

Southcoast Health and Care New England submit first regulatory filing in Massachusetts for proposed affiliation

Southcoast Health and Care New England announced today that each healthcare system has submitted the first of several regulatory filings necessary to move forward with the proposed affiliation. This first filing was a Notice of Material Change submitted to the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission.

“This filing is the beginning of what will be a thorough regulatory review process in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and is an important next step toward affiliation,” said Keith A. Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health. “We are excited to have entered the regulatory phase with Care New England and are looking forward to a transparent process that provides opportunity for public hearings and community input.” Two additional regulatory filings are necessary in Massachusetts in order to move forward with the process – both to the Department of Public Health. One is for Health Facility Licensure and the other is for a Determination of Need.

In addition, three filings will be required in Rhode Island: an application with the Department of Health for a Change in Effective Control (CEC), and two filings under the Hospital Conversions Act – one with the Attorney General and one with the Department of Health.

Dennis D. Keefe, president and CEO of Care New England, commented, “In coming together, Care New England and Southcoast Health will be able to advance the future of

healthcare for our community. We look forward to sharing our vision and to engaging with the community as part of the regulatory process in both states.”

The filings in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island will include state-defined organizational information from both Southcoast Health and Care New England, as well as information regarding the proposed affiliation.

The proposed affiliation between Southcoast Health and Care New England will create a new organization with the size and scale necessary to help better manage population health for patients, reduce the cost of care, invest in the latest technology and attract the best doctors and providers – all resulting in the exceptional care for patients in the region.

Southcoast Health System is a community based health delivery system with multiple access points, offering an integrated continuum of health services throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It includes the three hospitals that make up Southcoast Hospitals Group – Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford and Tobey Hospital in Wareham; and Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth, a joint venture hospital with Acadia Healthcare, an international leader in psychiatric and addiction care. Southcoast provides advanced clinical services, such as open heart surgery, angioplasty and heart rhythm services, comprehensive cancer care, neurosurgery, weight loss surgery, orthopedic surgery, advanced imaging services, and maternity services. Southcoast is a not-for-profit charitable organization that depends on the support of the community to provide services. For more information, visit **southcoast.org**

Care New England was founded in 1996, and today it is the parent organization of Butler Hospital, Kent Hospital, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, the VNA of Care New England, The Providence

Center, CNE Wellness Center and Integra, a certified ACO created in collaboration with the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation. Care New England includes 970 licensed beds and 216 infant bassinets. Through Butler, Memorial and Women & Infants, Care New England has a teaching and research affiliation with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Kent is a teaching affiliate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. For more information, visit **carenewengland.org**