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august 1, 2016
volume 6 | issue 31



“In 2015, 258 people in our state lost their lives to overdose, more than the number of homicides, motor vehicle accidents, and suicides combined.”

Good day!

In this issue:



On July 25, The Providence Center’s Anchor Recovery Community Center in Pawtucket hosted a visit from Michael Botticelli, director of National Drug Control Policy at The White House. This visit was notable for several reasons. First, it’s not every day you’re visited by someone with “czar” as their title. Botticelli’s position is commonly referred to as the nation’s “drug czar.” It’s not a term he likes, he says. He much prefers “recovery czar.”

That underlines the second, more important point of Botticelli’s visit. So much has changed in the last few years about how we think about substance use disorders. As the opioid overdose epidemic has advanced across the nation, it has accelerated a shift in how we think about addiction. No longer is the dominant view one that focuses on a lack of will or criminal behavior. Today, most people understand addiction as a chronic disease like diabetes or asthma.

This is why our focus at Care New England is much the same for patients dealing with substance use as it is for patients grappling with any other disease or condition. We are moving from a model that helps people “get well” to that which helps them “keep well.” It is all part of population health management where we look beyond episodes of care to what a patient needs to sustain health improvements.

Our Anchor Recovery programs offer the full gamut of interventional and support services for those grappling with substance use, including the AnchorEd program which prompted Botticelli’s visit. Funded by the state departments of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals and Health and by a generous private donor, AnchorED deploys trained recovery coaches to all hospitals statewide when the emergency department reports admitting an individual who has experienced

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an opioid overdose. Recovery coaches are individuals trained and employed by the Anchor Recovery Community Center. All have lived the experience of addiction, which gives them the hard-earned credibility they need to talk to people recovering in the emergency department and convince them to enter treatment and ongoing recovery support services such as recovery coaching or telephone recovery support.

Now operational in every hospital in the state, 24 hours per day, seven days a week, AnchorED has been remarkably successful. Since the project began in June 2014, 1,135 individuals have met with an AnchorED peer recovery specialist after surviving an opiate overdose. Of the 905 survivors seen by recovery coaches this year, 82.8 percent have engaged in recovery supports after discharge. Most of the survivors have followed up with the Anchor Recovery Community Center and have been provided with recovery coaching, telephone recovery support, and referrals to medication-assisted treatment, detox or recovery housing.

This is hard work. The people AnchorED serves have complex needs and without the credibility and special skills the recovery coaches bring it might not be possible to get them to buy into the idea of recovery and treatment.

Innovative efforts like AnchorED come along at the right time. Nationally, the opioid epidemic continues to grow. Nationwide, from 2001 to 2014, deaths as a result of heroin overdose have increased six-fold. The death rate from drug overdose is unacceptably high in Rhode Island—1.96 per 100,000 individuals, the seventh highest in the nation. In 2015, 258 people in our state lost their lives to overdose, more than the number of homicides, motor vehicle accidents, and suicides combined.

To address this public health crisis, we have made the opioid issue a critical element of our own community and public health plan by working to reduce stigma, improve outcomes, increase access and increase awareness. We are joined in this mission by Governor Raimondo and other state leaders who have recognized the need for innovation and state resources to address this crisis. We are pleased that our Anchor staff participated as members of her Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force which recently issued a set of recommendations and a specific benchmark to reduce the number of overdose patients seen in emergency departments. We believe Rhode Island will only be able to achieve this goal through the efforts of programs like Anchor delivering the message of recovery—get well and keep well.



“Reversing opioid overdoses with naloxone is keeping people alive, but we can’t stop there—we have to connect people with treatment after an overdose,” said Botticelli at the end of his meeting with our team. “AnchorEd is using an innovative approach that’s bringing the community together to help people access treatment and reach recovery. By increasing access to evidence-based treatment options like medication-assisted treatment, we can save lives and help move Rhode Island—and our country—from crisis to recovery.”

Congratulations to the Anchor Recovery Center and The Providence Center on this outstanding work! You are truly making a difference and saving lives.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

ConvergenceRI 
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Research demonstrates that Women & Infants' screening practice is recommended



Women & Infants Hospital was the fourth largest recruiter of women for a study in which the authors concluded that women with endometrial cancer should also be screened for genetic risk for Lynch syndrome, a hereditary colorectal cancer. The study reinforced the practice of pathological screening in this population that has been in place at Women & Infants for the past three years.

The study—entitled “Combined Microsatellite Instability, MLH1 Methylation Analysis, and Immunohistochemistry for Lynch Syndrome Screening in Endometrial Cancers from GOG210: An NRG Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology Group Study”—was printed in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Authors include Paul DiSilvestro, MD, interim director of the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants and head of the Program's research arm.

“This research reinforces the need for screening, and the value for us is that Women & Infants already does these screenings,” notes Dr. DiSilvestro, who is also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. “The study is based on a large cohort of women with endometrial cancer who had information and tissue collected for examination.”

The researchers took on the challenge of identifying a best screening practice for Lynch syndrome, which had not been identified to that point despite the fact that endometrial cancer is the second most common malignancy in patients with Lynch syndrome.

Analysis of more than one thousand endometrial cancer tissue samples through the study suggested a probable link to Lynch syndrome in 41 percent of the women. The results also indicated that women of all ages with endometrial cancer should be screened. More than 24 percent of those women identified as genetic mutation carriers as part of this study were over the age of 60.

“Restricting Lynch testing to certain age groups could result in missing a substantial fraction of genetic disease,” Dr. DiSilvestro says. “Identifying women with endometrial cancer and Lynch syndrome benefits them as well as their at-risk relatives.”

Linda Nelson named fellow of American Society of Health System Pharmacists

Congratulations to Linda A. Nelson, PharmD, BCCCP, a clinical pharmacy specialist in the Integrated Program for High-Risk Pregnancy at Women & Infants, who was recently named a fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP). Dr. Nelson is also co-director of Women & Infants' Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and an adjunct clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Rhode Island (URI) College of Pharmacy.



The ASHP Practitioner Recognition Program recognizes excellence in pharmacy practice and promotes public awareness of pharmacists who have distinguished themselves in practice. Fellows have made significant contributions to health system pharmacy practice, have contributed extensively to the professional literature, and have presented at professional meetings and been involved in professional activities.

Dr. Nelson has devoted her career to creating functional, sustainable, value-added services that promote the unique and collaborative contributions of pharmacists in emergency medicine, ambulatory care, critical care, high-risk pregnancy, and antimicrobial stewardship. She has pioneered efforts in collaborative drug therapy management and has developed an ambulatory care specialty residency and a critical care residency. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and has been recognized for contributions to quality and safety in health care. Dr. Nelson is an active member of ASHP and is currently serving as chair of the ASHP Commission on Affiliate Relations. Prior to this, she served as a member of the ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and

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Scientists (SCSS) Educational Steering Committee and as a delegate to the ASHP House of Delegates. Dr. Nelson has served on the Rhode Island Society of Health System Pharmacists (RISHP) Board of Directors for six years. During her term as RISHP president in 2011, she collaborated with URI faculty to establish a statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship Task Force. Dr. Nelson was recognized with the RISHP Health System Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2013.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Nelson earned a doctor of pharmacy degree at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. She achieved certification in advanced antimicrobial stewardship (MAD-ID) and is a specialist critical care pharmacist (BCCP). Visit the ASHP website at <http://www.ashp.org/menu/AboutUs/Awards/ASHPFellows.aspx> for more information.

Anchor to host recovery documentary screening

The Providence Center's Anchor Recovery Center is organizing a screening of *Generation Found*, a documentary that follows efforts for youth recovery in Houston. One of the main areas explored in the film is recovery high schools just like Anchor Learning Academy, which TPC founded in 2011. Anchor Learning Academy is Rhode Island's only recovery high school.

A description from the film's website:

From the creators of The Anonymous People comes Generation Found, a powerful story about one community coming together to ignite a youth addiction recovery revolution in their hometown. Devastated by an epidemic of addiction, Houston faced the reality of burying and locking up its young people at an alarming rate. And so in one of the biggest cities in America, visionary counselors, law school dropouts, aspiring rock musicians, retired football players, oil industry executives, and church leaders came together to build the world's largest peer-driven youth and family recovery community.



The screening will take place on **Wednesday, August 31 at 7:30 p.m.**, at the **Providence Place Mall** theaters. Anchor is organizing the screening through Gathr, a "crowdsourcing" website for documentaries; if the reservations don't hit a certain number, the screening will not take place and no one will be charged.

Learn more about the film at <http://generationfoundfilm.com> and Anchor Learning Academy at <https://providencecenter.org/anchor-academy>. If you're interested in attending *Generation Found*, please reserve your ticket at <https://gathr.us/screening/16390>.

Sign up for Swim Across America

Does volunteering at check-in, other tasks or a mile or half-mile open-water swim sound like an excellent challenge to you? Join the RI Swim Across America as a team, swimmer, swimmer sponsor or volunteer on **Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 9 a.m.** at Roger Wheeler State Beach, Narragansett. Help raise funds for oncology research at Women & Infants! For event details check out RI Swim Across America at <http://bit.ly/2ac9VjO>.

Volunteers will work check-in, hand out towels and cheer on swimmers who'll plunge into the open water to raise funds for oncology research. If you're a kayaker with lifeguard training, we need you, too (kayaks provided). Every volunteer gets a T-shirt, breakfast and lunch, plus the power to fight cancer on an inspiring late-summer day at the beach.

To sign up or for more information on this inspirational event contact Jack Gold, Philanthropy, by August 12 at (401) 921-8509 or JGold@carene.org.



SAVE THE DATE: Healing arts conference slated at Butler

The Occupational Therapy Department at Butler Hospital is hosting a one-day educational seminar titled, "Healing through the Arts: Group Theory and Practice," on **Friday, September 30, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the Ray Conference Center on the Butler Campus. Attendees will learn the basics of group theory and the connection between art and healing, and practice skills for creating a healing environment. The conference features nationally acclaimed storyteller Len Cabral as the keynote speaker, and break-out sessions will cover topics including dance and movement, visual arts, music, creative writing, yoga and more. Continuing education credits for nursing will be available and discounted rates for students and professionals will be applied. Registration will begin in August, please save the date.



Making a difference in the lives of others: Kent nurse thanked by former patient

Sylvia Ricciutti, RN, labor and delivery, recently received a pleasant surprise from former patient, Amy Fontaine of West Warwick. Fontaine, who was at Kent to visit her mother, stopped by the unit to pay special thanks to Ricciutti, who was instrumental in helping Fontaine quit smoking one year ago. She was presented with flowers in recognition of the one-year anniversary and for her support and inspiration.

Care New England team publishes recipe book for NICU families

Infants being discharged from the Women & Infants Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as well as the Level II nursery at Kent are often sent home on increased calorie formulas. These formulas require special mixing instructions to achieve the desired caloric intake. Even breast fed infants still require having some formula added to the breast milk to reach the recommended caloric level to assure proper growth and development. Both families and staff reported more frequent GI-related problems in these babies after their discharge, sometimes leading to an increase in ED visits as well as possible growth and developmental impediments.



Many families reported not understanding how to mix formula properly, families were confused by the recipes provided at discharge, some families did not have the proper tools in their homes (i.e. measuring spoons and bottles), staff have fewer opportunities to do bedside teaching prior to discharge, and many caretakers were not aware of the importance of ensuring families receive adequate teaching prior to discharge.

A multidisciplinary group of Women & Infants and Kent staff identified several areas for intervention. In addition to a revised discharge policy and staff education and training, the group partnered with the March of Dimes to purchase mixing supplies for families in need, to develop a formula mixing video in both English and Spanish to be available in the units, and to create modified versions of mixing recipes to include pictures accompanying each step. The group was able to work with community partners such as the March of Dimes, visiting nurse agencies and First Connections providers to share modified recipes and mixing videos to provide an opportunity for ongoing support and education for infants and families in our community. As a result, parents have reported feeling more confident with proper mixing and experiencing fewer mixing errors.

Kudos to Melissa O'Donnell, Dr. Betty Vohr, Joy Delisle, Lynn Przystac, Leslie McKinley, Beth Taub, Nicole Aguiar, Jean Salera-Vieira, Bridget Aguiar, Jacquelyn Johnston, and Jennifer Silva for a job well done! 

