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Let's talk this week about our nurses, the men and women who are on the front line of patient care in our hospitals and our outpatient offices. They are specialists in behavioral health, women's health, neonatology, cardiology, general medicine, surgery, cancer care, and so much more.

At **Butler Hospital**, Alexis George, RN, was recently presented with the Quarterly President's Award for Employee Excellence. Alexis joined Butler as a volunteer in 2005 and within the year was hired as a mental health worker. While continuing to work at Butler, she participated in the hospital's Nursing Graduate Program as one of the first students, earning her bachelor of nursing from Rhode Island College in 2015. Upon graduation, Alexis transitioned to the geriatric inpatient unit. Since then, she has gained the confidence and admiration of her co-workers as a staff nurse. There she continues to demonstrate her compassion to Butler's patients with her ability to address the whole patient, the whole family and their lifestyle with the goal of doing what's right to meet their needs.

Under the leadership of 3 North nurse manager Michelle Kurzbach, RN, **Kent Hospital** has consolidated patients who are suffering from alcohol withdrawal onto the new Substance Use Recovery Unit, where nurses are integral to their care. Kent's partnership with The Providence Center and Butler Hospital helps in getting patients to the appropriate level of care and patient-specific after-care. Although early in the process, the goal is to admit these patients directly onto the unit from community resources. Kent continues to develop the program to be able to care for patients suffering from opioid withdrawal.

The second cohort of new RN residents are midway through their year-long training at the **VNA of Care New England**. Also at the VNA, all nurses are now completing patient unique care plans to fulfill the patient rights piece in recent regulatory changes. The nurses at the VNA continue to be recognized for their expertise in wound care. Kathy Peirce, vice president of operations and CNO at the VNA, shared that one of the physicians from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center has said that he will refer all of his Rhode Island ostomy patients to the VNA of CNE because of the significant difference the nurses made to the care of his patient.

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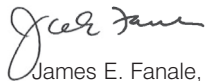
Last week, Diane Rafferty, interim president and COO at **Women & Infants**, announced in *Vital Signs* that the Fertility Center has been named a Nursing Center of Excellence by the Nurses' Professional Group of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). In order to achieve this designation, 10 registered nurses and one certified nurse midwife have already completed certificate examinations to demonstrate their experience in reproductive endocrinology nursing, and another six nurses have already begun the coursework and preparation for the exam. What a wonderful recognition of the hard work and dedication of our nursing staff! I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention the involvement of SEIU 1199 New England, which helped support the funding for this application process.

Across our system, the contributions nurses make to the care and caring we provide, to excellent clinical outcomes, and to the overall experience of our patients and their families is immeasurable and undeniable. Thank you for all you do and for your unwavering commitment.

As an aside, I'd like to let you know that last week I was interviewed by Tim White and Ted Nesi of WPRI-TV12 for this past weekend's edition of *Newsmakers*. It was a great discussion about the ever-changing and challenging health care landscape in Rhode Island. See the interview at <http://bit.ly/2EnhCPa>.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,



James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer



THE PROVIDENCE CENTER

Providence College women's hockey team recognizes The Providence Center



On Friday, February 2, The Providence College Friars women's hockey team dedicated their game versus Merrimack to mental health awareness and recognized The Providence Center (TPC) for its work in the community. TPC's Chief Development Officer Lisa Desbiens was invited to drop the first puck, and the team made special jerseys to mark the occasion. Senior goalie, Alanna Serviss, organized the game in an effort to raise awareness after her own struggle with depression and anxiety.

"I wanted to do something to support a local organization that is really making a difference like The Providence Center, and I hope to be able to partner with their team again in the future. They have offered their clinical

expertise to help create a workshop for coaches and student-athletes identifying warning signs and potential triggers of mental illness," said Alanna. "Together, we all can make a difference and help spread awareness."

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Call for applications for the Care New England 2018 Leadership Seminar



Since its inception more than a decade ago, more than 150 Care New England employees have graduated from the Leadership Seminar, with a 33 percent promotion rate. This comprehensive leadership development program enables existing and aspiring leaders to engage with peers and executive leadership from across the health system to explore, discover, and advance their leadership competence through a wide range of experiences, including lectures, workshops, small group activities, individual development plans, and projects.

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Program highlights:

Leadership Competency Development

Participants explore the Care New England Leadership Competency Model, identify individual strengths and opportunities for improvement, and create a targeted individual development plan that is supported throughout the program.

Leadership in Action

Participants select a project that aligns with CNE's strategic initiatives and supports their individual development plan. The project will span the duration of the Leadership Seminar and will be presented at a monthly management meeting.

Exposure

Participants have the opportunity to engage with peers from across the health system, learn from executive leadership, strengthen business acumen, and gain valuable perspective on the challenges facing health care leaders.

Half-day sessions will be held monthly every fourth Thursday beginning Thursday, March 22 and ending with a commencement ceremony in December.

Interested applicants are asked to discuss participation with their supervisors beforehand to confirm commitment. Applicants complete only the participant portion of the application and then forward to his/her supervisor to complete the supervisor portion. Supervisors submit completed and signed off applications to Meghan LaBranche by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, February 23**. Electronic signatures are welcomed. Applications are available to download at <http://bit.ly/2Boi1Cw>.

If you would like to learn more about the program contact executive sponsor, Dean Carlson at dcarlson@carene.org or (401) 737-7000, ext. 31522, or Meghan LaBranche at mlabranche@carene.org or (401) 680-4346.

Congratulations to last year's leadership seminar graduates: Dennis G. Boisclair (CNE); Melissa Bowler (WIH); Mary Elizabeth Brady (Kent); Heather A. Coelho (WIH); Gillian Cook (CNE); Lori Ciani Crosby (WIH); Melissa Cruz (TPC); Taylor D'Addario, BA, LCDP (TPC); Sheri A. Della Grotta (WIH); Morgan A. L. Goulet (CNE); Mohamad Hamdi, MD (WIH); Dana D'Alessandro Haseotes (WIH); Angelita Hensman (WIH); Karen Kennally, MSN/ED, BSN, RN, CHSE (WIH); Michelle Kurzbach (Kent); Lara A. Laskowski (WIH); Mindy A. Marshall (WIH); Andrew P. McGrath, AuD (WIH); Jeffrey S. McKnight (Kent); Juan A. Montalvan (CNE); Donald R. Murphy, DC, FRCC (Kent); Jill M. Nozolino (CNE); Jessica Rumschlag (Kent); Urmiry Saldana (TPC); Victoria O. Shokunbi (Butler); Julie Spirito, RN, BSN (WIH); Kristen Sundin (Butler); Alicia ZuWallack, PharmD (Kent); Ronald A. Zangari Jr., RPh (Kent); and Chad Znoj (CNE).

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Did You Know? February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

One in three teens in the U.S. is the victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse by a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds other types of youth violence. Dating abuse is a pattern of behaviors one person uses to gain and maintain power and control over their partner. Many people assume abuse means that physical violence is happening, but that's not always the case!

Abuse comes in many forms: physical, emotional/verbal, sexual, financial, and digital. Each type of abuse is serious, and no one deserves to experience abuse of any kind. Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence—almost triple the national average. Violent relationships in adolescence put victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behaviors, and future domestic violence.

If you or someone you know, are suffering from dating violence or interpersonal violence, you can call the DayOne helpline at **1-800-494-8100** to speak to an advocate. The 24/7 helpline is staffed by trained professionals who can

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discuss available resources and safety planning on an individual basis. Anyone can call to get information over the phone, and advocates are able to travel to hospitals and police stations at any time of the day or night to assist as needed. Please explore and share the available resources below. *Together we join as one voice to help end sexual violence.*

DayOne 24/7 Helpline: | **1-800-494-8100**
<https://www.dayoneri.org>

If you are a young person in an abusive relationship: | Text “loveis” to **22522** or call **1-866-331-9474** to speak to a peer advocate or visit <https://www.breakthecycle.org/>

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Care New England gives back

During the holiday season, employees at 171 Service Avenue joined together, bringing in canned goods and additional products to help fight hunger. All collected items were delivered to Westbay Community Action, a charitable organization dedicated to serving the disadvantaged of Kent County through nearly 40 programs that include newborn nutrition, senior safety, a food pantry, and supportive housing.

In total the staff donated 399.5 pounds of food, an impactful donation that could not have been possible without the efforts of Patty Doyle of Patient Financial Services, who has organized this effort for the past six years. Before locating to 171 Service Avenue, Patty led the food drive at 300 Richmond Street for more than 10 years. Thank you, Patty, for all that you do and to all the employees who took part!



CARE NEW ENGLAND

Call for art!



Original work by staff will be the next exhibit in the Malcolm and Elizabeth Chace Education Center at Women & Infants, the 29th in a series funded by a grant from Raymond F. Murphy Jr. and his family in honor of Dr. Walter R. Durkin. The submission deadline is **March 5**. This exhibit is open to all staff throughout Care New England.

Two concurrent exhibits, each approximately eight weeks in duration, will run from April through August. Up to 40 artworks (20 per exhibit) will be chosen by a jury selection. In addition, two artists will be awarded a two-person exhibit in 2019.

Submissions are limited to two-dimensional work that is framed (or similar mounting), no larger than approximately 24 by 28 inches. They must be the original work of a staff member (paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, textiles) and be available for the duration of the exhibit. One submission per employee.

Exhibitors will be notified by email of their inclusion in the exhibit and information regarding delivery of artwork. Apply online here. For more information, please contact Nancy Gaucher-Thomas at (401) 222-0619 or NGaucherThomas@carene.org.

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Ready to quit?

Care New England is offering an eight-session smoking cessation program to help those who are considering or are ready to quit smoking. The program is open to all employees and will begin at the end of February/early March based on employee interest.

All sessions will be held at the CNE Wellness Center, Conference Room A in Warwick. For more information or to register, please email smccarthy@carene.org.

