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Let the hype begin! That's right, it's the week before the Super Bowl and the buzz over the Big Game is at a frenzied pitch! I think we are all ready for kickoff, but it is certainly great to savor yet another Super Bowl run that hopefully will end in a sixth title. Go Pats!

Speaking about excitement and enthusiasm, I am pleased that there has been positive news to come out of the most recent staff and physician engagement survey. By now I hope you are starting to hear some of the results. I know I addressed the subject broadly in my operations message last week and in the latest round of Town Hall Meetings. The information currently is being shared in more detail with our managers and will then be rolled out to all staff in the coming days ahead.

It is very important to note that we have seen a significant increase in participation. This indicates to me you are all interested in further helping to make a difference in the work at hand, how we serve our community, and our efforts underway with the acquisition. I believe we have also made a concentrated effort to improve our communications. Many have responded and expressed appreciation for the improvements you have seen. We know we have more work to do, but it is heartening to see the positive results and a feeling of renewed optimism and confidence in Care New England and the work taking place across the system.

As you probably recall, as a thank you for the improved response we committed to providing an ice cream social for all those operating units that hit the 50 percent mark in participation and a pizza party for those who hit the 75 percent mark. The good news is that every operating unit will be celebrating! I have included an update on where and when each ice cream or pizza party will be taking place soon. I hope you enjoy, and thanks again. In addition, I have included my schedule of remaining Town Halls for the week ahead. I look forward to seeing you there. Keep up the great work and once again, go Pats!

Remaining Town Halls

- Wednesday, January 30 at 10 a.m. at Service Avenue
- Wednesday, January 30 at 11 a.m. at Kent Hospital, Doctors Auditorium



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Ice cream socials

- **Butler Hospital** – All staff are invited for ice cream in the arboretum on Wednesday, January 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. to midnight.
- **Care New England** – Ice cream will be delivered to CNE Corporate off-site locations (Wellness Center, Willard, Service Road, Knight Street, 888 Eddy Street, Richmond Square, and Richmond Street) on Tuesday, January 29. CNE Corporate department leaders should contact Ashley Rosencrans in Human Resources at arosencrans@carene.org to coordinate pizza delivery.
- **Kent Hospital** – All staff are invited for ice cream in the Blue Wave Café on Wednesday, January 30 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. Overnight shift will have ice cream delivered during their shift. Details to come on ice cream distribution to off-sites.
- **The Providence Center** – Deb O'Brien and the leadership team will be delivering ice cream treats to all locations beginning mid-February.
- **VNA of Care New England** – All staff are invited to enjoy ice cream treats during your February monthly staff meetings.
- **Women & Infants Hospital** – All staff are invited for ice cream treats in the cafeteria on Wednesday, January 30 from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.



Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

THE PROVIDENCE CENTER

TPC receives charitable donation from RI General Assembly

The Rhode Island General Assembly recently made a charitable donation of \$1,222 to The Providence Center. The members and staff of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, Senate, and Joint Charitable Committee participate in "Dress Down Day" fundraisers to benefit local charities and nonprofits, and this year chose TPC.

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Influenza widespread; Masking required of unvaccinated health care workers

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. 