



Good day! Last week we took a difficult but necessary step in the process to restore financial well-being to our health care system as Memorial Hospital submitted its application for closure to the Rhode Island Department of Health as required by the state Hospital Conversions Act.

The filing advises the Department of Health that Memorial plans to cease operations as a licensed inpatient hospital and requests the approval of the Director for the elimination of the Emergency Department and certain other services. A [press release](#) was sent to all of our employees as well as the community outlining the reasons behind this decision.

While it's important to provide some context as to why this decision was made, I feel it's essential for all of us, including myself, to be reminded of the significant impact closing this hospital will have on people's lives. Since we acquired Memorial, I have had nothing but the deepest respect for the employees who have continued to work hard for patients and families, and just as importantly for their colleagues, despite the incredible ongoing challenges they have faced. Their collective dedication and commitment has been remarkable.

The application submitted by Memorial focuses in large part on the resolution of the ongoing losses the hospital continues to experience. Memorial is not financially viable and is not projected to be so. As the application stated, "At 9.3 percent occupancy, Memorial's daily census has been significantly below capacity and below what is required to be financially viable. Due to service readiness, staffing, and operational requirements to meet licensure conditions, Memorial loses approximately \$2 million per month. Given such under-utilization and unsustainable chronic financial losses, Memorial cannot continue to adequately staff and deliver patient care services in a clinically safe and financially viable manner and intends to cease all operations as soon as possible."

Specific to impacted employees of Memorial, Care New England is working to implement a transition plan that would help find placement throughout the system and beyond for those impacted, wherever possible. The application addressed employee support services being offered during this transition, including job fairs and other outplacement efforts. Memorial and CNE will continue to collaborate with state and local leaders as well as other area medical facilities to find jobs for employees in non-CNE facilities if suitable positions are not available within CNE.

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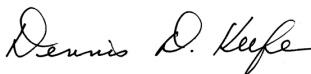
The application also discussed the need to preserve access to quality care for members of the community surrounding Memorial. Following the closure of the hospital, Care New England currently intends to provide certain community-based primary and specialty care services in Pawtucket. In addition to identifying a range of medical facilities available within the existing service area, the application highlights that "Memorial and CNE leadership have had meetings with representatives of several hospitals and community health centers...and each has indicated the capacity and willingness to accept patients and provide services for patients transitioning from Memorial."

As part of our ongoing communications with state and city leadership, Governor Raimondo recommended convening a forum comprised of representatives from Care New England, state officials, and community leadership as an appropriate next step to identify and address the need for community-based services after the closure. We agree that a successful, cooperative, and collaborative effort providing a thorough and thoughtful review is the best way to determine the best future use of the Memorial campus.

This process is moving swiftly. It must if we are to reverse the course we have been on for too long. We will continue to keep you updated.

Thank you and have a good week ahead.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



"You Should Be Dancing" raises \$462,000 for Women & Infants

On Saturday, October 21, approximately 300 guests joined together for "You Should Be Dancing," an event that raised more than \$462,000 for Women & Infants Hospital's Birth Center. The event was held at Café Nuovo in Providence and featured an evening of disco sounds with DJ Jaybeau Jones and live performances by the Boston-based band SoHo.

The evening's contributors included Presenting Sponsor CVS Health; Solid Gold Sponsors Cox Business, Women & Infants' Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Women & Infants' Department of Pediatrics; Disco Ball Sponsors Malcolm G. Chace Jr., Women & Infants' Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Hinckley Allen, Women & Infants' Medical Staff Association, NOW Delivery, Cynthia B. Patterson, Jack and Judith Remondi, and Southern New England Healthcare for Women; Dance Fever Sponsors ABM, Atlantic Management, Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Lisa G. Bisaccia and Robert P. Neparstek, MD, Bernie and Heidi Buonanno, Claflin, Joanna and Angus Davis, Women & Infants' Department of Medicine, Hasbro, IGT, Nursing Moms, Etc., Sodexo, Anne and Michael Szostak, The Foundry, Verrecchia Family Foundation, and University Ob-Gyn, Inc.

To contribute to the Fund-A-Need or to make a donation of any kind, visit <https://foundation.womenandinfants.org/dancing>.



Top photo: Pictured with Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology Dr. Maureen Phipps (center) are event co-chairs Oliver Bennett, Leslie Sweeney, Martha Boss Bennett, and Michael Sweeney.

Bottom photo: Clinicians from Women & Infants' Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology celebrated 70s style at "You Should Be Dancing." Pictured left to right are Maureen Phipps, MD; Paul DiSilvestro, MD; Deborah Myers, MD; Kristen Matteson, MD; Elisabeth Howard, CNM; Katharine Wenstrom, MD; Ruben Alvero, MD; and Roxanne Vrees, MD.



Honoring Our Heroes

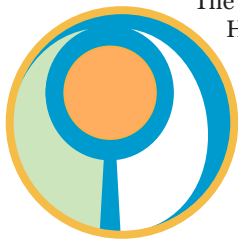
Care New England will once again gather together to honor our employees who have served our country's military in a Tribute to Honor Our Heroes. America is founded on the principle of freedom, justice, and liberty for all. Our nation's soldiers serve every day to protect our country and its ideals. We salute you for your service, your dedication, and the sacrifices you and your families have made on behalf of us, our country, and for our freedom.



Join us as we honor all Care New England veterans on **Monday, November 13** from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ray Hall Conference Center at Butler Hospital. The event will feature recording artist Vini Ames and the Hope High School Select Band, United States Air Force Captain Erik Wallin and United States Marine Corps Corporal Brian Lacerda.

Continental breakfast will be served prior to the ceremony and valet parking will be available. Please RSVP by Friday, November 10 to Chantelle Tangui at (401) 455-6501 or ctangu@carene.org.

The Providence Center completes four-year "Health Connections" grant program



The Providence Center recently completed a four-year grant funded by the Substance Use and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) called "Health Connections." The project's mission was to connect people with excessive hospitalizations (designated "super users") who also have a serious mental illness diagnosis to a comprehensive array of services with the ultimate goal of reducing high cost service use, increasing stability, and improving quality of life.

Sarah Pratt, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry at The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, provided an assessment of the programs results, citing favorable numbers across the board.

At the point of enrollment, 22 percent of clients did not have a primary care doctor, and 38 percent had received no primary care in the past six months. Within the first six months of enrollment, only 3.8 percent of clients did not have a primary care doctor, and after the first 12 months of the program the number of clients without primary care dropped to two percent.

Additionally, clients who completed both a baseline and six-month follow-up assessment, the mean number of emergency department visits over the prior six months dropped significantly:

- Visits for substance abuse decreased by almost 37 percent.
- Visits for medical reasons decreased by 68 percent.
- Visits for psychiatric issues decreased by 50 percent.

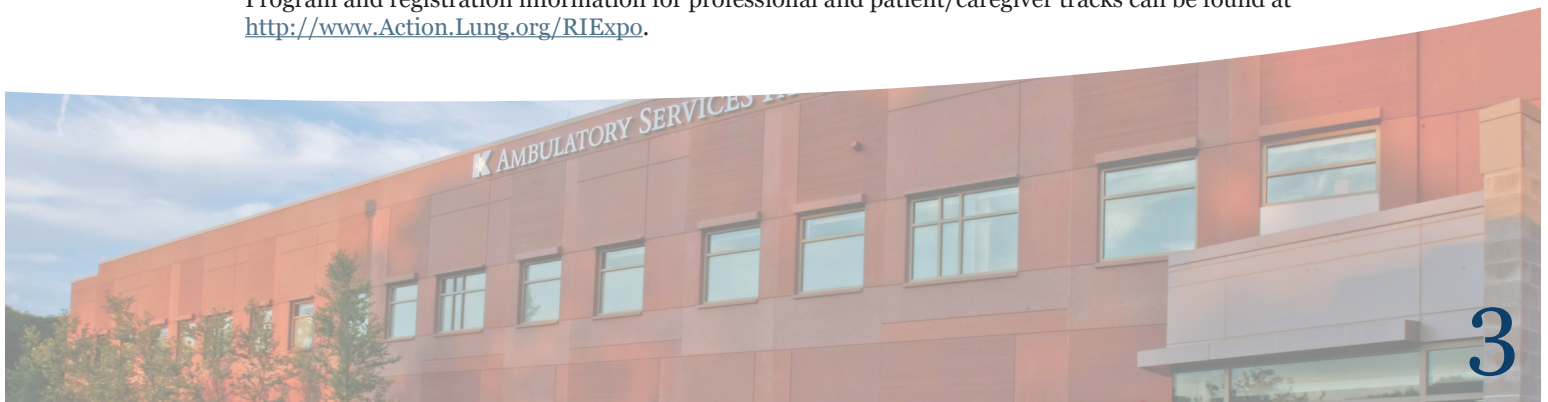
Holly Fitting, TPC's vice president of recovery and residential services, sees the results as evidence of an encouraging 'return on investment' for these kinds of wraparound services. "The favorable results prove that having this type of intervention not only helps the clients, but also serves as a cost savings to the system," said Fitting.

Kent Hospital respiratory expert to speak at upcoming community event

Kent Hospital respiratory therapy manager, Jim Ginda, MA, RRT, FAARC, will be part of an expert panel for the upcoming 2017 American Lung Association Lung Force Expo. Ginda is a nationally recognized speaker and leader in respiratory care, and has provided testimony on lung health issues for the Providence City Council, Rhode Island General Assembly, and United States Senate. This community event is presented by CVS Health, and will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick on **Wednesday, November 8**.



Program and registration information for professional and patient/caregiver tracks can be found at <http://www.Action.Lung.org/RIExpo>.



Care New England celebrates Infection Control Week

This year the week of October 15 marked Infection Control Week, where teams cross Care New England raised awareness of the critical role infection prevention plays in improving patient safety. Kent and Memorial hospitals displayed posters providing information on CAUTI, CLABSI, C-diff, hand hygiene, influenza, equipment cleaning, and antibiotic resistance. Those who participated in the educational event were eligible for a prize. The final raffle winners were: Christine Noel, Kent Hospital 5 West; Lisa Nowak, MHRI radiology; and Debbie Allen, MHRI central processing.



In tandem with the Quality Fair at Women & Infants, Infection Prevention's educational booth highlighted hand hygiene, with a focus on artificial nails guidelines. In addition, the infection prevention team employed an exercise with the use of Glow Germ to demonstrate importance of good hand hygiene practices for health care workers.

Butler Hospital brought infection prevention center stage during their annual education fair. The fair include five days of live infection prevention education and the administration of nearly 600 influenza vaccines to employees.

Lastly, the VNA of Care New England also used Infection Prevention week to administer the flu shots, supported by a 'Don't Bug Me' newsletter highlighting the myths and facts of the flu vaccine.

Thanks to all who participated!



Save the date! 5th annual Driftwood Alzheimer's fundraiser

The annual Driftwood Alzheimer's fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, November 18** from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI. The evening is hosted by one of Memory and Aging Program's Heroes and Pioneers, Paul Cote, whose heartfelt artwork is making a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

The evening includes performances from the State Ballet of RI, the Sound of Gravity, Blue Man Group, and others who are donating their talents for this cause. Funds raised this evening will benefit the RI Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and Butler's Memory and Aging Program.

Tickets are \$50 per person, visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3061120>. 

