Today, I’d like to highlight some important work The Providence Center (TPC) is doing to benefit our community. ProMail, Etc., is TPC’s long-running social venture, a full-service mailing and fulfillment business that acts as a job training program for TPC patients. For 30 years, individuals who have faced employment challenges due to mental health or substance use issues have received paid, on-the-job training or employment at ProMail.

Over the years, hundreds of people have successfully completed ProMail’s training program and moved on to work in fields complementary to their skillsets. Participating in this program has also helped many to maintain their recovery.

“I never thought a job could be a possibility for me, but working here has given me confidence in my abilities.”

“ProMail is like a family away from home. The people here support you when you’re up, support you when you’re down, and make it possible for you to learn and thrive.”

“My job at ProMail allows me to be a productive member of society.”

These are real statements from ProMail employees, who have received a second chance at joining the workforce. People like Michael, who out of fear of failure assumed he would never be able to have a job due to past mental health issues. He’s now worked at ProMail for five years. Or Olivia, who comes from an abusive past. When she started at ProMail, she didn’t think she would even be able to use a computer, let alone run the mail inserting machine. Olivia now expertly operates every piece of equipment.

All of ProMail’s interns are referred by TPC’s employment division and have participated in intensive training and employment readiness skills. Interns are paid for a total of 30 hours of work time and are assessed on their soft skills such as punctuality, ability to dress professionally, and communication. After 10 days of training, a report is sent to TPC Employment, which then helps the patient update their resume and find a job that’s appropriate for their skill base. Some are hired on a longer-term basis.

In addition to the social mission, ProMail operates as a real business with competitive rates, generating revenue for the system. In addition to the mailings, they provide services such as data management.

continued >
Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), has issued a Declaration of Widespread Flu Incidence Statewide. This declaration triggers Rhode Island’s regulations requiring all health care workers who have not been immunized against influenza to wear a surgical mask during all times of direct patient contact.

Vaccination continues to be the most effective way for individuals to protect themselves and their families from a disease which kills many Rhode Islanders each year and which causes the hospitalization of hundreds. RIDOH is urging all Rhode Islanders to be immunized now for maximum protection against illness. In addition, RIDOH urges all health care workers and health care facilities to encourage hand washing and continue infection control measures.

A reminder from Infection Prevention – do not work if you are ill with flu symptoms. Working while sick places others at risk. You may return to work 24 hours after your fever has been gone while off fever-reducing medicines, and you can control your cough and secretions.

Butler Hospital’s Dr. Tyrka appointed to national task force

Audrey R Tyrka, MD, PhD, director of the Laboratory for Clinical and Translational Neuroscience (LCTN), and director of research at Butler Hospital, and professor of psychiatry and human behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been appointed co-chair of the Women’s Task Force of The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP).

Founded in 1961, The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology is a professional, international organization of leading brain scientists. Selected primarily on the basis of original research contributions, membership of the College is drawn from scientists in diverse subfields of neuroscience, including behavioral pharmacology, clinical psychopharmacology, epidemiology, genetics, molecular biology, neurochemistry, neuroendocrinology, neuroimaging, neuroimmunology, neurophysiology, neurology, psychiatry, and psychology.
Gynecologic oncologist joins Care New England Medical Group

Gynecologic oncologist Matthew Oliver, MD, has joined Care New England Medical Group and is practicing at Women & Infants Hospital’s Program in Women’s Oncology. He is also an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Oliver received his doctor of medicine degree from East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, TN and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Memorial University Medical Center/Mercer School of Medicine of Savannah, GA. He also completed a gynecologic oncology fellowship at Women & Infants Hospital/The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Oliver has been chosen as a Women’s Reproductive Health Research Scholar (K12) funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. He also serves on the Young Investigator and Ovarian Cancer Committees at NRG Oncology.

In addition to clinical care, Dr. Oliver’s current research is focused on increasing our understanding of ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancers on the molecular level to provide better targeted therapies.

Dr. Oliver sees patients at the Program in Women’s Oncology, 668 Eddy Street, Providence. For information, call (401) 453-7520 or visit womenandinfants.org/WomensCancer.

Thank you from Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Two members of the American Cancer Society visited the Women & Infants Breast Health Center last month to deliver an award and personal thanks for Care New England’s sponsorship of this year’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. According to the American Cancer Society, the more than 15,000 people involved in the Providence walk “are on track to help raise $500,000 which will help the American Cancer Society attack cancer from every angle, ensuring no one faces breast cancer alone by funding innovative breast cancer research; promoting education and risk reduction; and providing comprehensive patient support to those who need it most.”

Drs. Jennifer Gass and Bob Legare accepted the award on behalf of the Breast Health Centers at Women & Infants and Kent hospitals.

Safe Stations featured in The Providence Journal

On December 26, The Safe Stations program was featured on the cover of The Providence Journal. Safe Stations is a partnership between The Providence Center’s Anchor Recovery, the City of Providence, Providence Fire Department, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals that connects people suffering from addiction with Anchor recovery coaches and other community resources.

continued >
Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, people in need of services can visit any of Providence’s 12 fire stations, speak with the trained staff on duty, and immediately get connected to support and services. There’s no fee to utilize the program.

The article profiles a local woman who visited a fire station in February 2018 and was given assistance with checking herself into to Butler Hospital. She credits the program with saving her life.

For more information about the program, please visit pvdsafestations.com.

New Year’s babies across Care New England!

Women & Infants Hospital welcomed the first baby of 2019 in Rhode Island at 12:21 a.m. on January 1. Baby girl Iris Mackenzie Cruz-Fray was born weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces to mom Dahiana Fray and dad Anibal Cruz-Jimenez, who are from Providence.

Kent Hospital welcomed the first baby of 2019 (pictured left) in Kent County at 9:52 a.m. on January 2. Baby girl Eliana Grace Fava was born weighing 8 pounds to parents Jaime and Tim Fava, who are from Danielson, Connecticut.

CNE Information Security resources on carenet

Did you know that the Information Security team maintains a carenet page with tons of information on how to protect CNE and you from cyber criminals? There are links to topics like ransomware, password security, social engineering, and phishing to name a few. The team is constantly adding new topics of interest, all to help educate the CNE workforce on cybersecurity. Please check out the site when you have a few minutes at carenet/is/cyber-security/index.cfm.

SECURITY is not complete without U!