



Frequently Asked Questions - Partnership LOI

1. Has South County Health entered into a partnership?

Though a signed definitive agreement has not been signed, the SCH Board of Trustees has secured enough commitments in a Letter of Intent (LOI) to agree to a 120-day period of exclusive diligence. This period allows SCH to invest the time and resources necessary to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of this transformational opportunity to assess its potential impact on our patients, caregivers, and community.

2. What is a Letter of Intent (LOI)?

A Letter of Intent outlines mutual interest in exploring a potential partnership, establishing the framework and intent to continue structured discussions. While it is not a binding agreement, in this case, the LOI reflects that:

- The Board determined the commitments outlined in the LOI were strong enough, and aligned closely enough with our partnership priorities — clinical excellence, digital modernization, capital support, independence, and community-focused governance — to move forward with a 120-day period of exclusive diligence.
- This period of exclusivity allows SCH and the prospective partner to exchange detailed information, refine the partnership framework, and evaluate the opportunity thoroughly before any final decisions are made.

3. Why are we considering a partnership?

SCH's Board of Trustees has been consistently transparent that it has actively pursued long-term strategic partnership opportunities for more than two decades—engaging with various in-state and out-of-state health systems under both past and present leadership. The Board views partnership as essential to ensuring the long-term quality, accessibility, and sustainability of healthcare services for residents of Washington County and the surrounding region. Partnership is a core value of South County Health, and every opportunity is evaluated carefully and consistently through the lens of benefit to the community.

4. Who is the partnership with and is an acquisition being considered?

The specific details and the names of the strategic, AI, digital, and clinical partners must remain confidential at this time. What is important to understand is that this is not an acquisition, and SCH is not being sold or converted into a for-profit system.

Instead, SCH is evaluating a mission-aligned partnership designed to strengthen community healthcare while preserving our identity as a not-for-profit, independent health system. The transformational model under consideration is focused on bringing long-term resources, digital modernization, and clinical innovation to South County Health — without changing our non-profit status or local governance.

5. What made this specific potential partnership more appealing than other partnership opportunities that the SCH Board of Trustees have been evaluating?

- The opportunity to remain a non-profit, independent health care system in Rhode Island, while gaining access to national-scale capabilities and innovation.
- As quality is paramount, SCH would feature a clinical and digital relationship with a top ten national healthcare system, providing Rhode Islanders with access to world-class clinical expertise.
- Digital modernization through implementation of Epic – an electronic health record system that is compatible with other major RI and New England health care systems.
- Deployment of advanced digital and Artificial Intelligence-enabled clinical tools to accelerate quality, enhance patient experience, and personalized medicine through accessible genomics and expansive databases of best-in-class patient treatment protocols, allowing providers and nursing staff to more fully focus on the patient.
- Significant long-term capital infusion to assure modern facilities equipped with state-of-the-art technology.
- The assurances that existing and future funds raised in South County will remain in South County permanently.

6. What does “exclusive diligence period” mean?

For 120 days, both parties will evaluate each other exclusively — no other partnerships are being explored during this time.

7. How will this affect staff, volunteers, or patients right now?

There are no immediate changes. Operations, staffing, and patient care continue as normal.

8. How will SCH keep everyone informed?

Both parties have executed confidentiality agreements to facilitate the thorough diligence process, but South County Health is committed to providing further details throughout our channels when they become appropriate to communicate.