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Yesterday I celebrated my 68th birthday, so it seemed to be the right time to announce what the Board and I had agreed to almost one year ago; that 2017 would be my last year as president and CEO of Care New England. It's time to move on and figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life, including spending lots of time with my very patient wife, Laura, along with the rest of my family—all 13 of us! But I won't be gone completely for a while. I will continue to serve in a consulting capacity for up to one year, helping with the transition to

Dr. James Fanale—who you will find to be a highly skilled and very capable leader—and to continue to help shepherd through our important transactions with Partners and Prime. I have included Dr. Fanale's bio below and look forward to helping him transition into this role in the weeks and months ahead. [I will also be sharing this announcement publicly shortly.](#)

Since my arrival at Care New England in August 2011, I have been impressed with your dedication and commitment to our mission of caring and healing. You have always been unwavering in that regard, and I have been very proud to be a member of our organization for that reason. In addition, I have felt that I had your support during my tenure, even though we have faced significant challenges and have had to make difficult and sometimes controversial decisions. I deeply appreciate that, and will cherish the many fond memories that I have of our time together.

Despite our challenges and recent difficulties, I remain confident in a future of sustained financial stability for Care New England. That is the work we have done together, and that you will continue to do going forward. It is the best path to ensure a strong Care New England regardless of the outcome of our important transactions. I encourage you to continue your tremendous work and to do so with great pride! You are making a difference here and across the community. I look forward to staying updated on your ongoing accomplishments and success as Care New England continues to help shape health care for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

ConvergenceRI
Click [here](#) to view this week's *ConvergenceRI*

James Fanale, MD, currently serves as executive vice president, chief operating officer, and chief clinical officer for Care New England. Prior to arriving at Care New England, Dr. Fanale served as senior vice president for system development and chief operating officer at Jordan Hospital, where he was responsible for the development of one of the nation's first Medicare Shared Savings Programs—Accountable Care Organizations (ACO). In this capacity, he created and implemented programs involving population health management, was responsible for the overall operations of the system, and assisted in the merger of Jordan Hospital into Beth Israel Medical Center. He also advanced key relationships with health plans and the physician networks to pioneer both the clinical and management aspects of health care in the accountable care environment. He has been instrumental in the continuing development of Care New England's ACO, Integra, including the establishment of Integra as a Medicaid Accountable Entity. In addition, he serves as the prime investigator of the recently awarded, \$3.9 million CMS Accountable Communities Grant.



Dr. Fanale earned his medical degree from Chicago Medical School and completed his residency at UMass Memorial Medical Center. He is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Fanale is a fellow in the American College of Physicians and the American Geriatrics Society, and is a past president and chair of the board of the American Geriatrics Society. He is a member of numerous professional organizations, and has served as an advisor or consultant to numerous public and private organizations.

Looking ahead: Nursing at Care New England

What is the future of nursing for Care New England? During Angelleen Peters-Lewis's time as Care New England's chief nursing officer, nursing leadership worked together to develop a shared vision and strategic plan. Strategic planning is a dynamic process for leaders that helps them envision the future and build a map or guideposts to get from here to there. The *Journal of Nursing Administration* published "Strategy as a Solution: Developing a Nursing Strategic Plan," which described the process as a good way to identify existing strengths and opportunities, while addressing gaps or space between the current state and the vision for the future.



With the support of the chief nursing officers and executive leaders at each operating unit, the nurses across CNE will soon receive an invitation to participate in a set of focus groups to give input and share thoughts about a preferred future for nursing. The workgroup for the "engagement pillar" of the CNE nursing strategic plan is spearheading the process of conducting facilitated focus groups, under the leadership of Julie Spirito, nurse manager, Antenatal Care Unit, Women & Infants, and Cindy Bielecki, director, Quality Improvement, VNA. The team also includes Margaret Allaire (Kent), Lauren Griswold (Kent), Kim McDonough (Kent), Judy Salome (The Providence Center), Scott Van Steeden (Butler), Idrialis Perez-Carter (Butler), and Lori Johnson (Women & Infants). Kathy Peirce (VNA) and Matt Quin (Women & Infants) are the executive sponsors.

We are often so busy that it is hard to look ahead and try to determine where nursing should be in one year, three years, and even 10 years from now. Nurse leaders must actively define the direction and seek to engage nurses across the system to drive toward the future together. The goal is to have 10 percent of the Care New England nursing workforce represented at these focus groups to share ideas and thoughts. This process will help set the foundation for the next phase of strategic planning, and to set tactics and action plans. If invited, please take the opportunity to participate in the important work of building the future of nursing. We need you and your ideas to ensure we are on the right path.

Third annual Healing Arts Conference

On **Friday, September 29**, Butler Hospital will host its annual Healing Arts Conference in Ray Hall from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year's theme, "Telling Our Stories: Healing Arts and the Power of Personal Narrative," is focused on real-world effective skills needed to promote healthy and meaningful communication through arts-based therapeutic interventions. The conference includes a variety of presenters and, during break-out sessions, attendees will actively participate in learning skills that they can immediately transfer to their own work setting, population, clients, and interest areas. The conference will also feature keynote speaker Christopher Johnson, award-winning poet, artist, and educator.

Continuing Education Credits are offered for nursing, LMHC, and social work. All participants will receive attendance certificates for 5.5 contact hours.

Cost is \$95, Care New England employees are eligible for discounted tickets at \$75 each.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2woVZ7a> to learn more about the individual breakout sessions, read presenter bios, and to register.

This information can also be found by searching "Butler" at <http://bit.ly/2wUoxOI> or by visiting <http://butler.org/healingarts>.

If you have any questions contact healingarts@butler.org or the Butler Hospital Occupational Therapy Department at (401) 455-6412.



Kent Hospital to hold patient identification trainings

Beginning **Friday, September 15** Kent Hospital will be holding a series of trainings that reinforce the importance of checking patient ID—both the patient name and date of birth—at all levels and at all points of care. The trainings will review the Patient Identification Policy and request that all attendees sign a pledge to patient safety.

It is highly encouraged that all patient-facing staff attend this safety initiative. Trainings will be held in the Doctor's Auditorium starting every 15 minutes on:

- Friday, September 15 between noon and 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 20 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Monday, September 25 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.



Women's health research funding cycle opens



The 2017 Constance A. Howes Women's Health Innovation Research Fund (CAH Fund) Grant Program is now open! This year the CAH Fund is accepting applications in two categories: 1) basic science or 2) clinical research. Up to \$25,000 will be awarded in each category. Applications are due **October 20, 2017**.

The CAH Fund seeks novel projects that have the potential for significant translational impact in the field of women's health and gender-based research. Awards are meant to provide seed funding for exciting pilot studies that will propel research ideas to the level of external funding, including federal and foundation sources. This fund is generously supported by donors to Women & Infants Hospital.

Previous CAH Fund award winners include Drs. Lynae Brayboy and Juan Sanchez-Esteban in 2016 and Drs. Surendra Sharma and Erika Werner in 2015.

The CAH Fund Request for Proposals is available at <http://carenet/howes-grant-program/index.cfm>.

For questions or more information, please email cahfund@wihri.org.

Linda Nanni named Certified Nurse Midwife of the Year



Congratulations to Linda Nanni, MS, CNM, FACNM, who has been named Certified Nurse Midwife of the Year by *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine. Nanni is director of the Care New England Medical Group (CNEMG) Midwifery Service and Women's Care Midwifery Service and is on the medical staff at Women & Infants.

Nanni received her master's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC and has been a certified nurse midwife (CNM) since 1983. She came to Rhode Island in 1984 to begin the midwifery service at the Rhode Island Group Health Association and directed that service for six years.

Nanni is the past chairperson of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives and remains actively involved in statewide affairs that affect maternal-child health. She has been an advisor to the Department of Health on various issues including RItE Care, prescription privileges for CNMs, barriers to the practice of CNMs. She is the immediate past regional representative to the American College of Nurse Midwives where she represented New England.

Nanni has been with Women's Care since June 1996 and is director of its Midwifery Service. She has been and continues to be actively committed to the training of midwifery students, and is currently on the teaching staff of Yale University and the Frontier School of Midwifery.



Women & Infants no longer to provide outpatient pelvic floor physical therapy services



As of **September 30**, Women & Infants will no longer provide outpatient pelvic floor physical therapy services—this change does not impact the physical therapy services provided to Women & Infants' surgical and obstetric patients. While the service was offered as part of the other clinical services provided to patients in urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery, it unfortunately is not something that we can continue to offer during these financially challenging times.

We have reached out to all of the patients to assist them through this transition. Patients will need to sign an authorization form and return it to the office so we may transfer the records. Patients may obtain an authorization form by calling the office at (401) 277-3704. Until then, records will remain in storage for seven years. Patients may need to contact their referring provider for a new referral if it is needed.

Know your numbers, earn your discount!

Flex benefit-eligible employees (all non-union and VNA employees), learn your cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, fasting glucose, HbA1c, and nicotine levels through a blood draw, plus blood pressure and BMI check at one of our free, confidential, and private biometric screenings.

To schedule an appointment online, please visit <https://scheduler.ehealthscreenings.com/login> (use screening key CNE02) or register by phone at 1-888-708-8807, ext. 1.

Screening events will be held at various locations <http://carenet/carenet/humanresources/benefits/upload/2017-Screening-Schedule.pdf>.

All you have to do to earn your monthly health contributions discount (discount begins January 1, 2018) is complete your biometric screening, prove that you are tobacco free or enrolled in a tobacco cessation program, and designate a primary care physician.

Visit http://carenet/carenet/humanresources/benefits/upload/CNE_Wellness_HealthScreen_9_17-v4.pdf to learn more. 

