Good day!

Last week we celebrated one of the highlights in the Care New England year with our 17th annual CARE Awards ceremony, recognizing quality improvement projects that represent the best of the best across our system and operating units.

It has certainly been a busy and challenging year at Care New England, but when looking back at 2015, I am proud, as all of you should be, of the accomplishments we have achieved. While there are many important and successful initiatives worthy of recognition, I am pleased to highlight this year’s award winning entries.

Future Vision
Winner: The Providence Center – Latino Intensive Outpatient Program, developed to provide culturally appropriate intensive mental health and substance use services that meet the unique needs of Latino clients.
Honorable mention: Women & Infants – Opioid Dependence Task Force, designed specifically for pregnant women to prevent and/or reduce withdrawal symptoms and drug cravings, prevent relapse in addictive drug use, block the euphoric effect of illicit self-administered opiates, and help restore physiological function.

Bridge Builder
Winner: The Providence Center – HealthPath, providing coordinated mental health and substance use treatment services to adults who have experienced one or more instances of greater than outpatient level of care in the last three years.

Many of you have already begun thinking about projects that will qualify for next year. Be sure to document your data collection, analysis, outcomes and results—perhaps you and your team will be winners in 2016.
Honorable mention: Kent Hospital – Care Teams at Kent Hospital, creating a Care Team Model that aimed to provide an efficient, methodical and predictable process for every patient.

World Class Workforce
Winner: Women & Infants – Best Fed to Baby Friendly, an initiative to increase breastfeeding success for families giving birth at Women & Infants by fully implementing the evidence-based maternity care practices known as the 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.
Honorable mention: Butler Hospital – Unique Needs, an initiative to tailor care to an ever-changing population while providing a collaborative approach to individualized patient care and unit programming.

Excellence in Customer Satisfaction/Non-Clinical
Winner: Care New England – My Days—Online Sobriety Calculator, helping to redefine the numbers that reflect addiction in Rhode Island by finding a way to compellingly demonstrate the fact that treatment works for many people and that recovery is possible.
Honorable mention: Women & Infants – Honoring the Sabbath Needs of Orthodox Jewish Women, creating a policy designed to better support Orthodox Jewish patients and families by identifying and facilitating any specific cultural or religious needs these patients might need.

Excellence in Customer Satisfaction/Clinical
Winner: Women & Infants – Medically Enhanced Infant Formula Mixing Workgroup, enhancing the quality of family-centered service delivery and patient satisfaction by increasing parental knowledge and comfort regarding proper mixing, staff education, and provider awareness, all to improve the health and well-being of NICU infants after discharge.
Honorable mention: Butler Hospital – Peer Navigator Program, embracing the concept of peer support/navigation to provide hope, role modeling, and simple and safe strategies to assist in recovery.

Lastly, the coveted People’s Choice Award went to Health Connections at The Providence Center.

Throughout all of these successes, and countless others, the common element was staff working together and remaining focused on the health, safety and well-being of the patients and families we serve as well as supporting each other every step of the way. This is what excellence is all about—continually reaching for increasing levels of accountability, caring and teamwork.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to the CARE Awards planning committee ably led by Kathy Kerr and Stephanie Regine; the judging panel led by Tish Devaney and Kathy Kerr; and to the esteemed judges themselves, Dr. Robert Westlake, a retired Butler psychiatrist; health care quality expert Jeannette Matrone, a former nurse executive at The Miriam; Frank Delmonico, former president and CEO of Butler; and Levi Adams, trustee emeritus of Women & Infants.

Many of you have already begun thinking about projects that will qualify for next year. Be sure to document your data collection, analysis, outcomes and results—perhaps you and your team will be winners in 2016. Think ACT—Accountability, Caring and Teamwork—in all you do.

I hope you will all continue to be inspired by the tremendous work recognized at this wonderful event. Have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. VanVleet earns 2015 RIAPP Special Achievement Award
Marcia W. VanVleet, MD, director of the newborn nursery at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and associate professor in pediatrics (clinical) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was given the 2015 Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (RIAAP) Special Achievement Award. The award is given to a physician who has made an outstanding contribution to children’s health in Rhode Island through research, service or educational endeavors.

“When I think of state leaders in newborn and pediatric health in Rhode Island, Dr. VanVleet first comes to mind. The contributions she has made to the field in the last 15 years are immeasurable. This special achievement award from the RI Chapter of the AAP is well deserved,” said James F. Padbury, MD, pediatrician-in-chief and chief of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and the William and Mary Oh-William and Elsa Zopfi Professor of Pediatrics for Perinatal Research at the Alpert Medical School.

Dr. VanVleet graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor’s degree in Biology and Society and her medical degree from the University of Vermont. She completed her pediatric residency, general ambulatory pediatric fellowship, and master’s degree in Public Health from Brown University. An assistant professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School, Dr. VanVleet develops curriculum to advance resident and medical student learning in the newborn nursery, specifically.

Dr. VanVleet is a member of many national and hospital organizations and committees including Women & Infants Hospital Quality Forum; Women & Infants Hospital Infant Council for Improving Pediatric Outcomes; Rhode Island Newborn Screening Task Force; Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Fetus and Newborn; and the Ambulatory Pediatric Association. Dr. Vanvleet’s research interests focus on the advancement of medical education, breastfeeding, neonatal abstinence syndrome, survey methodology, and public health.

The Rehabilitation Center at Kent receives three year accreditation for excellence
The Rehabilitation Center at Kent Hospital has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International for a period of three years for its Inpatient Rehabilitation Program for Adults and Stroke Specialty Program. CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Accreditation by CARF is a sign of quality and is an important consideration in patient decision-making.

“This accreditation from CARF International proves that the Rehabilitation Center at Kent is dedicated to making our rehabilitation services among the best in the region,” said Michael J. Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and chief operating officer, Kent Hospital. “This achievement is an indication of Kent’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of our patients.”

An on-site survey at Kent Hospital was conducted recently by a team of expert practitioners selected by CARF. Kent demonstrated that it conformed to a series of internationally recognized CARF standards. The survey report found that The Rehabilitation Center at Kent Hospital has strengths in many areas, including: rehabilitation leadership, dedicated and experienced staff, and education provided through the hospital’s monthly Stroke Support Group.

The Rehabilitation Center at Kent Hospital consists of a 20-bed inpatient program. Commonly treated diagnoses include: stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury, amputations, arthritis, trauma, fractures and joint replacements, as well as general surgery recovery.

Kent Hospital’s Outpatient Rehabilitation in East Greenwich, RI, offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary program using physical, occupational and speech therapists. For more information about The Rehabilitation Center at Kent Hospital, please visit http://kentri.org/rehab.
Dr. Koelliker named chief of diagnostic imaging at Women & Infants Hospital

Susan L. Koelliker, MD, a radiologist at Women & Infants and assistant professor (clinical) of Diagnostic Imaging at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been appointed the hospital’s new chief of Diagnostic Imaging, succeeding Dr. Patricia Spencer who recently retired. Dr. Koelliker’s appointment is effective January 1, 2016.

“We have been very fortunate to have Dr. Koelliker on staff in the Diagnostic Imaging Department here at Women & Infants. A 20-year member of our team, I am confident she will continue the important advancements of the department in contributing to the multidisciplinary care we provide our patients,” said Mark R. Marcantano, president and chief operating officer of Women & Infants.

Dr. Koelliker has been a radiologist with Women & Infants since 1996. She received her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Williams College and went onto receive her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati. She completed her residency in radiology at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. She then returned home to Rhode Island where she completed her fellowship in cross-sectional imaging at Rhode Island Hospital.

“I worked very closely with former chief, Dr. Patricia Spencer, over the span of her career here at Women & Infants,” said Dr. Koelliker. “I look forward to continuing the progress she has made with the profession of radiology as a whole, as well as improving quality and the patient experience within our department.”

Dr. Koelliker currently serves on multiple hospital committees including the Medical Executive Committee, Women & Infants Quality Council, and the Care New England Breast Leadership Committee. Her research interests specifically include breast health and lymph nodes.

Memorial’s ‘The Doctor Is In’ wellness lecture series continues

Memorial Hospital’s community wellness lecture series, “The Doctor Is In,” will offer a look at Parkinson’s Disease with expert Joseph Friedman, MD, chief of Butler Hospital’s Movement Disorders Program. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place Wednesday, December 16 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Blood pressure and cholesterol screenings will also be offered.

Advance registration is recommended. Call (401) 729-2459 to register or for more information.

CNE Employees support Holiday for Heroes Winter Wonderland event

Care New England’s very own military heroes were Santa’s helpers last week, volunteering at the RI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to set-up for their annual Holiday for Heroes Winter Wonderland event.

Thousands of toys were donated by Hasbro and Family Dollar Store to more than 800 RI National Guard and Reserve members and families. A special thank you goes to Juan Montalvan, Dawn Cerrone-Johnsen, Ken Greene, Mary Lipka, and Luz Almanzar for their service to our country and for volunteering to help others who are currently serving. Happy Holidays!
Memorial Hospital donates winter apparel to neighbors

Cold weather is not quite upon us yet, but it soon will be. Struggling Rhode Islanders in local communities are in need of winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves and more.

Employees at Memorial Hospital recently participated in a Warm-a-Heart Coat Drive sponsored by The Neighborhood Alliance of Pawtucket. Memorial Hospital joined in this city-wide event to warm the hearts of local families in need. The hospital collected about 200 winter apparel items. The hospital’s coat drive ran for three weeks in November.

Representatives from The Neighborhood Alliance of Pawtucket will distribute the winter clothes to residents of Pawtucket and surrounding communities this week. The Neighborhood Alliance of Pawtucket is comprised of more than 15 organizations from various neighborhood and business associations.

Arthur Plitt, Alliance president, said “We volunteer and work to make our local communities even better places in which to live, work and play. Thank you to Memorial Hospital for their generosity and eagerness to help the families that we serve. The donation of coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens and more is greatly appreciated.”

“Best in Show” winner announced for 1st staff art show at Butler Hospital

The 1st Butler Hospital Staff and Volunteer Art Exhibit, which was held earlier this month, displayed a collection of the beautiful creative artwork of our coworkers and friends. The artwork was diverse, and ranged from photography, paintings, mixed media, to works on paper. The Butler community was very receptive to the exhibit.

Staff, patients and visitors enthusiastically viewed the display and put in their votes. Five pieces of art sold, generating more than $600 for the participating artists and the Healing Arts Program. There was incredible talent demonstrated within all the 31 pieces displayed, which was reflected in the voting at the ballot box. Each artist received at least one “Best in Show” vote, however, the winner was: “Moo Moo” by Angela Montgomery, MHW, who received a $75 gift card to a local art supply store.