

Southcoast Health, Care New England Move to Next Step in Affiliation Process

Combined system would create two-state, eight-hospital, \$2 billion-plus, not-for-profit healthcare system

In separate actions undertaken by their respective governance Boards, Southcoast Health and Care New England have voted to move forward with the proposed affiliation of the two not-for-profit hospital and healthcare systems. The announcement was made May 3, 2016 by **CHARLES R. REPPUCCI**, Board Chair for Care New England, and **JEAN F. MACCORMACK**, Board Chair for Southcoast Health.

The two Chairs stated that Southcoast Health and Care New England have worked toward this agreement to affiliate since they announced their intent to study partnership potentials last November. The parties will now move toward the execution of the affiliation agreement and subsequent initiation of the required regulatory review processes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Both organizations will continue their collaborative due diligence reviews, and begin to develop the plans to operate an integrated health system capitalizing on each organization's strengths in patient services and population health management.

Combined, the new system would be a \$2 billion-plus entity with eight hospitals and more than 15,000 employees. It would span a broad geographic area in Southeastern New England and offer an integrated network of comprehensive patient services.

Care New England and Southcoast Health would be combined under a new system parent entity to be named following a comprehensive brand assessment. The combined not-for-profit system will uphold Care New England's and Southcoast Health's proud traditions of providing the best community-based healthcare possible to all patients.

Under the proposed framework for the new entity agreed upon by each Board, Southcoast Health President and CEO **KEITH HOVAN** will serve as the President and CEO of the new health system parent company; Care New England CEO **DENNIS KEEFE** will become CEO of the Population Health initiative for the unified system; Care New England's Board will select the new Chair of the system parent Board, and the Southcoast Health Board Vice Chair will serve as its Vice Chair. Southcoast Health and Care New England will each select 10 individuals in all to serve on the new system parent Board of Trustees.

The Population Health initiative will be a signature program for the new system. Both Care New England and Southcoast Health have established Accountable Care Organizations and have been working to advance innovative approaches to care that improve outcomes, enhance patient experience and reduce cost.

"We know nothing is more important to the people of southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island than a strong future for the healthcare systems that safeguard their health while providing jobs and community benefits, and advancing our teaching and research missions," said Reppucci.

"This affiliation helps to build an even stronger future for our organizations while importantly maintaining our steadfast commitment to our local communities. We look forward to continuing this collaborative and transparent process, sharing additional details about our vision for healthcare delivery as plans are developed and as we begin the regulatory process," said MacCormack. ❖

Roger Williams' gastroenterologist introduces new stent technology

PROVIDENCE – **DR. NABIL TOUBIA** is the first physician in Rhode Island to utilize new stent technology that helps physicians manage serious complications from pancreatitis using a minimally invasive endoscopic approach. On April 28, Dr. Toubia, a gastroenterologist at Roger Williams Medical Center, utilized the new AXIOS stent technology on a patient's pancreas, while guided by ultrasound.

This technology has been FDA-approved and on the market since

March 2016. The AXIOS System, a product of the Boston Scientific Corporation, has been cleared for endoscopic management of pancreatic pseudocysts and certain types of walled-off pancreatic necrosis.

"This technique for treating pancreatic pseudocysts is not new; the technology, however, is," said Dr. Toubia. "We can now treat certain complications in the pancreas in a safer, less invasive manner and that is good news for our patients."

This system is the first stent specifically designed for drainage of a pancreatic pseudocyst by creating a new, temporary opening between the pancreas and the gastrointestinal tract. The new technology enables physicians like Dr. Toubia to complete this procedure with just one stent, as opposed to the previous technique. This advancement allows for reduced procedural time with less manipulation and less complication. ❖