Message from your ACHE Regent Summer 2023

The summer of 2023 has brought numerous challenges. From the unprecedented July flooding to ongoing staffing and resource shortages. In addition to an eventful season, hospitals across the state worked diligently to put together budget proposals for consideration at the Green Mountain Care Board hearings in August. And yet, our State continues to demonstrate its incredible resilience and our organizations continue to show their ability to partner as healthcare leaders to support the communities we serve. Thank you to everyone who participated in disaster relief efforts across Vermont, and to those who continue to focus efforts on developing the State's healthcare workforce while ensuring affordable healthcare to all Vermonters.

Despite a busy summer, I have been thankful for the time spent on my ACHE Regent activities. Establishing an official Higher Education Network (HEN) agreement is important for our current and future Vermont healthcare leaders, as it provides access to additional education and career development resources. I enjoyed speaking with academic leaders at the University of Vermont and Vermont State University to discuss the value of participating in ACHE's HEN program. I plan to connect with each of our higher education institutions over the coming months, as well as with our ACHE Board of Governors to identify ways we can better engage our graduate-level healthcare leadership students. As I continue these efforts, please share your feedback for ideas and opportunities related to establishing HENs throughout Vermont.

Additionally, I had an opportunity this summer to attend the New York City ACHE Cluster seminar "Leading Strategic Change" with a couple of work colleagues. I found the seminar both inspiring and productive. I strongly encourage you to explore upcoming cluster seminars and consider attending with members of your team.

Our ACHE of Northern New England Chapter has also been hard at work this summer. Please explore the links below for the October 13 "Shaping the Future" education event, which our Chapter is co-sponsoring with Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). We are also preparing for the Chapter's Annual Meeting on November 2–3. Both events will take place in New Hampshire and will provide face-to-face continuing education ACHE credits. I have included links below for additional event information and registration.

- October 13 **Shaping the Future**. Register: https://conta.cc/3sktvne
- ACHE of NNE Annual Meeting. Register: https://conta.cc/45B07W9
- For more information please view the newly updated <u>ACHE Northern New England Chapter website</u>.

Another opportunity to obtain ACHE face-to-face credits is at the annual Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS) conference in Burlington. This event is being held in Burlington on September 21-22. Please use this link https://www.vahhs.org/vahhs-annual-meeting for information on the agenda and to register.

I hope everyone enjoys the last few moments of summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you at several of the upcoming events. A number of our Vermont ACHE members

will be serving as panelists and moderators in the events I mentioned above, so I hope we can show strong support by participating and thanking them for sharing their expertise!

All my best,



Kelly Watson, DNP, RN, FACHE Interim Regent for Vermont kowatson@rrmc.org