I wanted to be sure to share an important and recent announcement with all of you today. Angelleen Peters-Lewis, RN, PhD, senior vice president and chief nursing officer for Care New England, is resigning. After five years, Angelleen is leaving CNE to pursue an exciting professional opportunity as the chief nurse executive and vice president, patient care services at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Her last day at CNE will be September 13.

Angelleen’s contributions to CNE, the nursing profession, patient care, and to the community are far too numerous to list here. However, she has been a tireless advocate for patient and family-centered care. She must be recognized for her invaluable leadership in CNE’s efforts to achieve the internationally prestigious distinction of Baby Friendly designation at Women & Infants Hospital (second largest hospital in the nation to receive the distinction) and shortly after at Kent Hospital. She has championed the work of the nursing profession and has been a constant advocate for continued education including the RN to BSN program, while ensuring all nurses perform to the highest levels of their licensing.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center is the largest hospital in Missouri and the largest private employer in the St. Louis region. Recognizing its excellent nursing care, Barnes-Jewish Hospital was the first adult hospital in Missouri to be certified as a “Magnet Hospital” by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

On a personal note, I have always seen great things in the future for Angelleen. We have been fortunate to have her at Care New England during her continuing upward career arc. She is a person I truly admire and respect for her honesty, integrity, positive attitude, and her caring for patients, families, and colleagues; all qualities that will continue to serve her well as her career continues. Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you for all she has done during her tenure at CNE, while also wishing her well for this tremendous new professional opportunity.

Have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer
VNA provides local perspective on national end-of-life discussion

Published this August, an NPR article, “Nearly 1 in 5 Hospice Patients Discharged While Still Alive,” discussed the trend reflected in government reports that nearly one in five patients is discharged from hospice before he or she dies. The article looks at potential reasoning behind the data and notes how hospice has adapted from its beginning as a largely non-profit industry.

In response to the piece Dr. Kate Lally, MD, FACP, chief of palliative care at CNE, shared some thoughts. “This is such a difficult issue, because prognostication can be difficult for patients who have any other diagnoses but cancer. The hospice guidelines were built around cancer diagnoses, and it can be really hard to predict when a patient with COPD or congestive heart failure enters the last six months of life. As a nation we struggle with the fact that so many patients only receive hospice in the last few days of their lives (so they don’t really get the full benefit), but if you bring them on too early, you may have to discharge, and that can be disconcerting to patients and their families.”

To learn more about common misconceptions about end of life care and the importance of having end of life conversations with your loved ones, visit http://www.carenewengland.org/conversationproject/.

10 months CLABSI-free at Kent Hospital

Central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) are one of the most common health care-acquired infections. CLABSIs are a serious infection that can prolong the length of hospital stay and increase cost and risk of mortality.

The effort to reduce CLABSI and other HAI’s is critical as one in 20 patients gets an infection each year while receiving medical care, and 30,100 central line-associated blood stream infections strike hospital patients across the nation with central lines each year. This month, Kent is celebrating 10 months of no CLABSI. This milestone is part of Kent Hospital’s Safer Care Together initiative, which targets and enhances specific quality measures that have direct impact on patient care. Thank you to all staff for their continued hard work in enhancing Kent’s culture of safety.

The Providence Center to open RI’s first youth recovery center

The Providence Center (TPC) is set to open the state’s first recovery center designed specifically for teens struggling with addiction. Based on a model from Houston, TX, the Anchor Youth Recovery Community Center will provide access to age-appropriate recovery supports for young people, and connect them with peers to establish a network of friends who are understanding and supportive.

The center will be open every weekday after school and on weekends, the time periods teens report as being the most difficult to abstain from using drugs and alcohol. The Providence Center also operates Anchor Learning Academy, the first and only recovery high school in the state, and views the establishment of a youth recovery center as the next step to meeting a growing need in the community.

The Anchor Youth Recovery Community Center will provide:
• Recovery meetings for youth facilitated by members under the supervision of program staff.
• One-on-one recovery coaching from certified peer recovery coaches.
• Specialized support groups.
• Education and supports for parents.
• Staff to assist students with homework.
• Fun activities designed to create close bonds and build support among young people in recovery.

The Anchor Youth Recovery Community Center will be located at 1280 North Main Street in Providence, and is scheduled to open in early 2018.
2017 Swim Across America

Does volunteering at check-in or a mile or half-mile open-water swim sound like an excellent challenge to you? Join the RI Swim Across America as a team, swimmer, swimmer sponsor, or volunteer on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at Roger Wheeler State Beach, Narragansett. Your time and participation will help raise funds for oncology research at Women & Infants!

Volunteers will work check-in, hand out towels, and cheer on swimmers who’ll plunge into the open water to raise funds for oncology research. If you’re a kayaker with lifeguard training, we need you, too (kayaks provided). Every volunteer gets a T-shirt, breakfast and lunch, plus the power to help fight cancer on a motivational late-summer day at the beach. To sign up or for more information on this inspirational event, contact Jack Gold, Philanthropy, at (401) 921-8509 or JGold@carene.org.

For event details check out RI Swim Across America at http://www.swimacrossamerica.org/site/TR?fr_id=4374&pg=entry.

Speaker’s Scramble benefits Women & Infants

Women & Infants Hospital was the beneficiary of Rhode Island House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello’s annual charitable golf tournament, the Speaker’s Scramble, on August 1.

Valley Country Club in West Warwick was the setting as 120 golfers took to the course in support of the exceptional care Women & Infants provides for its patients and families. A buffet dinner with remarks by Women & Infants’ Dr. Jay O’Brien followed the sunny day on the links. The event raised approximately $25,000 for the hospital.

Pictured from left to right are: Representative Cale Keable, House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, Representative Mary Messier, and Representative Joseph McNamara.