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**Good afternoon and for those who celebrate, Happy Hanukkah! I hope you find this time with your family and friends to be memorable, enriching, and fun! It is amazing just how quickly the time flies and we now find ourselves in the midst of the holiday season.** Speaking of hustle and bustle, it's always busy here at Care New England and that is a good thing. We find ourselves in the midst of progress and exciting change, which is certainly no secret to any of you.

My next round of Town Halls begins today. I have included the schedule below, and I look forward to continuing this series of meetings. I appreciate and value your engagement and input. It represents an important element to our progress and ongoing change.

On the topic of engagement, I want to congratulate all of CNE for collectively hitting the 52 percent mark on the recent employee engagement survey. Thank you for taking the time and making your voices heard. We are eager to learn the results, share them, and address the issues that are discovered. Additionally, these numbers represent a significant historical improvement, so thank you. More information will also be shared in the days ahead about the local celebrations to take place in conjunction with hitting the engagement milestones. Well done!

Finally, you may have seen that CNE announced last week that in Fiscal Year 2018 our obligated group (CNE excluding Memorial Hospital) achieved income from operations of \$6.6 million versus a budgeted loss of \$2.1 million and the prior year loss of \$47.1 million. Inclusive of Memorial Hospital, there was a consolidated loss of \$29.8 million due to the incorporation of accounting rules for asset impairment and restructuring associated with Memorial's closure. In total, Memorial Hospital lost \$41.9 million in FY 2018.

The year-end FY 2018 results represent a significant improvement in performance over the previous year. Our constant focus on targeting growth, action plan tracking, cost savings, and patient retention is clearly yielding the type of results we would expect. While we are pleased, we must remain focused on further improvement and moving forward our planned acquisition by Partners HealthCare. These results should not belie the fact that CNE still has a weak balance sheet and needs a partner to help support critical capital investments.

In closing, I hope you have a great week ahead, and thank you for your hard work!

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**ConvergenceRI**  
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## Town Hall meetings scheduled

Dr. Jim Fanale, president and CEO of Care New England, will be holding employee Town Hall meetings beginning this week. Please feel free to attend whichever day/time is most convenient:

Tuesday, December 4 | 3:30 p.m. | Butler Hospital, Ray Hall  
 Wednesday, December 5 | 2:30 p.m. | Service Avenue, Building 2 (Lunch room)  
 Thursday, December 6 | 1 p.m. | Kent Hospital, Doctor's Auditorium A & B  
 Monday, December 10 | Noon | CNEMG Primary Care & Specialty Services Building (Pawtucket)  
 Monday, December 10 | 1:30 p.m. | The Providence Center (530 North Main Street, Community Room)

## American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery presents award to CNE bariatric nutritionist



On November 14 Jane Sylvestre, MS, RDN, LDN, a bariatric nutrition specialist with the Care New England Center for Surgical Weight Loss, received the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Excellence in Nutrition Award. The award was presented to Sylvestre during the ASMBS Foundation's inaugural Gala & LEAD Awards held at the Omni Hotel in Nashville, TN. The event was the premier ASMBS event during Obesity Week and was a celebration of The Foundation members' accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

According to the ASMBS, "The ASMBS Excellence in Nutrition Award honors an ASMBS member who has made significant contributions to pre-operative and/or post-operative nutrition. Those contributions include original research specific to nutrition, novel approaches and/or protocols that maximize patient adherence, educational programs, etc. This individual clearly understands how both pre and post-operative nutrition compliments a surgical weight loss procedure and optimizes post-operative health."

Sylvestre has made a significant impact on the patients she has served throughout the course of her 10-year career, which led her to the CNE Center for Surgical Weight Loss this past year. During the past year she has enhanced the pre and post-operative nutrition experience at the Center, and launched new programs such as a mentorship program, the bariatric boutique, and a walking group. She has increased attendance and participation in the Center's monthly support groups and provides further support through her closed Facebook group "cast-a-weighs." She also runs a "back on track" program through which participants experience hands-on cooking classes and supermarket tours.

Sylvestre received her masters of science in human nutrition from Texas Women's University and is certified in level 1 and 2 adult weight management from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is the founder of the New England Bariatric Surgery Dietitian Network and has organized bariatric conferences throughout New England for several years. In her spare time she volunteers at a local food pantry, loves to run, and has completed eight marathons—one of which she encouraged and ran with one of her patients.

## A delicious Thanksgiving for Women & Infants NICU families

More than 50 family members of patients in the Women & Infants NICU came together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Organized by the NICU Family Advisory Council and with the support of the March of Dimes, the evening featured a delicious dinner prepared and donated by Gracie's restaurant.

*Pictured from left to right are Melissa O'Donnell, director of Patient and Family Experience; Silvia Perdomo, NICU Family Advisory Council; Dr. Robert Insoft, chief medical officer; Ellen Slattery, owner of Gracie's; Mathew Varga, executive chef of Gracie's; Erinn Huettelman, March of Dimes; and Amy Eldridge, March of Dimes.*



## Women & Infants welcomes new staff members



Samantha Colli, PA-C, is a physician assistant at Women & Infants Center for Women's Gastrointestinal Health. Samantha graduated with her master of science in physician assistant studies from Johnson & Wales University.

Her clinical interests include inflammatory bowel disease and disorders of the liver. In her free time Samantha enjoys the beach, hanging out with her dog, and exploring new restaurants.



Melissa A. Fitzgerald, NNP-BC, is a neonatal nurse practitioner in the Women & Infants Department of Pediatrics. She earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing and a masters degree as a neonatal nurse practitioner from the University of Connecticut.

With a goal of working in the neonatal field throughout her education, Melissa was fortunate to accept a position in the UConn Health NICU, where she worked as an RN for 12 years. In her free time, Melissa enjoys reading, cooking and baking, and the Red Sox.

## CARE NEW ENGLAND

### Care New England rehabilitation team provides coats to those in need

Thank you to all who participated in the "Buy Nothing Day Coat Drive" led by the Care New England rehabilitation team throughout the month of November. The "Buy Nothing Day Coat Drive" has brought coats and winter wear to children and families in Rhode Island for 22 years.

On Saturday, November 23, racks of coats appeared on the State House lawn thanks to the generosity of those at CNE and countless other organizations and individuals who gave to those who need. Overall, the drive provided more than 300 coats, as well as hats, scarves, and gloves, for those in need to bundle up in this winter at no cost.



## CARE NEW ENGLAND

### Butler's Memory and Aging Program featured on Health Check 10



Last Friday, WJAR's Barbara Morse Silva interviewed Stephen Salloway, MD, MS, director of Butler's Memory and Aging Program. The segment focused on new criteria for the use of lumbar puncture, often called a spinal tap, as an effective way of diagnosing a patient's risk of Alzheimer's disease.

"It turns out that the changes in the spinal fluid occur many years before memory loss," said Salloway. "Now people can come in early, way before dementia, to see if they're at increased risk and to try to lower their risk."

Morse Silva also spoke to 61-year-old David Kalberer, a patient from one of Memory and Aging's prevention trials who had the procedure. Kalberer's mother died of complications due to Alzheimer's, and his father suffers from advanced Alzheimer's.

"Get tested. Be part of this study. I feel like I'm helping a little bit," said Kalberer. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2zHiRJ3>.