

Appointments



Elizabeth Burke Bryant joins faculty at the Brown School of Public Health

PROVIDENCE – **ELIZABETH BURKE BRYANT, JD**, has been appointed professor of the practice of health services, policy and practice at the Brown University School of Public Health, effective July 1, 2023.

In her new role at Brown University, Burke Bryant will share her wealth of knowledge and experience by teaching a policy and advocacy course within the School of Public Health. Simultaneously, she will continue her influential policy and advocacy work at both the national and state levels through the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute.

She is a child advocate with over 30 years of experience in advancing equitable policies and programs to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families. She served as Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a children's policy and advocacy organization, for 28 years – from its establishment in 1994 to 2022.

A graduate of the University of Vermont and the George Washington University Law School, Burke Bryant has actively contributed to the field of child advocacy on a national scale. She served as co-chair of the board of the Partnership for America's Children, a prominent network of state and local child advocacy organizations striving to improve policies affecting children. ❖



John A. Stoukides, MD, named chairman of RWMC Department of Medicine

PROVIDENCE – **JOHN A. STOUKIDES, MD, ScD**, has been named Chairman of Medicine at Roger Williams Medical Center. His appointment was effective in June and he becomes the fifth chair in the history of the department.

Dr. Stoukides was the unanimous recommendation of the search committee, co-chaired by Dr. Ponnandai Somasundar and Dr. Rita Peter-Faherty. The process began last year following the passing of Dr. Vincent Armenio.

Dr. Stoukides has been practicing medicine for 33 years, exclusively at RWMC, where he completed his residency. He is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Tufts University School of Medicine. Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, he also received an honorary doctor of science degree in Geriatrics from URI.

He has been Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine but has served as Interim Chair since last year. He is the long-time Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at Roger Williams and was instrumental in developing the senior care practice group at the hospital, the state's largest. Dr. Stoukides also serves as Medical Director of Utilization Management for CharterCARE. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Medicine and the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, as well as Associate Professor of Nursing and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy at URI. He also has a private practice in East Providence.

In addition to serving on numerous hospital committees and local boards, Dr. Stoukides was a key member of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and was actively involved in our own COVID vaccination program at CharterCARE. ❖

Appointments



Yale New Haven Health System names Richard Lisitano president of Lawrence + Memorial Healthcare

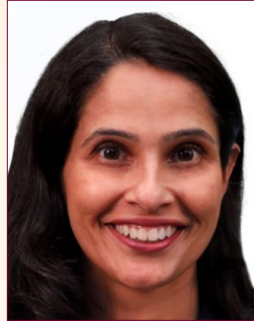
NEW LONDON, CT/WESTERLY, RI – Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) has named **RICHARD LISITANO** as the new president of Lawrence +

Memorial Healthcare (Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Westerly Hospital and VNA of Southeastern Connecticut) and executive vice president of Yale New Haven Health effective July 17. He replaces Patrick Green who accepted a position at UF Health Jacksonville.

Lisitano has been senior vice president of Operations at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) since 2021 and has been employed at YNHH since 1996 when he started as director of Pharmacy. He holds a Master of Science from Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut.

Lisitano, who has ascended the leadership ranks, has a record of contributions with Yale New Haven Health including the growth of various service lines for Urology, Neurosciences, Oncology, Orthopedics and Digestive Health; and developing/executing/integrating system-wide Epic EMR across five separate campuses.

“Rich’s institutional knowledge across our system will be an asset as he leads Lawrence + Memorial and Westerly hospitals on the journey to greater operational excellence and strategic growth,” said Pamela Sutton-Wallace, MPS, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Yale New Haven Health. “L+M and Westerly hospitals have experienced tremendous growth over the past six years as more patients are seeking specialized, high quality care in these communities, closer to where they live, work and play.” “I’m honored to have been selected to lead and work alongside the staff at Lawrence + Memorial and Westerly hospitals,” said Lisitano. “I look forward to partnering with employees, the physicians and our community partners to enhance the health of the communities we serve.” ❖



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI appoints Farah Shafi, MD, chief medical officer

PROVIDENCE – **FARAH SHAFI, MD, MBA**, has been appointed chief medical officer of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) following a national search. Dr. Shafi, who began her new position in June, brings demonstrated leadership and results in key areas of community and member health including maternal health, health equity, and behavioral health.

Dr. Shafi comes to BCBSRI from Mass General Brigham Health Plan where she worked for seven years, most recently as deputy chief medical officer. She is an obstetrician-gynecologist, who has served as an attending physician at Columbia University Medical Center in New York and Atrius Health in Massachusetts and was on staff at Mount Auburn Hospital, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Shafi was born in Providence at the former Lying-in Hospital and completed her residency at its successor, Women & Infants Hospital. She was elected to serve as a chief resident and also was an assistant instructor in obstetrics and gynecology at Brown University Medical School.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Shafi join BCBSRI. She brings extensive experience as a clinician and a physician leader, which equip her to both lead our clinical team and to partner with providers throughout Rhode Island,” said BCBSRI President and CEO Martha L. Wofford. “We specifically sought a hands-on physician leader with expertise in two key areas of focus: health equity and behavioral health. We are ecstatic to have found Dr. Shafi, whose deep experience is matched only by her passion for addressing disparities.”

As chief medical officer at BCBSRI, Dr. Shafi will take the helm of clinical affairs, overseeing BCBSRI’s proactive efforts to help members manage their health, prevent disease, and better navigate the health-care system to access critical services. Among her areas of focus will be youth behavioral health and initiatives to address healthcare disparities such as colorectal cancer screening and maternal health outcomes.

“I’m excited to join this wonderful organization and to return to my personal and professional roots in Rhode Island,” said Dr. Shafi, whose family lived in Newport and Providence. “I’m eager to lead BCBSRI’s outstanding clinical services on behalf of members, which have contributed to the organization winning best-in-class service recognition. Given my clinical background, I am also passionate about advancing BCBSRI’s critically important work to respond to the nationwide adolescent behavioral health crisis and to end persistent health inequities.”

Following her birth in Rhode Island, Dr. Shafi was raised in Chicago and Kentucky. She received her medical degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and, completed her residency at Women & Infants Hospital. She received her MBA from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. ❖

Appointments

David McCready, MBA, MHA, named CEO at Southcoast



FALL RIVER, MA – The Southcoast Health Board of Trustees announced July 21 that **DAVID MCCREADY, MBA, MHA**, will join the system as president and chief executive officer of the Southcoast Hospitals Group on October 1, 2023, and succeed Rayford Kruger, MD, FACS as the next Southcoast Health System president and chief executive officer effective January 3, 2024.

McCready joins Southcoast from Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital where he has served as president for the past 5 years. In addition to his role as President of the Faulkner, he served for 18 years as a member of the leadership team at Brigham and Women's Hospital leadership team.

As Southcoast Health's president and CEO, McCready will be responsible for the overall strategy and operations of the system and all subsidiary organizations. McCready will ensure organizational integrity, the provision of high-quality and integrated patient care, efficient operations, financial sustainability, and exceptional patient experience and outcomes across the entire Southcoast enterprise.

Beginning in November of 2022, Southcoast Health engaged in a comprehensive and wide-ranging search, attracting interest from over 70 candidates nationwide.

Before joining BWH, McCready worked for several years as an administrative leader at Boston Medical Center and at Highmark Health in Pittsburgh, and as a management consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. McCready earned a master's degree in business administration and a master's in healthcare administration from the University of Pittsburgh. ❖

RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL

RIMJ seeks social-media-savvy Board member

The Rhode Island Medical Journal (RIMJ) is seeking a social-media-savvy applicant to join its Editorial Board. Responsibilities include assisting in expanding RIMJ's reach and visibility on social media platforms, reporting site analytics, and researching and reporting on other medical social media platforms to inform the Board.

Expected time commitment is flexible, at several hours a month, and attendance at quarterly board meetings held via Zoom. A volunteer position, it is open to health care professionals in the RI medical community, and students, residents, or fellows.

Interested candidates can contact **William Binder, MD**, editor-in-chief, and **Mary Korr**, managing editor, at:

william_binder@brown.edu

mkorr@rimed.org

Help your Patients Keep their Medicaid Coverage

Medicaid members will need to renew their eligibility with the State of Rhode Island to keep their health insurance.

You can help now by reminding your Medicaid patients to update their account information with their current address and phone number. Medicaid members can update their information by:

- Logging into their HealthSource RI account: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/>
- Calling HealthSource RI at 1-855-840-4774 (TTY 711)

Thank you from all of us at Neighborhood for your commitment and partnership in ensuring Rhode Island families keep their health care coverage!



Neighborhood members can scan the QR code to update their address through our new e-form or visit www.nhpri.org



Neighborhood Health Plan
OF RHODE ISLAND™

www.nhpri.org 1-800-459-6019 (TTY 711)

Recognition

Butler Hospital awarded Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval

PROVIDENCE – Butler Hospital has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for its Partial Hospital and Intensive Outpatient Programs in its Providence and South County locations by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. Butler Hospital also notably received The Joint Commission's accreditation for its inpatient units, including the Opioid Treatment Program. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a healthcare organization's commitment to providing safe and quality care to the individuals it serves.



The certification recognizes healthcare organizations that integrate and coordinate an individual's behavioral health and primary physical health care services to facilitate access to a broad array of behavioral health care, medical care, and community-based social services and supports. These organizations focus on key concepts of individual-centered, comprehensive, and coordinated care and services that support recovery and resilience philosophies.

Butler Hospital underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on April 14th, 2023. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards including those covering the care, treatment, or services provided; environment of care; leadership; human resources; outcomes measurement; and rights and responsibilities of the individual served. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"I am proud of the hard work done by our staff to maintain this important accreditation. The few findings we had were minimal in scope and presented a low risk to patient safety. These findings have since been mitigated. We commit to maintaining the high bar set by The Joint Commission Accreditation for high-quality care and patient safety," said **MARY MARRAN, MS, OT, MBA**, president and COO, Butler Hospital.

Maintaining this certification involves close collaboration between Butler Hospital's Pharmacy Department, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the US Drug Enforcement Agency. Additionally, the leadership of the Opioid Treatment Program works closely with community agencies to ensure individuals can continue the evidence-based treatment initiated in the hospital. ❖

VA Providence has achieved the Pathway To Excellence® designation

PROVIDENCE, RI – The VA Providence Healthcare System joins a premier group of organizations that have received Pathway to Excellence® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the third consecutive time.

The Pathway designation is a global credential that highlights VA Providence's commitment to creating a healthy work environment where nurses feel empowered and valued. VA Providence's nurses are an integral part of the healthcare team, with a voice in policy and practice. Pathway nurses are engaged, resulting in higher job satisfaction, reduced turnover, improved safety, and better patient outcomes.

As a Pathway organization, VA Providence leads the effort to enhance quality of care, patient and nursing safety, and the future of healthcare delivery. ❖