies

The March for Babies will be on Saturday, April 30 at Colt State Park in Bristol, RI. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the walk starts at 10 a.m. Women & Infants would like to have at least 100 walkers signed-up. Please join one of our Women & Infants' teams.



Log onto <https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Signup?eventId=17351> – select “join a team” and search “Women & Infants.” Our 2016 teams are Pediatrics, Neonatal Nurses, Ob-Gyn, or feel free to create your own team.

Nurse Profile: Focus on the VNA of Care New England's Kayla Arpin, RN

The work of a VNA home health nurse is challenging, rewarding and inspirational. Just ask Kayla Arpin, RN, of Gloucester.



“You truly get to know the patients. You see their progress and that's gratifying,” said Kayla.

Kayla is a home health, registered nurse with the VNA of Care New England. Kayla came to the VNA four years ago, after working in a sub-acute unit in a nursing home. Her friend told her about the opportunities available at the VNA and after doing a job shadow, she knew it would be just the right fit.

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“I love it. I love being out on my own,” said Kayla. “It’s very different from being on the floor at say a hospital or nursing home. You are out and about traveling to patients’ homes and your focus is them, one patient at a time. In a facility, you have a lot of patients at once so you’re in and you’re out. In this job, you get to know the patients and their families and that’s what I like.”


Kayla explained, “The patients are your priority, they need to feel comfortable, and the nurse needs to be confident. It’s a very rewarding career as I have seen so many patients progress... In this field, you see the progression, especially the wound patients- you see their wounds heal. It makes you feel good. Although a lot of time is spent on your own, you are never truly alone—you have the support of the VNA, and someone is *always* a phone call away.”

The unexpected or unplanned can happen. Patients fall or might need more advanced care than the visiting nurse can provide. Perhaps even the nurse is ill and needs to rush accommodations to ensure his/her patients receive their timely visits and care. The great thing about the VNA support network is there is always a team to rely on whether it be troubleshooting, problem solving or simply offering reassurance when dealing with more complex care issues.

Kayla came about an opportunity through a grant being offered through the VNA. Two years ago, the organization approached her about going back to school for her nursing degree, through a grant that would cover 75 percent of the cost. It was something Kayla had been thinking about for a while and although expecting a child, she accomplished an accelerated program and obtained her degree in just 22 months. She is now even considering an advanced degree.

According to Kayla, an average day of a home health nurse might include six patient visits, usually within the same geographic area of the state. The VNA does its best to keep travel convenient. When visiting a patient’s home, the home health nurse always introduces themselves, asking the patient their name and date of birth, confirming it is the patient they are supposed to be visiting. The nurse would review the patient’s medical history and discuss any new changes to their health. Next, a physical assessment is completed, medications are distributed and the patient is asked what else they may need from the nurse.

“I think it’s important to tell the patient a little bit about yourself too. If someone was coming into your home, you would probably want to know a little bit about them.

As a nurse in home care, you learn a lot about medication management, wound care and new medical products. There is always someone back at the VNA to support you with any questions you may have, which is comforting,” said Kayla. 

For more information on nursing at the VNA of Care New England, please visit <http://vnacarenewengland.org/nursing>.

