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In this issue:



Good day!

To fully deliver on our promise, Your Partner in Health, we must understand the communities we serve. This is the basis of the community health needs assessment (CHNA) and the associated implementation strategies enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The legally required process of conducting research every three years on the health, demographic and socioeconomic profile of our region informs action plans that are managed and measured in an ongoing, long-term process. Annually, Care New England (CNE) reports to the federal government how we are making progress.

On Thursday, May 19 at Butler Hospital's Ray Hall Conference Center, CNE hosted our CHNA partners, Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), CharterCARE, Landmark Medical Center, South County Health and Westerly Hospital to hear findings of the study results from this past year. For the first time we also partnered with Rhode Island Department of Health's Health Equity Zones and added hospital utilization data for a more detailed picture of our community. The findings confirm much of what we already understand about the people who live in Rhode Island, and also paints a clearer picture of some segments of our population.

The 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment identified three health priorities behavioral health, diabetes and heart disease, and maternal and child health. Here is an overview of the findings.

Behavioral Health

- Rhode Island adults have a higher death rate due to narcotics and hallucinogens than the nation.
- Hospital discharge rates for mental and substance use disorders are 26 percent higher than the next highest New England state, Massachusetts.

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- Since 2003 youth hospitalizations for mental health disorders increased 53 percent.
- Fourteen percent of high school students report attempting suicide.
- Newport County middle and high school kids report the highest percentage of alcohol and marijuana use in the state, with Bristol Warren Regional School District having the highest prescription drug use.

Chronic Disease Management in Diabetes and Heart Disease

- While mortality rates for diabetes are lower in Rhode Island than the country, this report showed an increase in deaths in all counties except Newport and Kent.
- Kent, Providence and Washington counties report an increase in diabetes prevalence at 11.6, 10 and 7.3 percent respectively.
- High blood pressure and high cholesterol rates across the state are higher than the nation with about one third the population suffering with high blood pressure and almost 40 percent battling high cholesterol.

Maternal and Child Health

- While low birth weight and preterm births in Rhode Island are lower than the nation at 7.7 percent and 11 percent respectively, disparity exists for African American, American Indian and Asians with higher rates than the nation.
- Babies exposed to addictive opiate drugs while in the womb have nearly doubled since 2006 at a rate of 72 per 100,000 births with approximately 11,000 births each year in Rhode Island.
- Between 2009-2013 teenage births per 1,000 were 21 in Rhode Island with the highest rates in Central Falls at 73.4, Woonsocket at 63.8, West Warwick at 40.9, Pawtucket at 37.5, and Providence at 31.1 births.

The demographic and socioeconomic data, based on a population of 1,056,978 (less than a one percent population growth in Rhode Island since 2000) illustrates a state that has pockets of poverty, low education and unemployment that is often higher than national benchmarks.

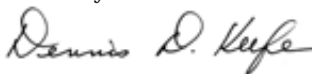
- Providence County reports the highest percentage of families living in poverty at 14.3 percent, with three zip codes within the county greater than 30 percent.
- In Bristol, Kent, Newport and Washington County, there is at least one town with statistically significant higher percentages of people living with poverty, unemployment and no high school diploma than the rest of the county.

My hope in sharing the findings of the 2016 CHNA is to remind us of the purpose of our work: The health of family, friends and neighbors. Each of us in our role here touches some part of this story—perhaps many parts—depending on where we work. With the focus on behavioral health, diabetes and heart disease, and maternal and child health, CNE is well positioned to play a key role in making a difference in our region.

Stay tuned for an update on our implementation plan and how the member organizations of CNE will work together to respond.

Have a good week ahead and enjoy the improving weather.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Granai earns national humanism award

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recently awarded the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award to Cornelius “Skip” Granai III, MD, director of the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He was presented the award at ACOG’s recent annual meeting. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation was established in 1988 by Arnold Gold, MD, Sandra Gold, EdD, and their colleagues at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons.



“Humanistic medical care is not simply compassion,” according to the group’s website. “It is the best of medicine. When skilled physicians build caring, trusting and collaborative relationships with patients, studies reveal more appropriate medical decisions, better patient adherence with treatment plans, and less costly health care outcomes.”

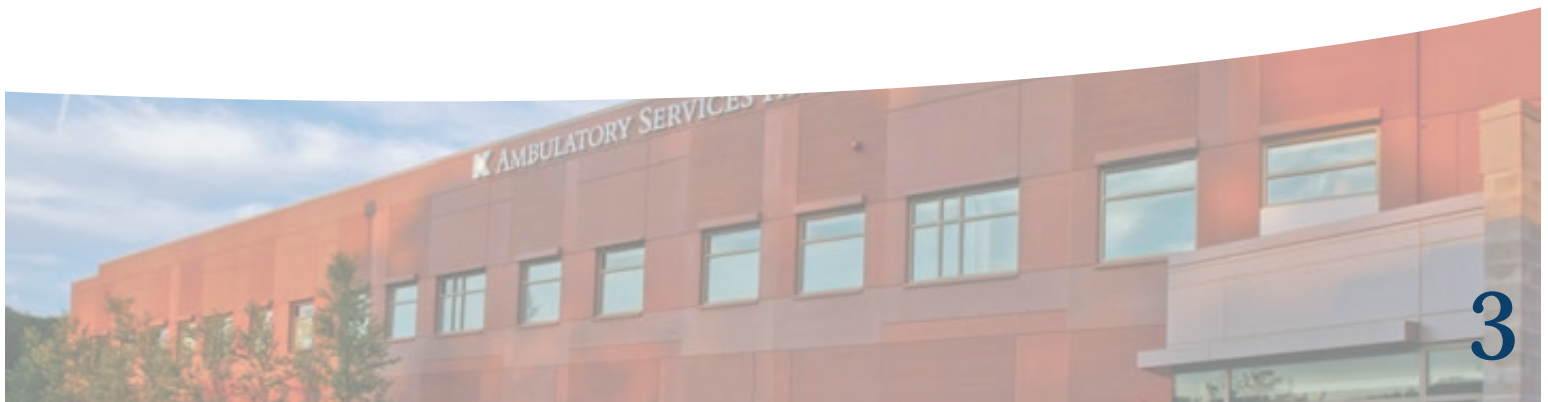
An acclaimed international speaker, Dr. Granai’s honors include those from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics for teaching and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Cancer Society. He is an advocate for breast disease education, which is incorporated into the gynecologic oncology fellowship he directs, making it the first fellowship in the country to combine both fields. Dr. Granai earned his medical degree from the University of Vermont and completed his residency and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Tufts University. He is the founder of the International Health Foundation, which is dedicated to education and care in impoverished Caribbean countries.

“This prestigious honor is befitting a physician like Skip Granai,” says Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, executive chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Care New England Health System, chair and Chace-Joukowsky professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and assistant dean for teaching and research in women’s health at the Alpert Medical School, and professor of epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health. “For decades, he has passionately advocated for a robust program to help women with cancer—not simply the treatments and protocols that can address the disease itself, but also the array of services women, their caregivers and family members need when they are going through a cancer diagnosis. His motto ‘What would you want done for your loved one under those circumstances?’ should serve as a guide for everyone working with patients.”

In announcing the award, ACOG noted that Dr. Granai believes that, for the sake of their patients, physicians must remain “in the good fight.” To do this, they must avoid being demoralized by advocating for what they learn at the bedside is right for each patient and by remembering the “timeless values and privilege that brought them to medicine.”

Alzheimer’s research participant shares personal story on RINPR

A research study participant from the Butler Hospital Memory and Aging Program recently shared his own personal experience with Alzheimer’s research on Rhode Island Public Radio show, *This I believe Rhode Island*. In the segment that aired on May 17, Neil Corkery described what it has been like to experience the onset of Alzheimer’s, and how his family sought help for him at Butler. He met with Dr. Stephen Salloway, director of the Memory and Aging Program, and Corkery was enrolled in one of the many cutting edge clinical trials being conducted by the research group. In concluding his testimonial, Corkery states, “I believe that this extraordinary medical trial will change the landscape of Alzheimer’s research and practice, and I also believe that it has prolonged my life.”



Walking for Bobby D

Linda Derderian, Health Information Management site manager at Memorial Hospital, has created a team to walk in this year's Heart Walk. Here, she talks about her inspiration for participating:

This year, I will be participating in the American Heart Association Heart Walk in honor of my beloved brother-in-law, Bobby Derderian. After fighting a brave 18-year battle against heart disease, Bobby passed away peacefully with his family by his side on December 10, 2015.



"Bobby D," as many lovingly called him, suffered from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy which led to congestive heart failure and cardiac liver failure. Despite all of his challenges, he remained incredibly positive and his smile would literally light up a room. First diagnosed back in 1997 during a routine physical, Bobby never let his disease stop him from enjoying life as much as he could. He maintained his quick wit and sense of humor right up until the end, prodding my husband to arm wrestle after a 10-hour surgery. I still see the special sparkle in his eyes and hear him yelling "Lindey" each time he would see me. Always first to help anyone, Bobby dedicated himself to caring for his family and especially my two wonderful nieces, Hayle and Jami. Even on days when just getting dressed drained him, he made sure that he attended every family event.

While he lived for only 18,980 days, passing away too young at age 52, Bobby sure made every day special.

T-shirt deadline tomorrow—sign up now!

If you haven't registered for the Southern New England Heart Walk (to be held on June 5 in Providence), NOW is the time to do so! Although you can register right up until the event, the last day to register and still receive a Care New England T-shirt to wear for the day of the walk is Tuesday, May 24! T-shirts will be distributed the morning of the walk at the CNE tent to registered walkers.



To register or make a donation, please visit <http://carenet/heart-walk>.

All of our help raises needed funds to support research and education to fight heart disease. Our goal this year is to recruit 800 walkers and raise \$100,000, together we can do it!

Mouradian named to philanthropy leadership post

Susan Mouradian has been appointed Chief Philanthropy Officer for Care New England. She served most recently as the interim leader of the department last summer and previously as the senior philanthropy officer for corporate services, a position she held since the Care New England philanthropy departments were consolidated in January 2014. Prior to the reorganization, she was the philanthropy officer for major gifts at Women & Infants.



A highly regarded professional in philanthropic circles, Susan has 30 years of progressive fundraising experience, including positions at Wesleyan University, Rollins College and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Congratulations, Susan!



VNA of Care New England holds second Nursing in the Community Seminar

The VNA of Care New England held its second Nursing in the Community Seminar on May 18.

Guest speaker, Diane Cocozza Martins, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island College of Nursing, led the Continuing Education program from 5 to 6 p.m. and presented on the topic of health literacy. VNA employee, Larry Saulnier, also shared his interesting career journey with the audience.

The third and final seminar will be held on June 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kent Hospital Doctors' Auditorium. The seminar is open to the community and employees looking to learn more about home health nursing. For more information, please visit <http://vnacarenewengland.org/nursing>. (See photo)



Larry Saulnier, VNA Clinical Nurse Manager, speaks on his journey from NYPD Lieutenant to home health nurse.

Kent Hospital honors employee service at annual recognition dinner

Kent Hospital recently honored its employees for dedicated service and accomplishments at the hospital employee awards event held earlier this month. Honored were 321 employees who have given a remarkable 4,530 years of collective service to Kent Hospital.

"These employees have shown outstanding commitment and dedication to the Kent Hospital community and their hard work deserves to be honored," said Michael J. Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and COO, Kent Hospital. "Because of these employees, Kent Hospital continues to provide the highest quality care to our patients day in and day out. I commend every one of them for their excellence and exceptional performance through the years."



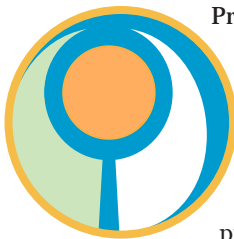
From left to right: Manager of the Year, Judith Woodstock, RN and Employee of the Year, Lisa Ferry, RN.

A highlight of the event was the announcement about the William Lang Employee of the Year and Manager of the Year. The 2016 Lang Employee of the Year Award was presented to Lisa Ferry, RN, Outpatient Infusion. Lisa has worked at Kent Hospital since 1982. The 2016 Lang Manager of the Year Award was presented to Judith Woodstock, RN, nurse manager, patient care services. Judy has worked at Kent since 2011.

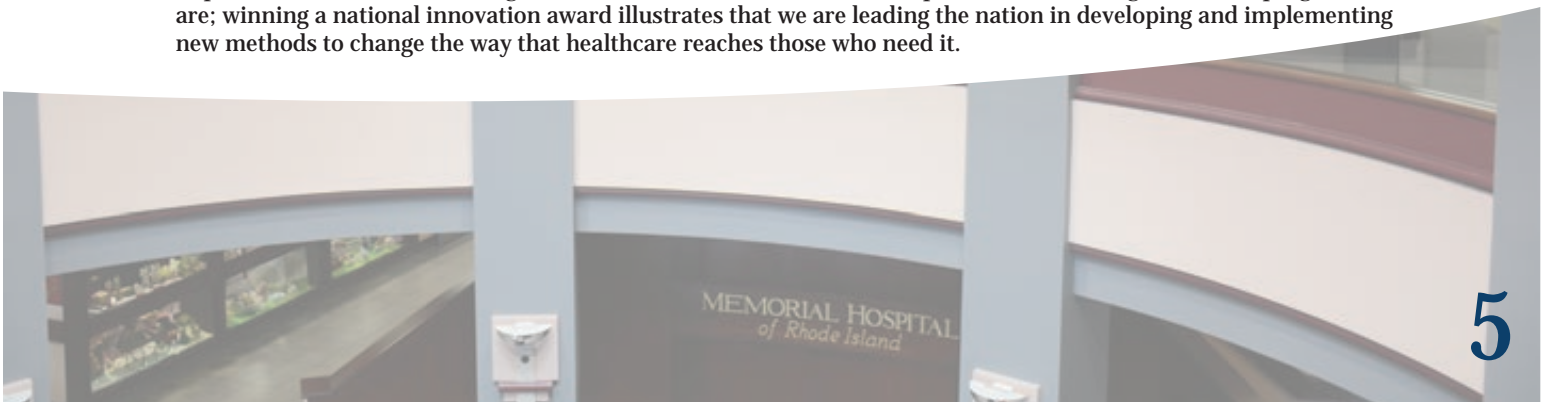
The William Lang award was named after the late hospital administrator, William Lang, who served in that leadership role from 1960 to 1985. This award recognizes excellence, dedication and commitment to the hospital, patients and the Kent family. The Manager/Employee of the Year winners are both selected from a pool of past year Manager of the Quarter/Employee of the Month recipients.

Anchor Recovery wins 2016 Scattergood Innovation Award!

Earlier this week, The Scattergood Foundation (<http://www.scattergoodfoundation.org>) announced that The Providence Center's Anchor Recovery Services (<http://www.anchorrecovery.org>) are the winners of the 2016 Scattergood Innovation Awards. Anchor Community Recovery Center, Anchor ED emergency room program and AnchorMORE community outreach initiative were recognized as programs that advance behavioral health policy and practice. Anchor was chosen as one of five finalists out of a pool of 40 behavioral health organizations from around the country. The contest was decided through online votes, and TPC and Anchor, with the help of Care New England, mounted a successful marketing campaign and won the \$25,000 prize. "We will use the award to provide training for recovery coaches, who focus on a patient-centered empowerment model, and assist them with their state certification process," said TPC President/CEO Dale Klatzker, PhD.



Jonathan Goyer, an Anchor recovery coordinator who helped lead the MORE outreach team weighed in on the importance of the award. "Being nominated for a national innovation speaks to how strategic Anchor's programs are; winning a national innovation award illustrates that we are leading the nation in developing and implementing new methods to change the way that healthcare reaches those who need it.



Hit a hole in one for Memorial

Support Memorial Hospital and its Emergency Department by attending A Summer Breeze golf tournament at Pawtucket Country Club on Monday, June 20. Make this event your own: Join us for golf, a poolside dinner reception, or both!

Foursomes are now discounted to \$800 for CNE and Memorial Hospital employees for the morning tee time at 8 a.m.! Join us for our poolside dinner reception at 6 p.m. for only \$100. Enjoy gourmet cuisine poolside, swing to the beat of steel drums and learn more about the exceptional care Memorial Hospital provides for patients and families in our community.



For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.mhri.org/ways-to-give/events.cfm>. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah Boucher at sdboucher@carene.org. 



Care New England