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“No matter what your personal beliefs are or who you voted for, there is little doubt that the decisions made and the votes cast over the next few weeks and months will significantly impact Care New England, our member organizations and the patients and families we serve.”

Good day!

In this issue:



While I am hopeful the blessings of a new year (as well as your 2017 resolutions) remain intact, the realities of a new and uncertain political landscape quickly took hold this past week as both the state and federal legislative sessions kicked off with more questions than answers, many of them regarding the future of health care delivery nationwide and in Rhode Island.

On the federal level, 2017 was being viewed as an opportunity to fix the flaws of an imperfect, but in many ways successful, Affordable Care Act (ACA). With more than 20 million newly-insured individuals under the ACA, efforts to limit price fluctuations in the insurance markets, slow the increased costs for prescription drugs, continue the expansion of Medicaid, and, at long-last, focus on improving behavioral health were all on the agenda.

President-elect Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress, however, have already begun moving forward with a plan that is a dramatic change of direction, both ideologically and politically. No matter what your personal beliefs are or who you voted for, there is little doubt that the decisions made and the votes cast over the next few weeks and months will significantly impact Care New England, our member organizations and the patients and families we serve.

While “Trumpcare,” as it will likely become known, will probably become the law of the land, the details of a replacement bill remain scarce. A report released by the American Hospital Association and the Federation of American Hospitals, however, estimates the financial impact on hospitals nationwide from 2018 to 2026 will result in a negative impact of \$165.8 billion in coverage losses; a loss of \$289.5 billion in Medicare inflation updates if the payment reductions in the ACA are not restored; and an additional \$102.9 billion in cuts if the ACA’s Medicare and Medicaid DSH

continued

(disproportionate share) payment reductions are not restored. The report also estimates that a repeal of the ACA would result in losses at Kent, Memorial and Women & Infants hospitals totaling more than \$95 million during that same timeframe. These types of predictions may seem dire, but campaign promises can quickly turn into political mandates, suggesting that no outcome should be viewed as impossible.

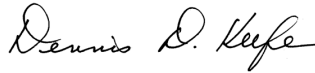
While our delegation has little ability to impact the repeal/replace process related to the ACA, we are still working closely with them on a variety of issues such as ensuring that funding for the 340B Drug Discount Program remains intact, language regarding socio-economic risk adjustment for readmissions is fully implemented, and efforts toward equity in Graduate Medical Education (GME) reimbursements continue to move forward.

Closer to home, the Rhode Island General Assembly also convened last week for the start of its 2017 session. Though we don't know the details or timing of what will happen in Washington, it's likely that any replacement of the ACA will increase pressure on states to support "safety-net" providers such as CNE through block grants or other flat payments. Our relationships with Gov. Raimondo, House Speaker Mattiello and Senate President Paiva-Weed remain strong, but their responsibilities extend far beyond health care, making it more important than ever that we remain vigilant about protecting our collective vision to create a community of healthier people.

In an already difficult economic environment, essential hospitals such as those at Care New England have done more than their share by accepting lower reimbursements and less support for the millions of dollars in uncompensated care we provide each year. We will remain steadfast throughout the session to ensure the care of our patients and the jobs of our employees remain a priority. As I have stated previously, the voice of one can quickly turn into the chorus of many, so I urge all of you to call your local, state and federal representatives to make them aware of the great work we are conducting throughout CNE and to express your concerns about our ability to continue to provide the highest quality and safest care to the communities we serve.

Finally, I encourage you to find the strength to keep your 2017 resolutions as long as you can. Whether your steps are big or small or somewhere in between, heading in the right direction is the most important part. Of course, this message applies to me personally as well!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Women & Infants



Kent



Care New England welcomes first babies of 2017!

Carla Jean DeLeon was the first baby born in Rhode Island in 2017! Born at Women & Infants, Carla made her arrival at 12:05 a.m. on January 1, weighing 6 pounds, 4.9 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Congratulations to her family—Crystal and Joey DeLeon and big brothers Jacob and Jaden.

While not the first baby of the year, Kent did welcome the first baby born at the hospital in the new year. Isabella Tomei was born at 5:46 a.m. on January 2 and weighed in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces. Isabella is the child of Jessica and Kyle Tomei, of Warwick. Congratulations to the family!



You're invited to join us...

2017 Q1 Town Hall Meetings
Plan ahead. Mark your calendar. Look forward to seeing you!

2017 Town Hall Meetings | Q1 Schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Starting the week of January 9, a series of Town Hall Meetings will be hosted at each Care New England operating unit. Hosted by each facility's president/executive leader, the meetings will provide updates on system and operating unit activities with an open discussion providing time for employees to ask questions. President and CEO Dennis Keefe and Executive Vice President Sandra Coletta each plan to attend one meeting at all operating units. Please mark your calendar and attend one of the meetings. The presentation will be video recorded and posted to **carenet**.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
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Butler Hospital

Tuesday, January 10	3:30 p.m.	Ray Hall
Thursday, January 12	8 a.m.	Ray Hall

CNE Corporate

Monday, January 9	10:30 a.m.	Trowbridge, Room 102 and 103
Monday, January 9	2 p.m.	Butler, Ray Hall
Wednesday, January 11	9 a.m.	Kent, Service Road
Wednesday, January 11	10:30 a.m.	Kent, Service Road
Thursday, January 12	1 p.m.	4 Richmond Square
Thursday, January 12	3 p.m.	300 Richmond Nursing Ed Classrooms A and B

Kent Hospital

Thursday, January 12	7:30 a.m.	Auditorium A
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Memorial Hospital

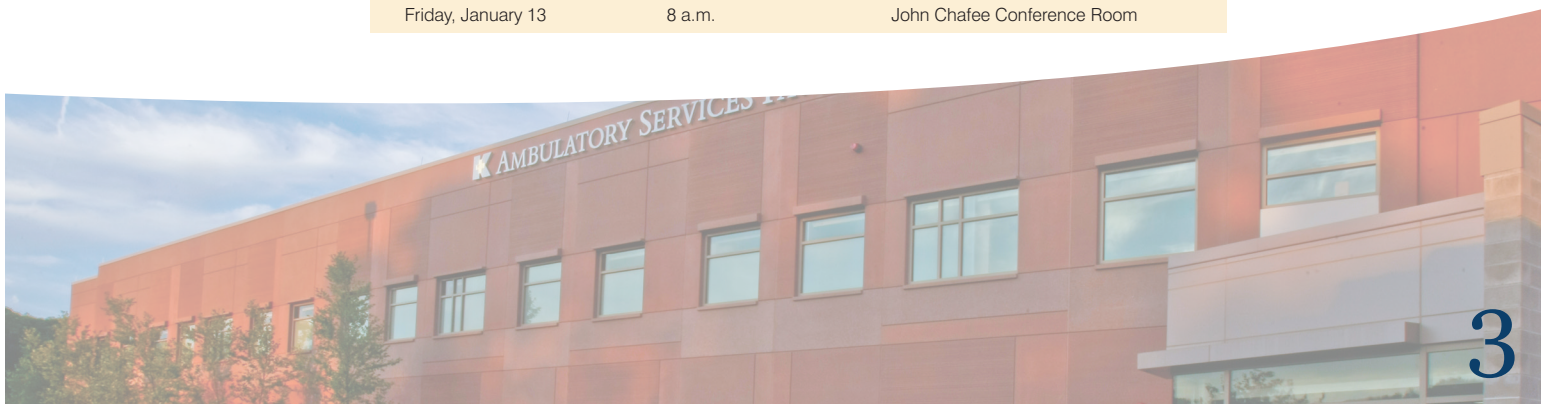
Wednesday, January 11	9 a.m.	Sayles Conference Center
Tuesday, January 17	3 p.m.	Sayles Conference Center

Women & Infants Hospital

Monday, January 9	8 a.m.	Main Hospital, South Pavilion 2
Monday, January 9	1 p.m.	50 Holden Street, Brown Center
Tuesday, January 10	2 p.m.	70 Elm Street, 2 nd Floor
Wednesday, January 11	12:30 p.m.	134 Thurbers Ave, FAC Conference Room
Thursday, January 12	12 noon	2 Dudley Street, OGCC
Thursday, January 12	4 p.m.	Main Hospital, South Pavilion 1
Friday, January 13	8 a.m.	One Blackstone, 3 rd Floor
Friday, January 13	12 noon	Main Hospital, South Pavilion 3
Thursday, January 19	10:30 a.m.	101 Plain Street
Thursday, January 19	2 p.m.	90 Plain Street

VNA of Care New England

Tuesday, January 10	3 p.m.	John Chafee Conference Room
Friday, January 13	8 a.m.	John Chafee Conference Room



Butler recognized for elder care

The Rhode Island chapter of the national Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) recently awarded Butler Hospital with its 2016 Business Partner Award. The award was given in honor of the work done by Butler's psychiatric consultants who collaborate with the PACE team to improve the lives of PACE clients—individuals age 55 and older who require nursing home-level care. Accepting the award on behalf of Butler, Louis Marino, MD, associate medical director of geriatrics, said, "I am beyond delighted to accept this on behalf of the geriatric psychiatrists at Butler Hospital. This is a very, very exciting place for us to work, and clearly everyone here is making major contributions."



Dr. Louis Marino of Butler Hospital, right, accepts the 2016 PACE RI Business Partner Award on behalf of Butler from PACE RI Vice President of Operations Bill Kirkpatrick.



Memorial Auxiliary donation supports Diagnostic Imaging waiting room upgrade

Members of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary recently met with hospital leadership to present a gift of \$10,000 which will be used to renovate the Diagnostic Imaging waiting room. Members of the Auxiliary, which was founded in 1911, have dedicated their time to providing for the welfare of patients and families. They have raised funds for Memorial which have been instrumental in purchasing equipment, renovating patient areas and creating the chapel.

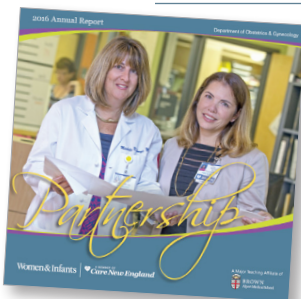
Pictured from left to right are: Eileen Dobbing, senior vice president and chief nursing officer; Catherine Kando; Tina Demopoulos; Irene Lynch; Jim Burke, vice president for finance; Michael Dacey, MD, president and COO; Barbara Zito; and Susan Mouradian, chief philanthropy officer.

TPC School welcomes new principal

Celine Johnson has joined The Providence Center (TPC) as principal of TPC School, a special education school for students in preschool through grade 12 who are diagnosed with emotional and behavioral disorders. Johnson will also serve as director of TPC's Anchor Learning Academy, a recovery high school for kids struggling with substance abuse.

Coming to TPC with 25 years of education experience, Johnson holds a doctorate in education leadership and is certified as a special education director and principal. Her most recent position was as director of special education at Ocean Tides School in Narragansett.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with these students," said Johnson. "I'm hoping to start by spreading the word around Rhode Island about TPC School and all that we can do to help children with behavioral issues."



W&I releases Ob/Gyn annual report

Each year, the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Care New England's Women & Infants Hospital publishes an annual report. The department's talented faculty members continue to be leaders in the field through a demonstrated dedication to and passion for innovation in clinical care, research and education, all focused on a collective mission to improve women's health and the lives of women and their families.

Take a look at this year's report <http://bit.ly/2iUs7j5>. (Note: Update your browser for the best viewing experience.) 

