

## Southcoast Health expands existing relationship with Boston Children's Hospital; physician leadership appointed

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.—Southcoast Health has expanded its affiliation with Boston Children's Hospital to include the Level II nurseries at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River and St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford as of May 1.

Southcoast Health currently has an affiliation with Boston Children's for pediatric inpatient and emergency care at St. Luke's as well as nursery care at Tobey Hospital in Wareham.

A change in physician leadership will accompany this transition.

**BRIAN SARD, MD**, has been appointed Chair of Pediatrics. Dr. Sard served as the medical director of pediatric programs at St. Luke's since 2012. Dr. Sard has led the program to significant growth in terms of both patients seen and services provided during his tenure. In his new role, Dr. Sard will oversee delivery of pediatric and newborn care across Southcoast Health, collaborating closely with clinical leadership in neonatology, obstetrics and other departments, as well as administrative leaders at both Southcoast Health and Boston Children's.

**ATHENA XIFARAS, MD**, will continue to serve as a leader within the pediatric program in her role as Division Chief of Inpatient Pediatrics. This work includes coordinating pediatric care both within the St. Luke's pediatric program and with community providers across Southcoast Health.

**DAPHNE REMY GOMES, MD, MPH**, will take on the role of Division Chief of Neonatology and Site Leader for the Charlton Memorial Hospital Special Care Nursery. Dr. Gomes has served as a staff neonatologist within level IIA, IIB and III nurseries across the Boston Children's affiliated community hospitals since 2013, currently as an attending neonatologist at Winchester Hospital. Dr. Gomes also spent time as a neonatology consultant in Rwanda and currently serves as the Associate Director of Education for the Boston Children's Division of Newborn Medicine; work that includes facilitation of neonatal simulation training.

**JESSICA SLUSARSKI, MD**, will be the Site Leader for the St. Luke's Hospital Special Care Nursery. Dr. Slusarski has been part of the team from Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island for the past six years. At Women & Infants, she was a leader of the transport team and has experience with simulation training. Dr. Slusarski also served as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at both the University of Washington and more recently at Brown University. For the past three years, Dr. Slusarski has served as the Medical Director of Neonatal Transport for Women & Infants' NICU.

**CYNTHIA DE MEESTER, MD, PhD**, has been named the Site Leader for the Tobey Hospital Nursery. Dr. De Meester brings more than 15 years of experience from both the pediatric primary care and hospital-based perspective, most recently as a pediatric hospitalist at Cape Cod Hospital. In addition, Dr. De Meester offers program administrative experience and a personal interest in working with families that struggle with addiction. ❖

## RI Health Centers Receive Nearly \$3M to Expand Services

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island's Congressional delegation announced on May 6th that three Rhode Island health centers will receive \$2,988,180 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for facility renovation and expansion, increasing access to health care for a projected 11,250 additional patients.

Comprehensive Community Action in Cranston and Blackstone Valley Community Health Care in Pawtucket will receive \$1 million each and the Providence Community Health Centers in Providence will receive \$988,180.

"We are extremely excited about receiving this grant, and want to thank our entire federal delegation for their continued support," said Joanne McGunagle, President and CEO, Comprehensive Community Action (CCAP). "This funding will allow CCAP to expand much needed quality and affordable dental services at our Family Health Services of

Coventry health center."

"We are most appreciative of the efforts of our Congressional delegation for their continued support of health centers. Our HRSA funding will help Blackstone establish the nation's first Neighborhood Health Station in Central Falls. We look forward to great accomplishments with the help of this federal funding," said Ray Lavoie, Executive Director, Blackstone Valley Community Health Care.

"The Providence Community Health Centers are very happy to receive this grant as it will allow us to add additional exam rooms and clinical support space needed to meet our growing patient's needs. We also thank our entire Rhode Island Congressional delegation as their continued support make grants like this possible, and directly impact our community," said Merrill Thomas, CEO and President, Providence Community Health Centers. ❖