



SCH Pulse

FOUNDATION

DID YOU KNOW...

Rhode Island health systems, physicians, and advanced practice providers receive the **lowest private commercial reimbursements rates in all of New England.**

CT and MA see private commercial reimbursement rates **17-29% higher than Rhode Island's.**

RI-based nurses can expect to make at least **16% less per year** than MA-based nurses.

Rhode Island is ranked the **Second-Worst State for Doctors** and is ranked **47th out of 50** in retaining medical students after graduation.

LEARN MORE
southcountyhealth.org/support

STAY CONNECTED

**SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH**

FOUNDATION

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To receive future updates, please email foundation@southcountyhealth.org



April 2024 | southcountyhealth.org

SOUTH COUNTY HEALTH URGES COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR RI HEALTHCARE STABILIZATION LEGISLATION

In the ever-changing landscape of Rhode Island healthcare, South County Health continues to remain focused on meeting the healthcare needs of our community, but as Rhode Island's Most Trusted Health Partner, we recognize that our responsibility extends beyond the exam room. Health disparities are often rooted in systemic barriers, necessitating proactive engagement with policymakers to effect lasting change.

In Rhode Island, this has propelled South County Health to the forefront of legislative discourse, as we have emerged as a driving force behind legislation aimed at enhancing access to primary and specialty care providers for all Rhode Island residents, while leveling the competitive playing field that will allow Rhode Island to routinely recruit the breadth and caliber of medical professionals available in neighboring states.

We believe the Senate Bill 2722 and House Bill 8072, serve to stabilize the entire RI healthcare delivery system, including hospitals, primary care, specialty physicians, and advanced practice providers. The Bills also represent a critical financial step in sustaining healthcare for all Rhode Islanders, addressing the needs of our community, ensuring patients have adequate access to primary care and specialty providers, and improving health equity. By rallying together in support of this legislation, we can create positive change that benefits health systems, healthcare workers, and patients, alike.

This critical legislation will help:

- Ensure adequate access for all Rhode Islanders to primary care and specialty physicians, and advanced practice providers.
- Improve the sustainability and quality of Rhode Island's hospitals.
- Improve health equity throughout Rhode Island's entire healthcare delivery system.

At its core, this legislation embodies the spirit of community stewardship that defines South County Health. By championing change that prioritizes the well-being of all residents, we serve as catalysts for positive change that benefits the whole state. It is imperative that Rhode Island support these bills to ensure individuals and families have adequate access to the high-quality care they need and deserve.

We know that as a supporter of South County Health, you share an understanding of the critical nature of healthcare access. That's why we are asking you to reach out to your elected officials in support of Bills S 2722 and H 8072.

For more information on the Bills or to download a letter of support to send to your legislators, scan the QR code or visit southcountyhealth.org/support.

Aaron Robinson
President & CEO



Chief Medical Officer, Kevin Charpentier, MD, testifies at a Senate Hearing in support of Bill S-2722.



FACILITY PROJECTS

Exciting upgrades are taking place in the South County Hospital lobby this spring to enhance the patient, staff, and visitor experience. Learn more about these construction projects at upgrades.southcountyhealth.org



HEALING GROUNDS CAFE

A new cafe will be located in the main lobby near the Balise Entrance, where the current gift shop kiosk is located. The cafe will be a welcoming space, offering a selection of breakfast, lunch, and a variety of coffee and beverages. Our valued food and beverage partner, Unidine, will be fully funding this project, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the overall culinary experience at South County Hospital for our community.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support of our philanthropic donors, our Auxiliary members, and our partners at Unidine, whose generosity has made these upgrades possible.”

— Christine Foisy, VP of Development, Chief Philanthropy Officer at South County Health

Learn how you can support facility upgrades like these or apply to become a Gift Shop Volunteer at southcountyhealth.org/ways-to-give

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

South County Health Business Partners contribute to the enduring tradition of business leaders devoted to investing in the health of our community

EXECUTIVE CLUB



LEADERSHIP SOCIETY



To learn more about our Business Partner Program visit:
[southcountyhealth.org/
businesspartner](http://southcountyhealth.org/businesspartner)

ASSOCIATE CLUB



WELCOME OUR NEWEST PROVIDERS



Paul Lvovsky, DO

Dr. Lvovsky is a board-certified Radiation Oncologist who brings his expertise in prostate, breast, skin, and lung cancers to our Radiation Therapy practice in Wakefield.

Accepting New Patients!

p. 401-284-0850



Mohammed Kattan, FNP

South County Health Primary Care welcomes Mohammed Kattan to our Narragansett office.

p. 401-789-8543



Diane McKeeff, APRN

Diane is an Advanced Practice RN specializing in primary care and internal medicine. Diane has been in practice since 1999 and joined South County Health Primary Care — Narragansett in 2024.

p. 401-789-8543



Renee Morais, FNP-BC

Renee is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner seeing patients at our Warwick Primary Care practice. Renee is trilingual in English, Portuguese Creole, and Spanish.

p. 401-789-8543



Melissa-Jean Suttmeier, FNP-C

Melissa-Jean is a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner seeing patients in our East Greenwich office.

p. 401-789-8543

Calendar of Events

Meet the Ortho RI Surgeons

May 9 | Westerly

June 4 | Newport

Learn more about robotic-assisted surgery for knee, hip, and spine from our orthopedic partners at Ortho Rhode Island.

Gynecologic Surgery Discussion

May 21 | Webinar

Center for Women's Health physicians will discuss surgical treatments for a variety of gynecological conditions.

Fashion Show & Luncheon

June 12 | The Dunes Club, Narragansett

Join the South County Hospital Auxiliary for lunch, a runway show featuring designs by Chico's, boutique shopping, and more!

Survivorship Celebration

June 18

Join us in honoring cancer survivors of our community and recognizing those who have supported them along the way.

Scan code to register for these events



*Discover more events at
southcountyhealth.org/events*

SCH STORY

Meet Andrea

With each birth, Andrea, a mother of four, has navigated anticipation, joy, and challenge, supported by the compassionate expertise of the South County Health team. Andrea's experiences stand as a testament to the transformative power of motherhood and the unwavering commitment of those who provide care at South County Health.

"My husband and I cannot say enough wonderful things about Bethany, our Labor and Delivery nurse for the birth of our daughter Caroline. This was my fourth baby. After coming to the hospital in the middle of the night in labor I was pretty exhausted and anxious by the time Bethany took over my care in the morning. She truly went above and beyond to make sure we were as comfortable as we could be, answered any questions we had, and kept us in the loop every step of the way."

Andrea's South County Health experience continued with breastfeeding support.

"South County Health's lactation team is one of my favorite things about the hospital. I have worked with Jackie, Aimee, and several others with all four of my children and every experience was so wonderful. They go way above and beyond to help. They are quick to get you in with them if you need a weight check or have questions or concerns, and they truly just want to help you, without any pressure."

Why would an expecting parent choose South County Health?

"The doctors are wonderful, the nurse midwives and nurses are amazing, and the lactation team is fantastic," says Andrea. "All together it's the perfect package! The unit itself is nice and comfortable and all the employees that service the floor, including housekeeping, nutrition, and case management, all take such great care of the new mothers, it really makes you feel safe and comfortable." ☐



Andrea with Bethany Reinhard, RN

COMPREHENSIVE WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Through our Center for Women's Health and Women and Newborn Care Unit, South County Health is dedicated to providing personalized care at every stage of a woman's life.

► South County Hospital continues to offer Trial of Labor After a C-section (TOLAC) and Vaginal Birth After a C-section (VBAC) services.

► Our dedicated Labor & Delivery team includes board-certified obstetricians, certified nurse midwives, neonatal nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and board-certified lactation consultants.

► South County Health is committed to advancing and growing access to women's healthcare within our community by recruiting new providers, expanding our service area with the opening of our new location in Warwick, acquiring advanced robotic and minimally invasive surgical technologies, and fundraising to develop a state-of-the-art Breast Health Center.

► Our Center for Women's Health practice is accepting new patients who are pregnant or in need of evaluation and treatment for gynecological problems. We continue to recruit more providers for routine and well care.

► We're excited to offer our comprehensive selection of childbirth education and support as a free resource for expecting and new parents.

► We're proud to remain Southern Rhode Island's only inpatient birthing facility. ☐

To learn more, visit:
southcountyhealth.org/womens-health

A photograph of a doctor in a white coat interacting with a patient in a hospital bed. The patient is smiling. The background is a hospital room.

EXPRESSIONS OF
Gratitude

GRATITUDE COMES IN MANY FORMS.

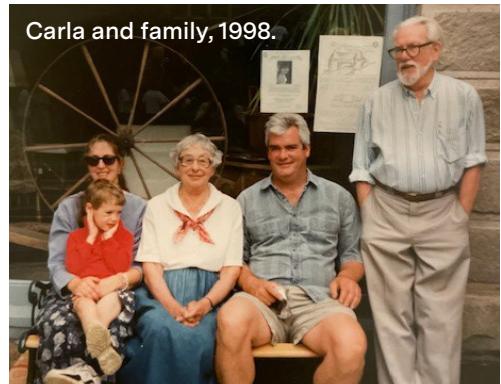
At South County Health, we invite patients, visitors, and staff to say 'Thank You' for the care they've received.

Express your Gratitude at southcountyhealth.org/gratitude

Carla's is a truly extraordinary story of continuity and care within our walls. From birth to adulthood, the lives of Carla and her family have been intricately woven into the fabric of South County Health. Born here, nurtured by our dedicated caregivers, and now continuing her healthcare journey as an adult patient, her story encapsulates the lifelong bond between our institution and the families we serve. Join us as we delve into this touching tale of resilience, gratitude, and the unwavering support that defines our commitment to patient-centered care.



My lifelong relationship with South County Health began when I was born there in 1961. My mother's extended family lived in the area, she had summered here, and she and my father moved here year-round in the late 1950s. Both of my parents were fortunate to enjoy excellent health, so it wasn't until their later years that I came to appreciate all that South County Health provides for our community. During the last period of their lives, we spent many hours-days-weeks at South County Health. We were treated with kindness, respect, and care, without exception. I have also been fortunate in regards to my health, but have spent time in South County Hospital for successful hernia surgery, to give birth, and, recently, I had



a long overdue hip replacement, with life-changing positive results.

Every single time I find myself at South County Health, no matter the reason, I have a great conversation with a happy provider, and I always notice that everyone seems good at their job, and really enjoys it.

We are tremendously fortunate. I am very grateful for South County Health. 

Top left photo courtesy of Donna Gustafson

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

At SCH, we believe in fostering an environment where the professional aspirations of our staff can flourish, and their career development can reach new heights.



Meet **Siobhan Ryan, RN, BSN, CCRN**. Her story is one of personal and professional growth within South County Health. Siobhan began her career at SCH as a ward secretary in 2001, and took a position as a diet technician later that year. Since then, she became an RN, and is now director of the ICU, MedSurge and Respiratory Therapy at South County Hospital.

With a passion for precision and patient care, **Cara Preuity**, surgical technician, brings invaluable expertise to our surgical team. Cara continuously seeks opportunities for professional development and growth within our organization, starting in Patient Accounts and Central Sterile while in school for Surgical Technology. Beyond her commitment to delivering top-tier healthcare, Cara values work-life balance, ensuring she maintains a fulfilling personal life alongside demanding professional responsibilities and future goals.



AWARDS

In February, **Sarah Morrissette, RN**, was recognized with a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Sarah has been a nurse at South County Health since 2021. Sarah's two DAISY nominations during this recognition period came from family members of patients who witnessed her compassionate care.



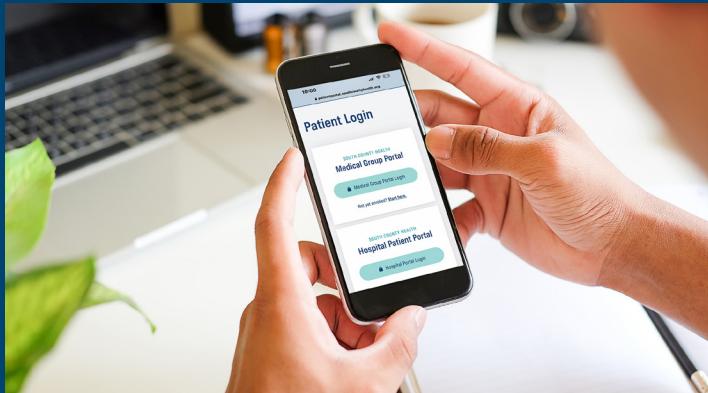
On February 9, **Amanda Roberts**, Patient Care Technician, was recognized with a Petal Award. Amanda has been with South County Health for six years and currently floats on various South County Hospital's units.



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EXPERIENCE THE NEW
MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT PORTAL

- ✓ View medical records
- ✓ View visit history and documentation
- ✓ Exchange secure messages with providers
- ✓ Schedule office appointments or virtual visits
- ✓ Pay bills online for accounts starting with "SM"
- ✓ Complete pre-visit questionnaires

ENROLL TODAY!
PatientPortal.SouthCountyHealth.org

**ACCESS HIGH-QUALITY
HEALTHCARE FROM THE
PALM OF YOUR HAND.**

Download our SCH NOW app today!



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AND LEARN MORE

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