

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | December 2021

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Bridgeport
Hospital

The Wellness Corner

A message from the Chief Wellness Officer

December is a month many associate with holidays, family, and giving. It can be a time of warmth, connection, and generosity, but it can also be associated with stress, grief for those we have lost, and the darkness and cold of winter days. It is a complicated time with complicated emotions. From an organizational standpoint, while it's not the end of our fiscal year, it non-the-less comes with an opportunity to reflect on the year's events, accomplishments and hopes for the new year. As you do your own reflecting, my wish is that you give yourself permission to have all the complicated emotions of this time.

From an organizational standpoint, 2021 was filled with much behind the scenes work to support the wellbeing of our clinical staff. Hospital leadership has worked to increase the staffing budget for many areas, including our nursing colleagues. Our Bridgeport Hospital Healthcare Workers Support Committee supported multiple efforts including wellness related Lunch wRaps, Stress and Resilience Town Halls, and Employee Wellbeing Check-Ins. Many of those programs were available for our medical staff. In addition, in October, we restarted the Medical Staff Wellness Council. This council allows members of our medical staff to come together, discuss evidence-based tools for professional wellbeing, and bring those tools back to apply in their own units. While some of these tools target individual resilience skills, when done collectively by a work unit, they can have an impact on the culture and improve the wellbeing of all on that work unit or department/division.

One tool which seems to naturally pair with December is the practice of "Random Acts of Kindness." While some giving around the holidays can involve pressure and expectation, true acts of kindness and compassion, when done freely and without the expectation of reward or recognition, have the ability to significantly impact the wellbeing of the giver as much as the receiver. When done as a unit, it can dramatically increase the culture of wellbeing on that unit and lift everyone's spirits.

So if this month gets a little complicated, consider practicing some random acts of kindness for your colleagues. It could mean bringing your team something special, paying for a colleague's lunch in the cafeteria, or even something as simple as letting someone go ahead of you in the parking lot. It just might help recreate the community feeling we need to get through these complicated times.

In gratitude,
Kristin Edwards, MD, Chief Wellness Officer

An appeal to the Medical Staff from the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation

Happy holidays! In this season of giving, we ask that you consider a charitable gift to the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation, the fundraising organization for the hospital, to support the many programs and services that the hospital brings to our community.

Thank you for your past support. Last year you and over 2,784 generous people like you gave more than \$5.7 million to the Foundation. Here are some examples of what philanthropy makes possible for our staff, patients and our community:

- We provided over 20,000 meals to staff during the COVID pandemic.
- Our Women's Care Center's Post-Partum Wellness Check has provided follow up-care and screening to 470 new mothers and their babies.
- The CT Burn Center's outreach program has provided virtual trauma and burn prevention programs to EMS instructors, local school programs and a seminar attended by 200 clinicians statewide.
- A Chronic Care Management team was launched at the hospital's Primary Care Center to address medical and social health challenges for complex high-risk patients, substantially decreasing frequent hospital and Emergency Department visits and improving their overall well-being.

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- We supplied computer tablets to children and clinical staff at REACH, the hospital's intensive outpatient mental health program, to meet an increased demand for tele-psych appointments.

All of this is possible only with the continued support of our donor community! Please visit bit.ly/fund4bh to make a gift before calendar year-end.

YNHHS receives \$10 million grant for new patient care technician apprenticeship program

Yale New Haven Health has received a \$10 million grant for a new registered apprenticeship program that will train 1,250 patient care associates/patient care technicians over the next four years.

YNHHS and Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) leaders recently announced the U.S. Department of Labor State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity, and Innovation grant. The apprenticeship program is expected to be in full swing by the first of the year across the health system.

Apprenticeship program participants will come from state- and federally funded training programs in Bridgeport, New Haven and New London, and from the communities surrounding YNHHS hospitals.

The apprenticeship will include classroom learning, on-the-job training and mentoring by registered nurses. It focuses on patient care associates/patient care technicians (PCAs/PCTs).

This apprenticeship model can help hospitals throughout the state meet a critical need for healthcare workers. YNHHS hires approximately 400 PCAs/PCTs annually at its Connecticut hospitals, and the demand for these professionals is expected to increase statewide.

CTDOL partnered with YNHHS on this grant in part because the health system has collaborated with the state on other successful apprenticeship programs. For example, nearly 1,000 registered apprentices in the registered nurse and surgical technician fields currently work at YNHHS' Connecticut hospitals.

Medical Staff encouraged to complete CME program evaluation

All clinical staff are asked to complete the CME program evaluation survey. The results help assess how well the program fulfills the Bridgeport Hospital CME mission statement and guide the planning of future educational programming. The survey runs through January 1, 2022.

Access the survey at <https://keysurvey.ynhh.org/f/41579595/4dbf>

Questions may be sent to Todd Lane at Todd.Lane@bpthosp.org.

Need a data report? Search the JDAT Analytics Portal

How many COVID-19 tests have Yale New Haven Health laboratories in different parts of the state performed? What was the average patient length of stay six months ago vs. now? The Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine Joint Data Analytics Team (JDAT) has these and more than 3,700 other reports on a wide range of topics available at <https://analyticsportal.ynhh.org>.

The reports include detailed information related to COVID-19, clinical redesign, quality and safety and other activities for different service lines and departments. Access is required to view existing reports or request custom reports from the JDAT Analytics Portal. Visit the portal to submit an access request.

YNHHS rolls out first wave of new patient beds

Months of analytical work is starting to bear fruit, as the first new patient beds have been deployed at Yale New Haven Health System hospitals. The deployment is part of a massive project to replace nearly every bed across YNHHS.

The new Centrella Smart+ beds from Hillrom include fall alarms connected to the staff call system and integrated scales that can send patients' weights to Epic. Other features run the gamut from direct clinical enhancements to patient experience upgrades.

This is the first time nearly all beds throughout the health system will be replaced under a single, multi-year upgrade plan. The five-year plan to replace nearly 2,500 beds kicked-off last summer and will continue into 2022.