Today, I’d like to highlight some great work happening at The Providence Center (TPC).

Recently, TPC and Anchor Recovery celebrated the opening of the Jim Gillen Teen Center in Providence, a recovery center providing specialized support for young people struggling with addiction. More than 100 people gathered for tours of the facility and a speaking program which included TPC President and Chief Operating Officer Deb O’Brien, Senator Josh Miller, and Tom Coderre, a senior advisor to Governor Raimondo.

The Center is a sober environment where teens can come after school and on weekends and build a community of friends in recovery. They will receive support such as meetings, one-on-one recovery coaching, and group activities. In May, a sober prom was held with students from TPC’s Anchor Learning Academy Recovery High School who have been attending the program in a soft opening phase this year. And like all Anchor programs, it is staffed and operated by people in long-term recovery.

Tyler Passarelli, a teen who utilizes the Center, summed up his experience. “Surprisingly, a lot of kids struggle with addiction, and it took me three years of struggling to realize I needed help,” said Passarelli. “This is a safe place where teens can come to talk to peers and staff members about their experiences, and it has helped me and a handful of other young adults stay sober.”

The program is the first of its kind in Rhode Island, and a great example of Care New England investing in innovative ideas. TPC identified an issue—according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

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Administration, Rhode Island has above-average rates of youth substance use and no specialized extracurricular supports. They saw great work in the teen recovery movement coming out of Houston, TX, and worked to replicate those early intervention strategies in our community.

"By opening the Jim Gillen Teen Center, our youth can come together to support each other in their recovery," said Deb O’Brien. "They can begin to explore resources that will assist them in building their recovery capital and have confidence in their future."

The program was also aided by a unique partnership with Roger Williams University’s Community Partnerships Center (CPC), which provides project-based assistance to nonprofit organizations. With input from TPC staff, RWU students designed a brand identity for the center and helped to prepare the physical space.

When TPC opened the first Anchor Recovery Center eight years ago, it was based on another innovative idea—leveraging the experiences of people in recovery to help those who are struggling. Thanks in large part to the work of the late Jim Gillen, the tireless recovery advocate for whom the Teen Center is named, Anchor became a place where thousands have learned that recovery is possible through a variety of peer-to-peer recovery supports. Since then, Anchor has become a national leader in the recovery movement with programs like the Anchor MORE street outreach team and the first-in-the-nation Anchor ED, which pairs overdose patients with recovery coaches in local emergency departments.

With the Jim Gillen Teen Center, we are investing in Rhode Island’s future and showing the younger generation that it’s possible to build a great life in recovery. We hope to continue supporting forward-thinking solutions that can benefit our community. My thanks to everyone at TPC and Anchor who worked to get this groundbreaking program started.

Have a great and relaxing 4th of July with your family and friends and thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

Integra at Home

Integra ACO recently received a grant from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and the Gary and Mary West Health Institute (West Health) to implement a solution to unplanned acute events in older adults. This grant allows Integra to pursue ways to advance home and community-based care models for seniors.

Integra’s pilot program, Integra at Home, seeks to establish a more innovative method of caring for aging seniors in their home setting. Integra is one of only six ACOs nationally to receive this grant. Funding will support providing an advanced level of care within the home, avoiding unnecessary emergency departments visits and allowing patients to receive care in the comfort of their own home, if they so choose. In the pilot, eligible patients will meet the following criteria:

• Be at high-risk for admission
• Be 80 years of age or older
• Live within a five-mile radius of Kent Hospital
• Have a caregiver residing with them (family member, friend, etc.)
• Have a diagnosis of congestive heart failure, COPD, cellulitis, pneumonia, or a urinary tract infection

Written patient consent is required for enrollment.
“Older adults often become confused when hospitalized,” said Ruth Scott, Integra’s director of care management. “By treating patients in a comfortable, familiar setting, our goal is to reduce delirium and risk for falls while promoting healing.”

Those enrolled in Integra at Home will also benefit from Integra’s Complex Care Management Program, providing each patient with ongoing access to a nurse care manager, social worker, and additional resources, depending on their individualized needs.

“During emergencies, Integra at Home patients will be able to contact a 24/7 on-call care line,” said Scott. “A designated physician, working in collaboration with our primary care physicians, will be available to respond to any immediate needs.”

Integra is partnering with the VNA of Care New England, Women & Infants Hospital laboratory services, Kent Durable Medical Equipment, Bioscrip (infusion services), Genoa Pharmacy, and community paramedics to implement the Integra at Home program.

The Integra at Home approach represents a cutting-edge innovation in patient-centered care with the goal of minimizing unnecessary hospital admissions and improving patient outcomes. To date, only a handful of health care organizations have launched similar programs.

Participation in the West Health and IHI sponsored learning collaborative allows the Integra team to benefit from engaging with nationally recognized faculty who are experts in this field, and allows the team to consult with other systems that have been pioneers in this work. This includes the team at Johns Hopkins, led by Bruce Leff, MD, and the team at Mount Sinai, led by Albert Siu, MD. ACOs participate in the learning collaborative benefit from the unique support of the IHI faculty in program design, quality improvement work, and data science.

“Patient satisfaction scores show vast improvement when patients receive care in their own home,” said Scott. “Providing care in the patient’s home reduces risks, increases patient comfort, helps to alleviate delirium, and reduces the potential for falls.”

Integra is striving to enroll between five and 25 patients before December 31, 2018. During the next few months, the Integra at Home clinical oversight team (Dr. Ana Tuya Fulton, Dr. Kate Lally, and Ruth Scott) will be meeting with primary care providers to identify patients who may be a good match for Integra at Home.

If you would like to learn more about this innovative program, please contact Dr. Fulton (430-3803 or AFulton@CareNE.org) or Ruth Scott (430-2170 or RScott@Carene.org).

Area students make special delivery

A special delivery was made to Women & Infants’ Carter Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by the National Junior Honor Society of North Cumberland Middle School. The students raised $1,000 for the purchase of new liners for the NICU’s “Mamaroo” rockers.

To make this gift possible, the students held a fifth and sixth grade dance, a “Rainbow Run,” and a “Dress-As-Your-Favorite-Meme” Day. The honor students also donated boxes of snack food for the NICU parents. Women & Infants is proud to welcome a new generation of philanthropists into its midst!
VNA Patient Family Advisory Committee discusses why people volunteer

The VNA of Care New England’s Patient Family Advisory Community (PFAC) recently sat down with VNA’s new hospice volunteer coordinator, Barbara Fletcher, to provide insight on the motivation to commit one’s time and energy to volunteer for an organization. Their perspective was greatly appreciated as many council members not only actively volunteer for the VNA, but are also involved with community senior centers and local churches.

The discussion focused on a quote from Ben Franklin, who established the first volunteer firefighters association in Pennsylvania, said, “People volunteering together in a spirit of cooperation could accomplish great things.” They also explored the concept of the term volunnesia, which means, “that moment when you forget you are volunteering to help change lives, because it’s changing yours.”

The committee shared:
• I may not be able to boil the ocean, but I can do small things that can make a difference. Sometimes it’s just simple kindness that makes the difference for someone.
• I want to share my professional work experience, which I’ve acquired over many years. That experience should be put to good use.
• It’s the opportunity to give back to the community and at the same time to continue learning for myself. Being on the PFAC and the VNA’s Quality Committee has exposed me to a lot of new information and people.
• Volunteering on the Council has been a delight. I look forward to coming to the Council meetings. For example, when we asked to provide feedback on our perceptions of congregate dining; little did I know that we would be visiting a dining center as a group to evaluate the experience, service, and food first hand. What an experience!
• When I volunteered to visit home bound parishioners they so looked forward to my visits and the chance to have a conversation. I could see how much the visit meant to them and how important they were to me, too. While you may start volunteering to give back, you get so much in return.

For anyone interested in volunteering with our Care New England organizations, visit http://carenewengland.org/volunteer to apply.