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Greetings! As the Rhode Island state legislature prepares to finish its 2018 session, and the federal government looks towards summer recess, Care New England continues to provide an important voice as part of the process to help shape the future of health care delivery on a number of different fronts.

While a number of staff around CNE have participated in this process over the past few months, it's our collective voice that will ultimately have the greatest impact of all.

On the state level, CNE staff has provided input and/or formal testimony on legislation around the state budget and proposed cuts to Medicaid reimbursements, removal of surgical smoke from operating rooms, elimination of surprise billing for patients who receive services from out-of-network providers, a bill to allow pharmacists to dispense partial fills of a Schedule II controlled substance at the request of the patient or prescriber, and legislation that would establish a procedure for individuals to file a revocable voluntary non-opiate directive form with their licensed health care practitioner.

On the federal level, CNE representatives continue to lobby the Rhode Island delegation, both here in Rhode Island and in Washington, DC, for a delay in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts and to fight proposed changes to the 340B Discount Drug Program, which requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations and covered entities at significantly reduced prices.

While a number of staff around CNE have participated in this process over the past few months, it's our collective voice that will ultimately have the greatest impact of all. As of last week, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) has activated its Voter Voice platform and initiated a grassroots advocacy campaign specific to the FY 2019 State Budget. Hospitals in Rhode Island are united in supporting a budget proposal that restores reimbursement of important Medicaid payments. Years of continued cuts have left our hospitals in critical condition, and these funds are critical to our ability to continue investing in our workforce and patient care.

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Here are the three easy steps to participate in the campaign:

- Visit HARI Action Center at <https://www.votervoicenet/HARI/campaigns/59282/respond>.
- Enter your information on the right side; the system will identify your elected officials based on your home and business addresses. You can personalize your email by adding an intro or closing note. Please do not change the message for the body section of the email.
- Click "Send Message" to send a pre-written email to elected officials. Following your submission you will receive a confirmation email.

Thank you as always for your efforts to continue to improve Quality, Access, and Service.

Have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,



James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer



KENT

Kent Hospital receives Get With The Guidelines—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

Kent Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. This is Kent Hospital's ninth consecutive year achieving this recognition. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. Kent Hospital earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, have a follow-up visit scheduled, other care transition interventions.



"Kent Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative," said Arshad Iqbal, MD, chief of neurology and director of the Stroke Center at Kent Hospital. "The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

Kent Hospital additionally received the association's Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.

BUTLER

Butler Hospital Foundation raises \$80,000 to support Zero Suicide Initiative



Left photo: Butler Hospital President and COO Mary Marran (left) presents Lila M. Sapinsley Community Service Award to Paul M. Cote of Cumberland, RI. Right photo: Michael N. Matone of East Greenwich, RI was awarded Butler Hospital Foundation's Corporation Member of the Year

Butler Hospital Foundation raised more than \$80,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, and silent auction at "A Masterpiece of Hope," hosted at the historic Providence Art Club on May 16. The gathering generated awareness for Butler Hospital's services and research, and raised funds to support the launch of its Zero Suicide Initiative.

Approximately 130 community members and Butler and Care New England clinicians, researchers, and staff were in attendance to honor Michael N. Matone as Corporation Member

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of the Year and Paul M. Cote with the Lila M. Sapinsley Community Service Award. The event was co-chaired by John Sinnott and Kelly Doern.

President and Chief Operating Officer Mary Marran, MS, OT, MBA, said, "Both Michael and Paul represent the importance of Butler's connection to the community. The involvement of family and friends is critical to successfully managing mental health, and as such our clinical teams actively seek people to be engaged in the healing of our patients after they leave treatment. This is why community engagement is an essential component of the Zero Suicide Initiative we officially launched at this year's Foundation event."

Matone has worked with the hospital for nearly two decades, serving as chair of the Butler Hospital Foundation in 2014 and 2015. He has participated in capital campaigns and fundraising events and is a strong advocate for Butler's mission and services. Matone received the award at a board meeting earlier in the month as he was unable to attend the fundraiser.

Cote is a longtime supporter of Butler's Memory and Aging Program (MAP), with which he became associated through his father's battle with Alzheimer's disease. He is also a volunteer member of the hospital's Art and History Committee, and one of his paintings hangs in the hospital's Arboretum. He hosts fundraising events to support MAP and the Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter.

The Zero Suicide Initiative is a national effort to conceptualize suicide deaths as a preventable medical error in health care environments. Butler Hospital is taking initial steps to adopt a goal of zero suicide deaths in its inpatient and partial hospital treatment programs and for 30 days post-discharge. The monies raised at this event will support building a team of researchers and clinicians to develop the infrastructure for the program.

It will take several years to implement employee education, evaluate new interventions, and establish a community safety network. Clinical and research teams will work together to develop data collection and measurement processes; to educate staff on an evidence-based suicide risk assessment tool; to define consistent language to frame suicide risk and related behaviors; to establish post-discharge communication protocols for patients' primary care and other community-based providers for a stronger safety net; and to engage insurance companies in developing special payment models to cover the post-discharge care as part of a treatment plan.

Cox Business and Hinckley Allen were leadership sponsors for A Masterpiece of Hope. Generous support was also given by Alvarez and Marsal Healthcare Industry Group, Dimeo Construction Company, Gilbane Building Company, and New England Laborers' Health and Safety Fund, as well as many others. Additional gifts can be made to support this important initiative at <http://foundation.butler.org>.

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Dr. Ana Tuya Fulton named Fellow of American Geriatrics Society



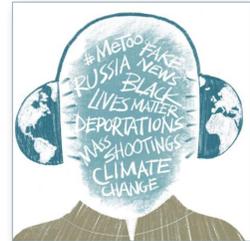
Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, FACP, executive chief of geriatrics at Care New England and medical director of Integra Community Care Network, LLC, was recently inducted into the newest class of American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Fellows. AGS Fellows represent a distinguished cohort of geriatrics experts recognized for a deep commitment to advancing high-quality, person-centered care for all older adults.

"Across her career, Dr. Fulton has demonstrated her commitment to the unique health care needs of older adults. With increasing life expectancy of Americans, the health care needs of older adults is rapidly changing, as these patients often present with multiple chronic illnesses that require, complex, integrated, and well-coordinated care. This fellowship designation is a true testament to Dr. Fulton's commitment, expertise, and professionalism," said James E. Fanale, MD, president and chief executive officer, Care New England.

"My commitment to caring for older adults and their families spans my entire career. Since the opportunity to volunteer with the division of geriatrics as a college student, I've loved the practice of geriatric medicine, and I'm thankful and proud of this fellowship recognition," said Dr. Fulton. "I look forward to continuing to grow the geriatric medicine program across Care New England and to providing the very best quality care to this very special population."

ICYMI: Butler Hospital experts featured in *The Providence Journal*

On Sunday, May 6, Butler's Audrey Tyrka, MD, director of the Laboratory for Clinical and Translational Neuroscience at Butler Hospital and Meghan Smith, LICSW were featured in *The Providence Journal's*, "When the chaos of a 24/7 news cycle drowns out life, what do you do?" written by G. Wayne Miller. The pair presents their opinions on managing the stress and anxiety inflicted by constant exposure to weighted topics such as mass shootings, political threats, and climate change.



"I've had patients say, 'How do I care about my job or how do I care about paying the rent when we could be bombed next week? I think people don't really know what to do with it, know where to place those fears or those stresses, because we're in a 24-hour news cycle. And we carry our phones with us every day, states Megan Smith. "Bad things have always been going on, now, we just know about them constantly."

Dr. Tyrka explains, "Exposure to stress and trauma gets kind of under the skin to influence the very basics of our biology and the whole host of organ systems, including the brain. Violence, whether in the neighborhood or in the news, can ravage the mental health of children as well as their parents. That level of violence and gun violence is there. When it's happening in this mass shooting kind of way, no place is safe."

Ideally, a parent can "provide the child with enough nurturing, enough strength, enough sense of their own ability to feel calm and to handle the things that are coming their way that we can all kind of pretend for the moment that all of that is not true. We can focus on the moment, like we do with mindfulness. We can live in the moment and not be consumed by those fears. The problem comes if your day-to-day existence includes a lot of those fears, a lot of uncertainty," says Tyrka.

Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/2xFsLfH>.

VNA OF CARE NEW ENGLAND

VNA of Care New England holds Evening of Remembrance

On May 17, community members joined with the VNA of Care New England at the Warwick Country Club for the organization's annual Eve of Remembrance. As attendees took their seats to honor and remember their loved ones the room was filled with live, acapella music from The Ocean State Women's Choir. Diana Anderson, VNA Chaplain, provided words of wisdom and comfort during her talk which focused on navigating through grief. Families then were invited to come forward and take an ornament, speak their lost loved one's name, and hang their ornament on the hospice tree of remembrance. The event also included a slide show presentation of submitted photos from attendees as a means to celebrate their lives.



A special thanks to those who contribute to this event's success: Warwick Country Club, The Ocean State Women's Choir, Keith F. Antaya (audio and visuals), floral arrangements provided by Golden Gate Studios, and the families who entrusted the care of their loved ones to Hospice of the VNA of Care New England.

WOMEN & INFANTS

Melissa O'Donnell honored



Congratulations to Melissa O'Donnell, MSW, director of patient and family experience at Women & Infants Hospital, who was honored at Rhode Island College's 2018 Alumni Awards Dinner earlier this month. Alumni Honor Roll Awards are presented to graduates who have achieved success in their field and whose success demonstrates the value of a RIC degree. Melissa represented the School of Social Work. She is pictured here with Frank Sanchez, RIC president. [ene](#)