

Appointments

Carolyn Jackson, MBA, named President and COO of Kent Hospital

WARWICK — Care New England Health System recently announced the appointment of **CAROLYN JACKSON, MBA**, as President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Kent Hospital, effective February 2, 2026.

Jackson brings more than two decades of senior healthcare leadership experience, with a strong record of operational excellence, financial turnaround, and quality improvement across complex hospital systems. She will be joining Kent Hospital from Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Braintree, where she currently serves as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that role, Jackson spent six years as Chief Executive Officer of Tenet Healthcare's Massachusetts Market and Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, and she served as Chief Operating Officer of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

"Kent Hospital is a cornerstone community hospital, and an integral part of Care New England's system of hospitals, services, and providers dedicated to delivering foundational care to our community," said **DR. MICHAEL WAGNER**, President and CEO of Care New England. "Carolyn's proven leadership and commitment to quality, and her ability to strengthen organizations clinically and operationally make her exceptionally well-suited to lead Kent Hospital and advance our mission of coordinated, patient-centered care."



During her tenure at Saint Vincent Hospital, Jackson led a dramatic \$89 million financial turnaround just three years. Under her leadership, the hospital earned national recognition for clinical excellence, including Healthgrades' designation as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention for two consecutive years. She also spearheaded innovative COVID-19 response efforts, including the establishment of a high-efficiency vaccination clinic that administered more than 85,000 vaccines, while maintaining low employee infection rates through rigorous safety protocols.

Jackson has also demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding access to care, leading the operationalization of eight new behavioral health beds to address critical community needs and securing \$2.5 million in funding to operationalize another 17 behavioral health beds.

"I am honored to join Care New England and the exceptional team at Kent Hospital," Jackson said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with physicians, staff, and community partners to build on Kent's strong foundation, deliver high-quality, compassionate care, and advance Care New England's mission to ensure Rhode Islanders have easy, coordinated access to the clinical programs and services that support well-being at every stage of life." ❖

Recognition



Rhode Island Hospital Medical Staff Association: Edward Akelman, MD, Outstanding Physician of the Year

EAST PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Hospital Medical Staff Association recently awarded University Orthopedics president, **EDWARD AKELMAN, MD**, with the 2025 Milton W. Hamolsky, MD Outstanding Physician of the Year Award.

Named for a founding figure in the development of Brown University's medical school, the award is the highest honor bestowed by the Rhode Island Hospital medical staff. It recognizes physicians who demonstrate exceptional clinical skill, leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the practice of medicine.

In addition to his duties as president of University Orthopedics, Dr. Akelman serves as chairman of the Orthopaedic Departments at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital, and Miriam Hospital. A nationally respected, board-certified expert in his field, Dr. Akelman treats a wide range of upper-extremity conditions and disorders.

Dr. Akelman's longstanding commitment to patient care, medical education, and surgical excellence has had a profound and lasting impact on both his patients and colleagues.

"Dr. Akelman's commitment to teaching and patient care has been inspiring since my first day working with him during my PGY-2 year," said UOI Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon **JOSEPH GIL, MD**, one of the nominating physicians. "His patience, particularly as he guided me through my first LRTI procedure, left a lasting impression on my development as a physician. He consistently demonstrates the importance of forming meaningful, personal connections with patients—an approach I continue to emphasize with residents and fellows today."

The Physician of the Year award was virtually presented to Dr. Akelman at the Medical Staff Association's annual meeting on January 21, 2026, with an in-person celebration planned during the Biannual Meeting in September 2026. ❖

Hasbro Children's earns National Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

PROVIDENCE — Hasbro Children's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) has again received The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Silver Beacon Award for Excellence for demonstrating excellence in patient outcomes, nursing workforce engagement, and healthy work environments.

The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve unit outcomes and align practices with AACN's six Healthy Work Environment Standards. Units that earn this annual award with a gold, silver or bronze designation meet specific criteria established by AACN that represent the characteristics and components of the unit environment that nurses can influence to achieve nursing excellence.

"This marks the second consecutive year Hasbro Children's has earned the Beacon Award under AACN's newer annual designation process," said **SARAH FROST**, Chief of Hospital Operations and President of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's. "This designation is acknowledgement of our PICU team's passion for excellence and providing our patients with the best high-quality, patient and family-centered care."

Units earning the Beacon Award demonstrate excellence across three core areas:

- Patient Outcomes
- Nursing Workforce
- Work Environment

The Hasbro Children's PICU submitted extensive quantitative data related to infection prevention, high-risk interventions, staffing, and retention, along with qualitative narratives describing interventions implemented to improve care delivery and workplace culture. The unit also completes an annual survey capturing feedback directly from bedside nurses to guide ongoing improvement efforts.

"We care about every child and family member we treat as though they are our own, providing support and encouragement every step of the way. We care for the sickest children across Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It's a difficult job at times, but one of the most rewarding. We're all so passionate and dedicated as individuals and a team, and that's what makes Hasbro Children's so special," said **MICHAELA VIEIRA, BSN, RN**, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit nurse at Hasbro Children's, who led this year's application effort. ❖

Recognition

Integra earns National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Case Management Accreditation

PROVIDENCE — Care New England's Integra Community Care Network has received National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Case Management Accreditation at the highest level for three years. This evidence-based accreditation recognizes organizations that demonstrate excellence in the delivery of high-quality case management programs focused on continuous quality improvement and patient-centered care.

The accreditation reflects Integra's commitment to delivering exceptional performance while meeting the complex needs of the patients and communities it serves.

"This accreditation sets Integra apart and reinforces our mission to put people first," said **ANA TUYA FULTON, MD, MBA**, President and COO, Chief Population Health Officer, Care New England – Integra. "It validates the work our team does every day and demonstrates that our care management programs meet rigorous standards to ensure members receive coordinated, compassionate, and effective support.

Integra's Case Management Accreditation is through 2028. ❖



Brown University Health held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of its new Cancer Institute at 70 Walnut Street in Foxborough, MA. [BROWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH]

Brown University Health celebrates opening of Cancer Institute in Foxborough

PROVIDENCE — Brown University Health, joined by the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce and the Neponset River Regional Chamber, recently celebrated the opening of its new Cancer Institute at 70 Walnut Street in Foxborough with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by State Senator **PAUL FEE-NEY**, Representative **MICHAEL CHAISSON**, Brown University Health leadership, clinicians, staff and community partners.

Medical Oncology, led by **JONATHAN B. CROOPNICK, MD**, specializes in benign and malignant hematology and the treatment of most solid tumors. The onsite infusion center provides advanced chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapies guided by tumor sequencing and patient genetics.

Radiation Oncology, led by **JONATHAN M. GLANZMAN, MD**, offers customized radiation therapy plans as part of a multidisciplinary cancer team. The Radiation Therapy Center features a brand new state-of-the-art Linear Accelerator (LINAC) that delivers precise radiation while sparing healthy tissue.

Additional services at the Foxborough location include advanced imaging, CT scanning, ultrasound, bone density testing, and new diagnostic 3D mammography, along with walk-in lab services, therapeutic phlebotomy, and non-cancer-related infusions and injections.

During the ceremony, State Senator Paul Feeney and Representative Michael Chaisson presented official citations recognizing the opening of the Foxborough Cancer Institute and commending Brown University Health for its continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality, patient-centered cancer care in the region.

"This new location represents a meaningful step forward in how we deliver cancer care, bringing expert, highly coordinated services into the communities where our patients live," said **CYNTHIA PETERSON**, executive vice president, Ambulatory and Clinical Services, Brown University Health. "By co-locating medical and radiation oncology in a single, modern setting, we're improving access, strengthening collaboration, and enhancing the overall patient experience. We are truly grateful for the wonderful community partners in Foxborough and the strong collaboration between Brown University Health and the Tri-Town and Neponset River Chambers." ❖