

CNE, Memorial finalize affiliation

PAWTUCKET – More than a year after launching the process to affiliate, leadership from Care New England Health System (CNE) and Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (MHRI) gathered Sept. 3 and ceremoniously signed the closing paperwork signifying the completion of the deal.

Dennis Keefe, president and CEO of CNE, and Arthur DeBlois III, interim president and CEO of MHRI, were flanked by Memorial employees and system leadership as they finalized the regulatory process for Memorial to become the fourth hospital partner in CNE, joining Butler, Kent and Women & Infants hospitals. CNE also includes the Care New England Wellness Center and the VNA of Care New England.

"It is very exciting to be at this point, and to officially welcome Memorial Hospital to Care New England," Keefe said. "The system as a whole has been keenly focused on improving the way health care is delivered to our patients and their families. Memorial Hospital and its rich legacy in the Blackstone Valley is an ideal addition to our system."

DeBlois also reflected on the turning page in Memorial's history book.

"Memorial has a proud legacy of serving the people of this area and we look forward to continuing to do so as part of the Care New England health system," DeBlois said. "This new venture for Memorial ensures we will also be able to provide an expanded constellation of specialty services to our patients."

Donald Grebien, mayor of the City of Pawtucket and a vocal supporter of

the affiliation, echoed both Keefe and DeBlois' enthusiasm.

"For more than a century, Memorial Hospital has been an outstanding community partner with the City of Pawtucket and, most importantly, an outstanding care provider for the people of the city, the Blackstone Valley and beyond. Indeed, in the first annual report for the hospital, its president stated, 'It was organized and is conducted for the benefit of the community' and that has been true ever since," Grebien said.



Dennis Keefe, president and CEO of CNE, and Arthur DeBlois III, interim president and CEO of MHRI, finalized the regulatory process for Memorial to become the fourth hospital partner in CNE on Sept. 3.

Affiliation history

The closing came two months after the affiliation received state approval from Director of Health Michael Fine, MD, and Attorney General Peter Kilmartin, capping a rigorous yet highly collaborative and constructive review process. This process included public review by the Health Services Council as part of the Department of Health's (DOH) Change in Effective Control review, and review by the DOH at Attorney General's Office under Rhode Island's Hospital Conversions Act.

Based on their reviews, state officials determined that the affiliation met the criteria and standards set by state law. The affiliation was also endorsed by physicians, civic leaders and organizations, businesses, public officials and other members of the community who spoke at a public hearing in June or submitted letters of support during the review process.

CNE and MHRI envision that their partnership will bring to the expanded and enhanced CNE system:

- Improvement of quality of clinical programs and services
- Patient access to a broader continuum of services over an expanded service area
- Development of signature service lines, including women's health, behavioral health, primary care, cardiovascular services, and home health
- Maintenance of the strong academic and research platform that is essential to fostering clinical excellence and innovation
- Enhancement of physician recruitment, retention and integration initiatives
- Improvement of facilities, technology and information technology platforms
- Development of an integrated delivery system in which patient care is coordinated across the full continuum of care for population health management
- Operational efficiencies to improve performance and reduce costs ♦