



# HEALTHSENSE

December 8, 2025

*Care New England*

 **Anchor Recovery**  
A Program of The Providence Center

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HOSPITAL**

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CENTER**

 **VNA**  
of Care New England

 **WOMEN  
& INFANTS**



**Mike Wagner, MD**  
President and CEO  
Care New England Health System

You may have heard recently about the U.S. Department of Education's recent announcement of its intent to reclassify many core healthcare and support degrees, including nursing, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, audiology, speech pathology, social work, and others, so they are no longer considered "professional" programs for federal loan purposes.

First of all, I want to emphasize how deeply we value every member of our professional workforce. Regardless of this federal reclassification, your expertise, training, and commitment remain the foundation of our mission. Any patient who has walked through our doors – or has had one of our home providers walk through theirs – understands that your knowledge and contributions are invaluable, and is grateful for your knowledge and care.

For both Care New England and hospitals nationwide, this change has the potential to deepen staffing shortages, slow patient throughput, and limit the ability to sustain essential services. We are working in close partnership with national and state hospital associations to ensure federal leaders understand the significant risks this poses to patient care, workforce stability, and community access. We will continue to monitor developments closely and will keep you informed as we learn more.

In the meantime, thank you again for your professionalism and dedication.

*Mike Wagner, MD, President and CEO, Care New England Health System*



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## **Women & Infants Hospital Names Tom Ricci Interim Chief Operating Officer**

Tom Ricci will be assuming the role of Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Women & Infants Hospital, effective December 26th. Tom

has been with WIH since 2017, serving first as Finance Manager, then being successively promoted to Finance Director, and in his current role as Vice President of Finance.



## **WIH's Dr. Pearce Selected for Caris POA Fellows Forum**

Congratulations to Janina Pearce, MD, PhD, Women & Infants Hospital, who has been accepted to the Caris Precision Oncology Alliance Fellows Forum, Class of 2025-2026. Fifteen physician-scientists were selected to participate in this competitive two-year program that Caris Life Sciences describes as providing "hands-on training, mentorship, and access to real-world molecular data, empowering them to develop and test clinically meaningful precision medicine hypotheses."



## October's Spaulding of Care New England Star Award Winner: Robbie Rachiele, DPT

Congratulations to the Spaulding of Care New England Star Award Winner for October – Robbie Rachiele, DPT, at the East Greenwich outpatient clinic. Robbie

is new to the team, but he has already made a tremendous impact on the clinic, the team, and the patients we serve. He embodies the excellence, compassion, and commitment we strive to uphold.

Robbie has been flexible, adaptable, and has handled every change with grace and professionalism. His readiness to support his colleagues, whether in daily tasks or by stepping in to provide inpatient coverage at Women & Infants Hospital, reflects his unmatched sense of care. He lifts the spirits of those around him and helps create a warm, positive, and collaborative work environment. Robbie's tremendous contributions and professionalism make him profoundly deserving of this recognition.

Robbie consistently receives outstanding compliments from our patients, who regularly highlight his genuine kindness, patience, and the heartfelt care he brings to every interaction. In October, Robbie's patients made 14 separate comments praising his professional manner, knowledge, coaching style, creative exercise demonstrations, thoroughness, listening skills, positivity, sense of humor, and caring nature. His empathy and unwavering dedication to patient-centered care set him apart and make him an exceptional therapist.



Pictured left to right: Luke Davis, Regional Director; Chelsea Tetreault, Clinical Supervisor; Robbie Rachiele, DPT; Geena Goyette, Site Manager; Carrie Faulkner, Clinical Supervisor



## Thank You for Attending Butler Hospital's Annual Gala

Butler Hospital's Annual Gala raised more than \$250,000 to support groundbreaking advancements in mental and behavioral healthcare.

The funds raised will support the highest needs and priorities, including research and treatment delivered at Butler Hospital's Brain Research and Interventional Neurotherapeutics (BRaIN) Program, which features cutting-edge clinical care and research initiatives to advance new treatments for depression, OCD, and anxiety disorders.

Former Rhode Island State Senator Joshua Miller was presented the Lila M. Sapinsley Community Service Award, and Barbara Ostrove, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, was awarded the Charles Reppucci Butler Hospital Service Award.



Pictured left to right: Former Senator Joshua Miller; Mary E. Marran, MS, OT, MBA, president and COO of Butler Hospital; and Barbara Ostrove, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, Chair of the Butler Hospital Arts and History Committee.

## Constance A. Howes Women's Health Innovation Research Fund



On behalf of the donor and scientific advisory committees, we are very pleased to announce the winner of the 2025 Constance A. Howes Women's Health Innovation Research Fund (CAH Fund) Grant Program. This fund fosters innovative research leading to significant advances in women's health and is supported by generous donors to Women & Infants Hospital. The CAH Fund seeks novel projects that have the potential for significant translational impact in the field of women's health and gender-based research.

The \$50,000 award was presented to Nicole James, PhD, Program in Women's Oncology Molecular Therapeutics Laboratory, for her project "Cromolyn Sodium as a Novel Therapeutic to 'MASTeR' Ovarian Tumor Growth."

An additional \$21,000 award was presented to M. Ruhul Qudus, MD, MPhil, Director of Women's Pathology Research, Associate Director of Laboratory Medicine, for his project "Role of Epidermal and Dermal Stem Cells in Vulvar Skin Aging and Their Association with Disease/Neoplastic Progression."





## Epic Lighthouse Success

Executive leaders, physician champions, and Epic teams from CNE, Kendryl, and Epic gathered to honor the incredible teamwork and dedication to achieve Care New

England's Epic Go Live success.

To mark the celebration, Tomas Gregorio, SVP and Chief Digital Information Officer, Care New England Health System, presented Michael Wagner, MD, president and CEO, Care New England, with a Go Live Championship Cup Trophy.

We appreciate the commitment of all who helped achieve CNE's Epic Go Live.





## Kent Hospital's 2nd Annual Employee Fall Craft Fair

On Friday, November 14, the Kent Engagement Collaborative hosted the 2nd Annual Employee Fall Craft Fair featuring 12 talented vendors from across our organization. Staff members showcased an impressive variety of handmade goods, including uniquely wrapped books, delicious caramel apples, beautiful jewelry and artwork, gorgeous wooden and personalized gifts, cute stuffed animals, fun candles and mugs, and so much more. The event drew a fantastic turnout, with many colleagues stopping by to support their coworkers and get a jump on their holiday shopping.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who participated, shared their creativity, and helped make the fair a success!



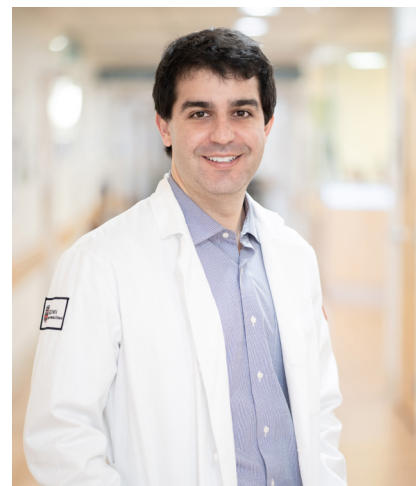




## Dr. Lewkowitz Interviewed for WhatToExpect.com

WhatToExpect.com published *Are Cellphones Safe During Pregnancy?* Here's What the Science Says. For the story, the reporter interviewed Dr. Adam Lewkowitz, Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine Research, Women & Infants Hospital. They discussed the potential risks and how pregnant people can put these risks into context and make informed decisions about their device use.

**TO READ:** <https://www.whattoexpect.com/pregnancy/cell-phone/>



## Liz Kettle Highlights the Role of a Midwife

Ocean State Stories published *Midwives are having a positive impact in Rhode Island*. For her story, she interviewed Elizabeth Kettle, Director of the Division of Midwifery, Women & Infants Hospital, about the role midwives play in providing person-centered care during pregnancy, labor, postpartum, and more.

**TO READ:** <https://www.oceanstatestories.org/midwives-make-a-positive-impact-in-rhode-island/>

## Media Coverage of Dr. Tuuli's New Role as Interim President of WIH

Several media outlets covered Methodius Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA, stepping in as Interim President of Women & Infants Hospital. He will assume the role effective December 26, 2025.

**Becker's:** <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-executive-moves/care-new-england-hospital-taps-interim-president/>

**PBN:** <https://pbn.com/tuuli-named-interim-president-of-women-infants-hospital/>

**Providence Business First:** <https://www.bizjournals.com/rhodeisland/news/2025/12/01/women-infants-undergoing-leadership-transition.html>



November 12, 2025 | CNE HR

## Announcements

# ACTivity

EMPLOYEE NEWS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT  Care New England

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## Important Reminder: 2025 Health Care and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts (Flexible Spending Accounts)

Health Care and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts (HCRA and DCRA) are administered through Inspira Financial. You can access your account at [www.inspirafinancial.com](http://www.inspirafinancial.com) to view your balance, submit claims, view claim status, and more! As a reminder, the HCRA and DCRA are **"use it or lose it"** accounts. See below for important dates:

- The **grace period** for 2025 HCRA and DCRA ends on March 15, 2026. This means you can continue to use your 2024 funds for claims incurred up to March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The **runout period** for 2025 HCRA and DCRA ends on March 31, 2026. This means that any claims incurred through March 15<sup>th</sup> must be submitted to Inspira Financial by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### What Happens If I Do Not Use All Of My Funds?

Any remaining funds that have not been used by March 15<sup>th</sup> and submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup> will be forfeited and not eligible for reimbursement.

### What Are Eligible Expenses?

[Click here to view eligible expenses.](#) If you have some funds that you need to use up, there are many over-the-counter items that are FSA-eligible.

### I Have Questions. Who Can Help Me?

We are here to help! Members of the CNE Benefits Team are available to answer your questions at [benefits@carene.org](mailto:benefits@carene.org) or at 401-680-4400, Option 2 (available by phone 10am-2pm, Monday – Friday)

You can also contact Inspira Financial directly at 855-516-8593.

PLAN, SAVE, PAY ON THE GO

## Inspira Mobile™ App

**inspira**  
FINANCIAL

With our free Inspira Mobile™ App, you can easily access your account information in the palm of your hand.

### Simply “tap” to:

- Check account balance, deposits, and payments
- View your account alerts
- Verify card purchases
- Pay your providers directly from your account\*
- Request reimbursement for your eligible expenses

### How do I get the Inspira Mobile™ App?

You can download the app from your mobile device's app store. There is no fee to download the app. Anyone with an Inspira account can use it for free.

#### The app is supported by the following devices:

- **iOS version** 10 or above on iPhone® 5S, iPad Air®, iPad Mini® 2 or newer models
- **Android version** 7.0 Nougat or above on phones or tablets

### Is the app secure?

Yes. Here are a few of the ways we make your security our priority:

- Log in with Secure Touch ID or Face ID
- Get protected access to your account information
- Use the same secure username and password you use on our site



### Can I submit a claim using the app?

If you have a reimbursement account with us, you can submit a claim through the app. The claim must be for eligible out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the plan year.

- After you log in, select “Manage.” Then you can request funds from your reimbursement account.
- When sending documents with your claim, simply take a picture and upload it through the app.

### How do I access the Eligible Expense Scanner?

After you log in to the app, you can find it on the home page or tap “Help” to access the Eligible Expense Scanner.

### How do I get started with the app?

It's easy. Just use the same username and password you use for [inspirafinancial.com](https://inspirafinancial.com). If you haven't set up your online account with Inspira, you'll need to do that first by visiting [inspirafinancial.com](https://inspirafinancial.com).



Plan, save, pay on the go with the Inspira Mobile™ app

Scan the QR code to download the app on iOS or Android.



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App Store



Get it on  
Google Play

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### Voting is Open for Rhode Island Monthly's Top Docs

Here's your chance to vote for your colleagues for Rhode Island Monthly's Top Docs issue this May. This peer review survey allows all RI doctors the opportunity to vote for their peers in all medical specialties. Winners are featured in the May issue and are celebrated at an awards event in May.

Let's highlight the great work of our teammates!

You have until December 31st – Don't Wait!

<https://docs.rivoting.com/>

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### Care New England's Leave of Absence administrator is changing its name to Absence Resources

Our Leave of Absence administrator, **FMLA Source**, is changing its name to **AbsenceResources**. All existing claims will continue to be processed and managed as usual, with no disruptions in service.

The LOA process for employees who require an extended time out of work remains the same. Instead of reaching out to FMLA Source, you will now contact AbsenceResources:

**Website:** [www.AbsenceResources.com](http://www.AbsenceResources.com)

**Email:** [ServiceTeam2@absenceresources.com](mailto:ServiceTeam2@absenceresources.com)

**Phone:** (855) 426-3365

**Fax:** (877) 309-0218

**Mobile App:** AbsenceResourcesNOW



### 2025 Annual Mandatory Training is now in HealthStream, due December 12, 2025

These courses are an important part of maintaining a safe, inclusive, and compliant workplace per Regulatory inspections, Joint Commission (and other) surveys, and internal HR and Safety audits. Annual Training is a critical compliance measure across all Care New England facilities and strengthens

CNE's employee accountability.

All employees were sent an alert in their Outlook email with the details and a link to HealthStream. You may also access HealthStream via Google Chrome: <http://www.healthstream.com/hlc/cne>

#### Questions?

- Contact your manager.
- Open a ServiceNow Ticket with the HealthStream Support Team

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### The Office of Community and Social Impact Gift Card Drive

Please join the Office of Community and Social Impact in collecting gift cards for the Southside Community Land Trust's (SCLT) Youth Employment Program.

SCLT supports local farms and community gardens, and partners with organizations that provide access to healthy food. Their youth program employs about 50 high school students and young adults from Providence and Pawtucket/Central Falls, offering training on Rhode Island's food systems, urban gardening, climate change, and food access.

SCLT reached out for help in collecting gift cards for:

- Grocery Stores (Stop & Shop, ALDI, Shaws, etc)
- Superstores (Walmart, Target, etc)
- Amazon

We want to collect at least 65 gift cards valued at \$25-\$50 before December 18th!

#### If you would like to contribute, contact:

Aleyra Lamarche Baez

**Email:** [alamarchebaez@carene.org](mailto:alamarchebaez@carene.org)

**Office Phone:** (401) 921-9080

**Location:** 111 Brewster St., Pawtucket, RI - Office B206, 2nd Floor B Building Hallway





### Holiday Drive for the Transition Home Plus Program

The NICU Follow-Up Clinic & Transition Home Plus Program in the Women & Infants Hospital Department of Pediatrics is looking to raise the spirits of 20

families who are in need of assistance, especially around the holidays.

The Transition Home Plus Program (THP) is a comprehensive, family-centered transition care program for pre-term and high-risk full-term infants with Medicaid insurance who are graduates of the WIH NICU. The program provides additional support to these vulnerable infants and caregivers to make their transition from the NICU to home easier, reduce the incidence of complications, and support each child's optimal health, development, and well-being.

The holidays can be difficult, especially now as families are trying to make ends meet and put food on their tables. We hope to bring some joy to the infants and their families, whom the staff have come to know and support over the past year.

Monetary donations and/or gift cards would be most helpful to allow staff to purchase items such as formula, diapers, clothing, and toys for 20 premature infants and their siblings. All families are current patients in the Women & Infants Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic.

If you wish to participate, please email [hpolochick@wihri.org](mailto:hpolochick@wihri.org).

Responses are appreciated as soon as possible.

**The collection deadline is Tuesday, December 9th.**





### Join a DEI Advisory Council Today!

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Councils are comprised of employees across CNE and are established to provide guidance, support, insight, and recommendations to leadership regarding organizational culture, programming, training, community engagement, and health equity efforts.

#### **DEI ADVISORY COUNCILS ARE OPEN TO ANY CNE EMPLOYEE**

Members collaborate with leadership and the broader organization to identify, develop, and implement strategies that foster a more open, welcoming, and equitable environment for all stakeholders, including staff, volunteers, patients, clients, community members, and board members.

#### **DEI Advisory Co-Chairs**

**Carolyn Walsh & Muni Adebimpe**

Butler Hospital

**Isaac Tesfay**

CNE Corporate

**Brydie Thomasian & Ashley Liassidi**

Kent Hospital

**Mercy Morales & Aubrie Marcoux**

The Providence Center

**Benjamin Brown & Ashley Gil**

Women & Infants Hospital

**Paula Foster**

VNA of Care New England



### Office of Community and Social Impact: Register as a Volunteer

We've launched our new volunteer website!

We've made it easier than ever to find volunteer opportunities that match your interests and skills - right here in our community.

#### Benefits:

- Build Connections
- Learn New Skills
- Make a Real Impact

#### HOW TO JOIN US:

- **Visit:** <https://volunteer.carene.org>
- **Log In:** Sign In with your CNE credentials and complete your profile
- **Explore:** Browse posted opportunities
- **Engage:** Sign up and start making a difference!



## General Marketing Request Form:

[Click Here](#)

## Research Marketing Request Form (IRB approval):

[Click Here](#)

## Event Table Item Request Form:

[Click Here](#)

## Written Translation Process:

[Click Here](#)

## Marketing Catalog:

[Click Here](#)

## Online Storefront:

[Click Here](#)

## Branded PowerPoints, Letterheads, Email Signatures, Zoom Backgrounds and a List of All Social Media Accounts:

[Click Here](#)

## PR and Media Requests/Questions:

**Doreen Gavigan**

DGavigan@CareNE.org

## Printing Services:

**CNE Print Shop**

CNEPrintingServices@CareNE.org

*Print items that are 11x17 and smaller*

**W&I Media Center**

Media@Wihri.org

*Print items that are 11x17 and bigger*

## Headshots:

**W&I Media Center**

Email Media@Wihri.org for scheduling

101 Dudley Street

Providence RI

## All Other Questions:

**Suzanne Tammaro**

Stammaro@carene.org



THE NEXT  
**HEALTHSENSE**  
COMES OUT ON  
**DECEMBER 22, 2025**