

carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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“We have come far at Care New England in advancing toward the new world of health care and payment reform, and I look forward to leading us to our next stage of advancement.”

In this issue:



Good day!

Over the last several years, we have worked to expand our programs, scope and reach with the addition of Memorial Hospital and The Providence Center, the creation of our Accountable Care Organization Integra, the partnership with the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation, the work on innovative models of care and payment reform with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island and the State of Rhode Island, and the development of the infrastructure, programs and support to manage the health of populations.

Last week, in the next phase in our development as an organization, we took one more step toward a successful future in announcing that our affiliation with Southcoast Health (SHS) would move forward. The announcement followed months of study by our Care New England Board of Directors and our leadership team, and it now paves the way for the execution of the affiliation agreement, ongoing due diligence and initiation of the regulatory review processes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The great potentials of this partnership are articulated in the guiding principles of the affiliation agreement:

- Improvement in the quality of clinical programs and services;
- Patient access to a broader continuum of services over an expanded service area;
- The creation of operational efficiencies designed to improve performance and reduce costs;
- The maintenance of a strong academic and research platform that is essential to fostering clinical excellence and innovation;

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- The development and maintenance of an integrated delivery system in which patient care is coordinated across a full continuum of healthcare providers, thereby providing CNE and SHS a foundation for responding to the promises and challenges of the federal health reform legislation;
- The establishment of a streamlined, clear and accountable governance structure which will enable CNE and SHS to respond nimbly to industry changes;
- The enhancement of physician recruitment, retention and integration initiatives;
- The improvement and deployment of facilities, equipment and information technology platforms;
- The achievement of clinical “employer of choice” status, ensuring that CNE’s and SHS’ employees have opportunities to attain their professional goals in a supportive work environment;
- The enhancement of CNE’s and SHS’ ability to achieve their charitable objectives in the most efficient and effective manner possible; and
- The responsible stewardship of charitable assets, ensuring that CNE and SHS collectively will maintain a strong financial profile to enable them to achieve their charitable objectives long into the future.

Indeed, we believe Southcoast represents the best possible choice in enabling us to move forward and expand our services, advance our academic missions and transition to population health.

I am honored that I will be leading the important initiative to further develop our capabilities in population health management. We have come far at Care New England in advancing toward the new world of health care and payment reform, and I look forward to leading us to our next stage of advancement. I will remain your President and CEO throughout the affiliation approval process and have committed to an extended period following the closing of our partnership with Southcoast. But, as I round out this next leg of my professional career, I could choose no more meaningful role than to help assure the health and well-being of our southern New England community. This has been my purpose and my passion over the last several years.

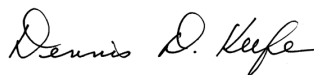
Yes, we have much work to do before this affiliation can be realized, and we will be continuing to learn as we progress through the next phases of the process. As we advance our vision to improve the health of the community, we believe the further development of our integrated health delivery system across a broader geographic area is fulfilled through the proposed affiliation with Southcoast.

Please join with me in sharing our enthusiasm for this significant milestone in the life of our organization and in working to assure a stronger future Care New England!

As we continue to honor nurses throughout our organization and celebrate all of our valued staff through our National Hospital Week activities, please accept my deep thanks for all you do. You are what defines us—and what distinguishes Care New England!

Have a spectacular week ahead!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Care New England celebrates National Nurses Week

The largest segment of the nation's health care workforce consists of more than three million nurses. This is also true of our workforce here at Care New England, with nurses at the forefront of the care that our organizations provide to the patients, families and communities we serve. As part of National Nurses Week celebration, it is vital that we acknowledge the leadership role our nurses play in helping further population health and in making the most of each and every encounter with patients and their families.



Earlier this year Care New England launched a system-wide initiative focused on engaging the nursing community. The objective for the *Nurses Advancing the Future of Health Care* campaign is to create our own community of nurses where best practices are shared and implemented, new opportunities to maximize professional nursing practice are advanced, and improvements are aimed at increasing nursing workplace satisfaction are explored. In so doing, we will give our nurses the chance to work in concert with senior leadership, fellow employees and other clinicians to ensure that the health care system provides seamless, affordable, quality care that is accessible to all and leads to improved health outcomes.

In addition to a range of programs being hosted throughout Care New England as part of Nurses Week, CNE has also launched a system-wide online presence for nursing at carenewengland.org/nursing. This online resource highlights CNE nurses and the great work they do while also serving as an important resource for those considering a career in nursing.

Memorial Nurse Alumni Association celebrates 100th anniversary

For 59 years, from 1911 to 1970, the Memorial Hospital Training School for Nurses, later called the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, trained women ages 18 to 25 as nurses. In 1916, the same year the first formal presentation of diplomas to school graduates was held, nine graduates formed the Nurse Alumni Association.

Members of the organization—many of whom stayed working at Memorial Hospital through the years—will celebrate their group's 100th anniversary with a spring banquet on Wednesday, May 18, at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln.



Almost 1,000 men and women came to Memorial's Pawtucket campus to a nursing school housed in an old Victorian manor donated to the hospital by the Goff family in 1910. The third floor of the home was the dormitory where students lived, under the watchful eye of housemothers who enforced curfews and lights out at 10 p.m.

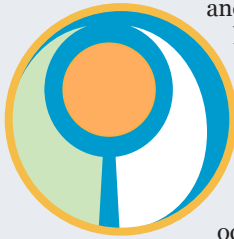
Clad in blue checked chambray uniforms with long skirts and high collars, the first students were instructed to move into the dormitory with "one napkin ring, two pairs of black shoes or boots, and four sets of plain underclothing."

With as little as one year of high school completed, the students worked in the hospital—which in the early 20th century consisted of one building with wards for men, women and children, and outpatient services—either from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. They had one hour off a day, one afternoon a week, and three hours on Sunday for "rest, study and relaxation." When off duty, they went to class taught by the medical staff in subjects like bacteriology and surgical nursing, and were expected to be ready for emergencies.

The Nurse Alumni Association has given back to hospital for a century, organizing and participating in fundraising events. In addition, the group established the Esther A. Watson Scholarship Endowment Fund at the University of Rhode Island (URI), which will serve as the members' legacy. Named for a long-time nursing director at Memorial and a graduate of the Memorial School of Nursing, the scholarship was created in 1970 and is awarded each year to a nursing major through the URI Foundation. Going forward, all Nurse Alumni members in good standing will be awarded lifetime memberships, and their ancestors will be given added consideration for the scholarship.



TPC receives funding from HUD to help the homeless



The Providence Center has received a grant of \$351,535 from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Continuum of Care program. The funding will support housing vouchers and other services provided by TPC's Home Base program which serves individuals who have been chronically homeless and have co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.

Since 2012, TPC has operated Home Base, a program dedicated to providing comprehensive wrap-around supports and services to Rhode Island's homeless population. The Home Base team aims to support chronically homeless individuals who have co-occurring disorders by assisting them in securing permanent housing and obtaining treatment and support that will help them maintain long-term recovery. The Home Base team conducts outreach to individuals on the streets and in homeless shelters to connect them to the program.

At any given time, more than 1,100 Rhode Islanders are homeless. Of these, the two largest sub-populations are people with serious mental illness and those with chronic substance abuse issues.

"Home Base is part of Rhode Island's efforts to end homelessness," said Vickie Walter, TPC's associate director of residential services. "This HUD support will allow us to place people who have been formerly homeless in their own, private apartment. Then, we can work with them to address their mental health and substance use disorder needs. Over the years, we've had great success in helping participants become more self-sufficient and eventually move to permanent, independent housing. Housing people with really complex needs and then working with them to meet those needs is TPC's contribution towards 'zero homelessness.'"

Dr. Pablo Rodriguez honored by Sojourner House

Congratulations to Dr. Pablo Rodriguez of Women & Infants Hospital, who received the Community Champion Award at Sojourner House's SoJo MoJoe 40th Anniversary Breakfast last week. Dr. Rodriguez was one of three awardees who has been a part of the organization's successes and who collaborate in the future work of empowering victims and supporting survivors of domestic violence.



Initially founded by a group of students, staff and alumni from Brown University, Sojourner House (<http://www.sojournerri.org>) has been serving victims and survivors of domestic violence through a variety of services and education initiatives since 1976. Through their strong network of volunteers, local businesses and professionals, survivors and community partners, Sojourner House has helped more than 50,000 individuals throughout the past 40 years. The organization's goal is to help clients rebuild their lives, while creating awareness in the community for the many issues related to domestic abuse. Sojourner House offers a victim helpline, an advocacy and resource center, safe haven shelters and transitional housing.

VNA of Care New England and HealthTouch honor employees

The VNA of Care New England and HealthTouch honored employees for dedicated service and accomplishments on Wednesday, May 4, at its annual employee awards banquet held at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick. VNA employees were recognized for their years of service ranging from five to 30 years. A total of three employees were recognized for five years of service; five employees for 10 years of service; one employee for 20 years of service; one employee for 25 years of service; and one employee for 30 years of service. HealthTouch employees were recognized for their years of service ranging from five to 20 years. One employee was recognized for five years of service; one employee for 15 years of service; and two employees for 20 years of service. Congratulations to all service award recipients!



From left to right: Jennifer F. Lee, MSPT, Director of Home Health Services VNA of Care New England; Janine Roch, RN, 30 year service award recipient, VNA Care New England; and Kathy Peirce, vice president of clinical operations, executive director, chief nursing officer, VNA of Care New England.



KEEP Giving

On Monday, May 2, the Warwick Rotary hosted its annual May Breakfast at Kent Hospital, and the hospital was honored to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Warwick Rotary Charities Foundation to the Kent KEEP program. KEEP is the Kent Employee Emergency Program, which provides financial assistance to employees confidentially when an unexpected crisis occurs. To date, KEEP has approved \$233,000 for 118 Kent employees in need.

For more information on KEEP please contact Rev. David Ricard at ext. 31545.

Top photo: Mayor Scott Avedisian serves May Breakfast to Kent Hospital's Dr. Spinale.

Bottom photo: Pictured from left are Joseph DesRoches, Rotarian and breakfast organizer; Dean Carlson, CNE VP Human Resources; Ed McDonough, Rotary Club president; and Joseph Spinale, DO, SVP & CMO, Kent Hospital.



Integrative Care Program offers evening wellness program for patients, caregivers, providers

The Program in Women's Oncology Integrative Care Program at Women & Infants has organized the first Body + Soul Wellness Program for patients, caregivers and their health care providers on Thursday, May 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., on the first floor of the building at 668 Eddy St.

The evening, made possible through the generosity of Gasbarro's Wines, will include an opportunity to try Reiki, acupuncture, massage, cranio-sacral therapy, and movement therapy. Refreshments will also be served.

Registration for the event is required. To register a patient or as a provider, call (401) 274-1122, ext. 47285. [ene](#)

