Serious business

BHN president encourages employers to offer support for staff fighting addiction

Senior Vice President of the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network Pat Rehmer urged business leaders to give employees support and access to treatment if they’re battling opioid or other addictions during her keynote speech at the Hartford Business Journal’s Opioid forum on Wednesday, Sept. 27.

“Employers need to be aware that [the opioid crisis] is everywhere and that there are undoubtedly people in their employee base that do have issues with addiction,” Rehmer said at the event held at Infinity Music Hall in Hartford. Speaking to more than 100 business leaders and recovery advocates, Rehmer told the crowd that medication-assisted treatment programs have proven effective in helping people on the road to recovery.

“We know that there is an 87 percent better chance that a patient will enter recovery if we treat patients with these medications. But it’s important for us

To see a video summing up Pat Rehmer’s thoughts from the forum, click on https://youtu.be/P74LePIYlvFw

Continued on page 2
Kiss your e-mail

Good-bye
(The Sequel)

Effective Nov. 15, 2017 all Hartford HealthCare e-mail will automatically be deleted after:

- Seven years for directors and above
- Three years for managers and below
- Deleted items folders will continue to be emptied once a week

Mid-2018: Six-month e-mail retention policy strictly enforced. All e-mail auto-deleted after six months.

For information and instructions for saving and storing your important business documents, visit the Information Technology page of HHC Connect.

This notice reflects stricter enforcement of Hartford HealthCare’s existing e-mail retention policy. Non-compliance and improper storage of business documents may create business and regulatory risks.

Medication-assisted treatment programs have proven effective

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to give people the option at different periods of their treatment to come off the medications if they want to. Not everyone needs to stay on Suboxone or methadone for the rest of their lives. Some people will. It allows them to have their lives back,” Rehmer said.

Gov. Dannel Malloy opened the forum by telling leaders that the opioid crisis is “bigger than we think.” He said he begins each day by looking at newspaper obituaries for “people under 40 who died at home.” The governor said he’s particularly alarmed by the number of fentanyl-related deaths.

“We live in a world now where heroin is dirt cheap, and it’s about seven percent heroin unless it’s been poisoned by something else [like fentanyl],” Malloy said. “The reality is if you are using heroin today, you are regularly buying a lottery ticket to be poisoned to death.”

Rehmer also reminded the crowd that it’s never too early to begin a conversation with children about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

“It’s been shown that if you prevent your child from using any substance until they are 18, there is about a 90 percent chance that they won’t struggle with addiction later in life, even if they are genetically loaded [to become addicted]. And, if you can keep them from using until they’re 21, about 95 percent won’t have an addiction problem later in their life. Those are amazing statistics,” Rehmer said.

Have you heard the news?

Introducing Hartford HealthCare’s news hub
Hartford HealthCare’s new online health news site delivers lively, informative and useful health news in a whole new way. Look for print, video and audio stories produced by HHC’s News Service, as well as timely tips on nutrition, fitness, health and wellness, and medical innovations.

Don’t miss a single story! Read the latest health news or sign up for our e-newsletter at: healthnewshub.org
A recent study is adding a new face to the growing opioid crisis.

According to findings by United States For Non-Dependence, women aged 40 to 59 are being prescribed more opioid pain medication than any other group, making them more vulnerable to abuse and addiction.

The results aren’t surprising to Rushford Medical Director J. Craig Allen, MD.

“There is an erroneous assumption that women are less likely to become addicted than men and that someone who may get addicted can be identified by the way they look or act.”

In 2009, Wallingford was one of two Connecticut cities identified as having one of the highest opioid overdose rates in the country. Traci Green, PhD, from the Brown Department of Psychiatry, completed a federally funded Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR) project pulling together a community advisory board to determine who was dying, why and what actions could be taken immediately to address the issue. That work identified highest risk group as Caucasian females aged 35-54.

Allen also cites a recent study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that shows the rate of deaths attributed to prescription opioid overdoses increased by 471 percent in women compared to 218 percent among men between 1999 and 2015.

And, while there are still more men addicted to prescription opioid pain medication than women, Allen said the increase in abuse and overdose in women should be frightening.

“Research shows that women develop addictive disorders quicker and at lower doses of opioid pain medications than men and also are more vulnerable to other comorbidities including overdose,” Allen said.

Allen agrees that Connecticut officials and physicians have made strides in addressing the crisis but said more needs to be done to educate doctors about who is highest risk. He notes that personal or family addiction history, active psychiatric issues, trauma history, and age are also risk factors that should be considered.

“If you’re prescribing any type of medication you want to know who is most likely to have a side effect. If it’s opioid analgesics, where a side effect is addiction and or overdose, identifying and modifying one’s treatment approach is essential,” he said.

**Study: Middle-aged women prescribed more opioid painkillers**

Sunday, Oct. 1, marked the first day that Backus Hospital officially launched the CareConnect software bundle (PeopleSoft, Epic, Image Connect) as part of Hartford HealthCare’s goal of providing patients with a single health record that can be accessed from any HHC facility across the system. Backus is the first HHC behavioral health outpatient site to go live with the software bundle, which combines patient registration, health records and billing in one convenient package.

**An Epic achievement is up and running**

**Mental Health First Aid classes on HealthStream**

In an effort to standardize BHN registration for trainings, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training schedules and registration are now found on HealthStream.

MHFA training is offered at the Institute of Living on the third Friday of each month starting Oct. 20 and continuing through September 2018. A minimum of 10 participants must be registered in order for the course to be run.

If you are interested in scheduling a training outside of the Hartford region, contact MHFA coordinator Patricia Graham at patriciac.graham@hhchealth.org.
Experts weigh in on opioids, talking to kids about current events


- Pat Rehmer was also interviewed for an article in the Hartford Courant about a new study that shows women aged 40-59 received more prescription painkillers after surgery than men. [http://www.courant.com/health/hc-news-opioid-study-women-users-20170927-story.html](http://www.courant.com/health/hc-news-opioid-study-women-users-20170927-story.html)

- Rushford Medical Director J. Craig Allen, MD, spoke to Fox 61 about Jansporting, a dangerous — perhaps even deadly — college drinking trend [https://healthnewshub.org/health-news-hub/top-news/jansporting-backpack-bottle/](https://healthnewshub.org/health-news-hub/top-news/jansporting-backpack-bottle/)

- Dr. Laura Saunders from the Institute of Living appeared on Fox 61 and WFSB discussing how parents can talk to their children about topical current events such as the Las Vegas shootings and the NFL players kneeling during the national anthem. WFSB/Las Vegas: [https://youtu.be/4psiKgyKUY4](https://youtu.be/4psiKgyKUY4). Fox 61/Las Vegas: [https://youtu.be/eeefX3sO7E](https://youtu.be/eeefX3sO7E). Fox 61/NFL: [https://youtu.be/YUBeDz2ugSs](https://youtu.be/YUBeDz2ugSs).

The Behavioral Health Network was well represented at the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) Recovery Walk and Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Bushnell Park in Hartford. Melissa Curtis offered attendees BHN giveaways and information about programs and services, while clients, including the boys from Rushford’s Durham campus, enjoyed the live music, caricature artist and interactive activities.

In October, and all year, we honor our hospital team members who always make every moment matter.

Healthcare Foodservice Workers Week (Oct. 1-7)
Healthcare Security and Safety Week (Oct. 8-14)
National Healthcare Supply Chain Week (Oct. 1-7)
American Pharmacists Month

For more behavioral health news updates, subscribe to the BHN’s e-newsletter on [www.healthnewshub.org](http://www.healthnewshub.org).
Everyone who works, learns and volunteers at Hartford HealthCare stands firmly against influenza. Through our Influenza Prevention Program, we are achieving nearly 100 percent vaccination rate and significantly reducing the risk flu poses to our most vulnerable patients. We also are protecting our co-workers and families.

All non-exempted staff members must be vaccinated by Nov. 6. Those applying for medical or religious exemptions must do so by Oct. 1. Individuals with existing religious and medical exemptions do not need to reapply.

When attending clinics, please be sure to bring your badge.

For more information on the flu prevention program, or to view a schedule for vaccination clinics across the system, visit hhconnect.org and under “Community”, select “Initiatives” and click “Flu Prevention Program.”

BHN announces sites, dates for flu vaccine clinics

Flu clinic schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Oct. 6</td>
<td>3:30-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug Treatment Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 10</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug Unit Med Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct. 12</td>
<td>7 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
<td>IOL Donnelly 1st floor conf. room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 16</td>
<td>3:30-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug Treatment Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 16</td>
<td>8 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Rushford Middletown East Wing break room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 18</td>
<td>2-6 p.m.</td>
<td>Rushford Middletown East Wing break room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Oct. 22</td>
<td>6:30-8 a.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug Treatment Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>2:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug Treatment Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>7-9 a.m.</td>
<td>IOL Donnelly 1st floor conf. room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>2-4 p.m.</td>
<td>IOL Donnelly 1st floor conf. room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Rushford Meriden Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Oct. 27</td>
<td>9 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Natchaug HR building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Oct. 27</td>
<td>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Rushford Meriden Café conf. room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 30</td>
<td>2-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Natchaug HR Building</td>
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</tbody>
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Help for those who need financial assistance

Do you know a patient who is in need of financial assistance? Hartford HealthCare can provide help to patients in need. Learn more about the program at https://intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org/inside-hhc/patient-support.
On Oct. 18, the 2017 C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award will be presented to Harold Alan Pincus, MD. Dr. Pincus is Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Co-Director of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Columbia University and Director of Quality and Outcomes Research at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Over a distinguished career, Dr. Pincus has made major contributions to health services and policy research, science policy, research career development and the diagnosis, classification and treatment of mental disorders. He has had a particular research interest in the practice of evidence-based medicine, quality measurement and improvement and the relationships among general medicine, mental health and substance abuse — developing and empirically testing models of care that bridge these domains.

Dr. Pincus will deliver the C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award Lecture in the Commons Building’s Hartford Room at 8 a.m. on Oct. 19. The title of his lecture is, “Integrating Behavioral Health and General Medical Care: Drowning in the Mainstream or Left on the Banks.”

The C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award and its presentation have been made possible by gifts from the Burlingame family.

When C. Charles Burlingame, MD, came to The Hartford Retreat (now the Institute of Living) in 1931 as superintendent, he was taking on what he described as a “stunning challenge.” The stock market crash of 1929 and the death of hospital superintendent Whitefield Thompson, MD, in 1930 had taken their toll on the spirit of The Retreat.

Dr. Burlingame was well suited for the task. He had been director of the medical and surgical departments of the American Red Cross and the Bureau of Hospitals during World War I.

During his tenure, the medical and nursing staffs were increased and additional personnel were brought in to carry out ambitious programs of patient education. At the same time, an aggressive program was begun to improve the hospital facilities. Within six years, Dr. Burlingame had created a model community where patients could receive the best in psychiatric treatment, while relearning the skills of daily living.

Although 64 years have passed since Dr. Burlingame’s death, his mark is clearly visible on the institution to which he devoted the last 19 years of his life. Each year, The Institute of Living acknowledges its debt to his vision and dedication with the C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award.

Family Resource Center Support Groups

The IOL Family Resource Center (FRC) holds regular support groups. For additional information, please contact the FRC at 860.545.7665 or 860.545.1888. All programs are free of charge and, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Massachusetts Cottage, First Floor Group Room at the IOL Campus, 200 Retreat Ave., Hartford. The upcoming IOL FRC Support Group schedule is as follows:

- **Support Group For Those Coping With A New Or Chronic Medical Condition.** Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Every Friday), 1 - 2 p.m. in the Center Building, First Floor Conference Room. For young adults ages 17-26 struggling with a new diagnosis, chronic medical conditions, physical symptoms or limitations. The group will help with difficult losses and limitation due to a medical condition, and build a positive, future-oriented focus with realistic goals. To RSVP, please call Elizabeth Alve-Hedegaard, APRN, at 860.545.7050.

- **Depression Bipolar Support Alliance Group (DBSA).** Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 (Every Monday), noon – 1 p.m. in the Todd Building, Bunker Room and Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 (Every Wednesday), 7 – 8 p.m. in the Commons Building, 2nd Floor, Litchfield Room. Peer run support group for those who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder.

- **Social Support Group — LGBTQ Issues (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning).** Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 13, 27. (Second and fourth Wednesday of each month), 5 – 6:15 p.m. in the Center Building, Young Adult Service Group Room. Support group for 16- to 23-year-olds who identify LGBTQ issues as being prominent in their lives. The goal is to discuss support strategies to manage life challenges.

- **Trauma Support Group.** Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22, Dec. 13, 27. (Second and fourth Wednesday of each month), 6-7 p.m. A peer-led group that offers a supportive environment for individuals with any
Family Resource Center Support Groups (continued)

- **Substance Use Educational And Support Group.** Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 (Second Thursday of each month), 4 – 5 p.m. For family members impacted by loved ones with substance abuse.

- **Al-Anon Parent Group.** Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 (Every Thursday), 7 - 8 p.m. One hour topic discussion.

- **Managing Schizophrenia.** Oct. 17, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. This presentation will discuss the impact that symptoms of schizophrenia have on everyday activities, and provide tips on what you can do to make things better at home.

- **Autism Spectrum Support/Educational Group Meeting For Parents.** Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 (Third Wednesday of the month), 6 - 7 p.m. Providing a place for parents of children on the autism spectrum, or another related disorder, to come together and get support and information. Monthly, peer-run support groups interspersed with special guests and speakers to offer additional guidance and perspective.

- **It’s Hard To Be A Mom.** Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7, 21 (First and third Thursday of each month), 10 - 11:30 a.m. Peer-led group that acknowledges the inherent challenges with modern-day mothering and offers an opportunity for mothers to come together, share experiences, and support each other. This group welcomes expecting mothers and mothers with babies to discuss any and all challenges associated with motherhood in a safe and open-minded space. Babies welcome! Space is limited. Please RSVP to 860.545.7324.

- **Support Group For Families Dealing With Major Mental Illness.** Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7, 21. (First and third Thursday of each month), 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Center Building, First Floor Conference Room. For family and friends of individuals who have schizophrenia, bipolar or other related disorders. Share your success and struggles. Learn to care for yourself while caring for others.

- **Dementia Lecture: An Introduction.** Oct. 24, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. This program is for family members and friends of individuals who have dementia or a related disorder. It will present a basic understanding of the disorder, its treatment, along with specific suggestions to help family members and friends better cope with the illness.

If you are a student that needs to observe a group for a class assignment, you must contact the Family Resource Center by emailing Laura Durst at laura.durst@hhchealth.org two weeks prior to the group you would like to attend. Please note, not all of our groups are open for observers and it is up to the facilitator and group members themselves.

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**Depression study planned for teens**

The Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center of Hartford Hospital/Institute of Living seeks right-handed teenagers (ages 12-18) who currently have depression (Major Depressive Disorder) or who were depressed in the past. We are looking for participants who are not currently taking medication for depression, but other types of treatment and past medications would be OK.

Qualified volunteers for the study will participate in an interview, some questionnaires, neuropsychiatric tests and a non-invasive brain imaging scan.

Volunteers will be compensated $20 per hour for their time. The study is expected to take 6-8 hours total and can be split into separate visits if desired.

For more information, please call 860.545.7788.

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**Healthy teen girls needed for study**

The Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center of Hartford Hospital/Institute of Living seeks right-handed teenage girls (ages 12-18) to participate in a MRI-based study on emotion regulation and hormone levels. Only girls who have begun to menstruate and have no history of psychiatric or major medical illnesses will qualify for the study.

Qualified volunteers for the study will participate in an interview, some questionnaires, neuropsychiatric tests and two non-invasive brain imaging scans.

Volunteers will be compensated $20 per hour for their time. Participants are required to come in on two separate days, exactly two weeks apart, and appointments are expected to last 6-8 hours and 3-4 hours, respectively.

For more information, please call 860.545.7788.
JC Shoreline announces work study partnership with Mystic Market

Joshua Center Shoreline Clinical Day School and Mystic Market in Old Saybrook are collaborating to offer students vocational experience working in the food service industry. During this school year, students have gained experience in the kitchen doing inventory, helping with basic food prep and keeping work stations clean and safe. They’ve also engaged in front-of-house activities such as greeting customers and working with Mystic Market’s employees. Students are gaining valuable experience, learning how to present themselves as employees of a business and have even helped keep store displays well organized — a great lesson in visual marketing!

Help Natchaug through Amazon Smile donations

Help raise money for Natchaug Hospital through Amazon Smile. Just shop through https://smile.amazon.com and select Natchaug as your charitable organization.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Tens of millions of products are eligible for donation. You’ll see them marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on the product detail page.

Anything to share?

Are you interested in sharing your clinical experience or knowledge with co-workers? Consider submitting an article to the Clinical Corner. For more information, e-mail amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org.

63rd Annual Board Reception
Defining Moments

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017
Hartford HealthCare
East Region System Support Office
11 Stott Ave., Norwich, CT

Join us for a celebration of Natchaug Hospital’s 2016-2017 accomplishments, and stories of recovery from mental illness and addiction shared by people with lived experience.

5:30pm – Reception
6:30pm – Program
RSVP by Monday, Oct. 16
Ashley Laprade at 860.696.9872 or Ashley.Laprade@hhchealth.org
Rushford is excited to announce that the Middletown residential detox program has begun piloting a new admissions process. Prospective clients can now call the Rushford admissions line and will be offered the next available screening appointment.

The transition to admission by appointment only will eliminate patient build-ups and improve the admissions process, while still allowing staff to immediately respond to those in need of treatment.

The end result will be less on-site wait time and increased access to detox beds for a broader range of clients. Rushford’s detox unit, which boasts the lowest detox readmission rates in Connecticut, is the first step towards recovery for many people, and the new process should help improve access to this vital service.

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### About BHNews

*BHNews is published every other Friday.* Story ideas or submissions may be sent to amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org or steve.coates@hhchealth.org. Articles must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Every effort will be made to run the article in its entirety, but due to space constraints and style requirements, editing may be necessary.

*The deadline for the next edition of BHNews is Tuesday, Oct. 17, at noon*
Aetna helps offset cost of Apple Watch purchases

From now until the end of the year, Hartford HealthCare employees can buy an Apple Watch with a $75 discount from Aetna. The promotion is part of a partnership between Aetna and Apple designed to help employees stay active, track their health and keep track of their insurance.

From practicing mindfulness to reaching fitness goals, Apple Watch is designed to help you stay active, healthy, and productive throughout the day — right from your wrist.

Employees of Hartford HealthCare will be able to purchase an Apple Watch online and pay for it with a credit card or, if they are eligible, spread the cost over a year, using interest-free payroll deductions. To learn more, including purchasing instructions, click on the Wellness Incentives page of HHC Connect.

We care about you!

Health & Wellness Fair
for Rushford clients and staff

Featuring more than a dozen health and wellness agencies from across Connecticut

Thursday, Oct. 19 | 10 am–1 pm

Rushford Cafeteria
883 Paddock Ave, Meriden

Door Prizes and Raffle • Refreshments will be served.

Rushford Staff participated in a free training entitled, “Becoming Trauma Responsive,” on Friday, Sept. 22, at MidState Medical Center. The training, which was provided by the Connecticut Women’s Consortium, offered staff education on the importance of being trauma-responsive when working with clients and taught effective skills for working with those who have experienced trauma in their lives.

Trauma training

2nd Annual Rushford Client Talent Show

Oct. 25, 2017 at 1 pm
Cafeteria, Rushford at Meriden

Featuring clients from Rushford’s Meriden and Durham location, including representation from:

- Case Management
- Outpatient therapy
- BHH
- Crisis-Respite
- CBI
- Homeless Outreach
- Friendship Club
- Young Adult Services
- Kuhn Employment
- And other departments

If you know a client who would like to participate, or for more information, call:

- Antoinette (Community Supports) - 203.603.5353
- Cary (Durham Academy) - 860.349.1989
- Lucille (Community Supports) - 203.630.5240
- Martha (Kuhn) - 203-630-5265
- Kenny (PHP/IOP) - 203.634.7003