



SCH **Pulse**

FOUNDATION

DID YOU KNOW?

South County Hospital has once again been honored with Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award.



The 2025 recipients include 377 hospitals from 44 states and represent the **TOP 15% OF HOSPITALS** in the nation for patient experience.

Read more about this recognition at southcountyhealth.org/news

STAY CONNECTED

SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH
FOUNDATION

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ACCESS TO CARE — TODAY AND TOMORROW



At South County Health, we remain deeply committed to ensuring our community has access to the care it needs—when and where it's needed most. As many of you know, healthcare systems across Rhode Island and beyond are facing unprecedented challenges, including a critical shortage of primary care providers and an increasingly strained workforce. As a result, patients across the state are struggling to find timely access to essential services.

In recent years, Rhode Island has experienced a wave of practice closures—including the high-profile shutdown of Anchor Medical—which left hundreds of thousands of residents without a designated primary care provider. Some health systems are now managing lists of more than 20,000 unassigned patients. Here at South County Health, more than 5,000 patients were once awaiting primary care assignment.

But while others have scaled back, we've invested.

Over the past year, we prioritized targeted provider recruitment, with a clear focus on expanding access—particularly in our Primary Care and Center for Women's Health practices, two of the most vital entry points to lifelong health and wellness. I'm proud to share that, thanks to this work, South County Health has not only eliminated its backlog but is currently accepting more than 3,000 new primary care patients while onboarding four new primary care providers to help meet our community's growing needs.

We're also listening closely to our community. In response to rising demand for gynecologic care unrelated to obstetrics (pregnancy and childbirth), we've expanded our Women's Health team by recruiting four new providers—an investment expected to create up to 15,000 additional gynecology appointment opportunities in fiscal year 2026.

This progress didn't happen by chance. It took foresight, resources, and a deep, shared commitment from our leadership and clinical teams, and you—our donors and community partners. Your continued belief in our mission helps us attract top-tier medical professionals who are drawn to South County Health's high-quality, patient-centered environment.

As we look ahead, the need for accessible, local healthcare continues to grow. With your continued support, we can do more than keep pace—we can lead the way in access, innovation, and high-quality care. Every gift you make helps ensure that every person in our region has a place to turn for excellent, compassionate care.

Thank you for being part of this important work. Together, we're building a stronger, healthier future for South County.

Aaron Robinson
President and CEO



Honey Meaker

“I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible care

I received at South County

Hospital during three visits in

February. I was going through a very difficult time, battling nausea, vomiting, anxiety, and other side effects from a medication, and your team truly made a difference.”



Compassion from the Very First Moment

From the moment Honey arrived at the intake desk, she was met with kindness and understanding.

“That level of care continued throughout the entire experience — starting from triage to the emergency department, and every patient care technician, nurse (Julie Brito), and doctor (Kerrilene Sinapi, DO) I interacted with was phenomenal. Forgive me for not remembering everyone’s name who assisted me during those few days, but I would like to thank them personally and let them know who they are — truly phenomenal human beings. Healthcare is not lost when we have incredible human beings such as the ones at South County Health.”

Giving Back to Those Who Gave So Much

To show her gratitude, Honey returned to the hospital with a heartfelt gesture. *“I wanted to do something to show my deep appreciation, so I came in person the following Saturday with flowers and some treats from my local bakery for the team who had made such a positive impact on me during those tough days.”*

A Commitment to Exceptional Care

Honey’s experience reinforced her trust in South County Hospital, solidifying it as her hospital of choice.

“Because of the love and compassion I felt, I will never go to another hospital. No one in the state provides the level of care, understanding, and truly seeing the patient the way your team does. The epic care you deliver at your hospital is completely worth the drive, and it is a beautiful one at that. I am deeply grateful for everything, and I just wanted to thank you again.” 🍀



Express Your Gratitude Today!

southcountyhealth.org/gratitude

Bachand Family

When Janice Bachand arrived at South County Hospital on April 16 expecting a chemotherapy infusion, her family could not have anticipated that her final days were beginning. What they also didn’t expect was the profound compassion they would encounter throughout their experience—an experience her granddaughter, Ashley, described as “wonderful, despite the circumstances.”

After being evaluated in the Emergency Department, Janice was admitted to Frost 2 for hospice care. She passed peacefully just a few days later, surrounded by loved ones, supported by skilled clinicians, and embraced by the warmth of South County Hospital’s staff.

“My grandmother kept talking about how glad she was to have a ‘living wake,’ surrounded by her loved ones,” wrote her granddaughter. “She was a popular gal for 81, with upwards of 10+ rotating visitors daily—and the staff was beyond accommodating.”



A Team that Became Family

For the Bachand family, what stood out most was the connection between Janice and her care team.

“She felt like she had a personal connection with each and every RN and PCT who cared for her. She especially appreciated Sarah (day shift), who had cared for her during a recent admission. Sarah was a great communicator, a pillar of strength for our family, and someone who could keep up with my grandmother’s sass and humor.”

Care That Extends Beyond the Bedside

It wasn’t just the nurses who made an impact. From the medical team to the chaplaincy, and even the food services and front desk, the family found compassion in every corner of the hospital.

“The team took the time to patiently, calmly, and kindly explain everything when it came to the hard news about the futility of further treatment. That made a real difference for my mom. We will not forget this experience and the kindness we received. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God bless you all.” 🍀



PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

EXCITING NEWS: NEW PARKING COMING SOON

South County Health has purchased the property at 11 Kenyon Avenue — located at the intersection of Kenyon Avenue and Salt Pond Road — to create a new staff parking lot, helping free up closer spaces for our patients and visitors. In particular, patients visiting the Medical Office Building and other areas of our main campus, including oncology, orthopedics, obstetrics, and mobility-impaired patients will have more convenient access to care.

This project is fully funded by a generous gift from an anonymous, grateful patient—a powerful reminder of how philanthropy enhances care in our community.

- ✔ 57 staff spaces
- ✔ Safer pedestrian access with a new crosswalk
- ✔ Dark-sky lighting + professional landscaping by Don Leighton
- ✔ Vehicle access via Salt Pond Road only
- ✔ Estimated time for completion is 5-6 months once construction begins

For more information on the project, please visit upgrades.southcountyhealth.org/parking

KENYON AVE.

SALT POND ROAD



With this project, South County Health will have added 81 new parking spots since 2022, helping reduce congestion and improve access by expanding our parking footprint.

We're grateful to the Town of South Kingstown and local neighbors for their collaboration. With your support, we're building a more accessible, patient-friendly campus—one step at a time. ✔



THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT



JUNE 4 — A huge thank you to all of the golfers and sponsors who made our sold-out Annual Golf Invitational at The Misquamicut Club a success!

With 26 teams and 104 players, we raised an incredible **\$132,000** to support healthcare in our community.



JUNE 11 — The Auxiliary Comedy Show at the Dunes Club drew a crowd of over 225 who enjoyed a delightful lunch, auction, and comedy show performed by Charlie Hall and Doreen Collins, while raising over **\$20,000** to support the Auxiliary.

southcountyhealth.org/events

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

A heartfelt thank you to our trusted Business Partners for their continued support of South County Health. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping us deliver exceptional care and improve the health and well-being of our community. We are grateful for your commitment and collaboration. Together, we're making a meaningful difference.

EXECUTIVE CLUB

Davitt Design Build
Ortho Rhode Island
South County Dermatology

Joanne M. Daly – Morgan Stanley
Maxson Automatic
Westerly Credit Union

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Bay Area Mobile Medical, LLC
Bentley Companies
HopeHealth

ASSOCIATE CLUB

Brightview Senior Living
Marquis Health
Oakley Home Access

Delta Dental RI
Navigant Credit Union
Saint Elizabeth Community

Learn more at southcountyhealth.org/businesspartner

AWARDS & MILESTONES

We're proud to share that *Rhode Island Monthly* has announced its list of 2025 Top Doctors—and **28 members of the South County Health Medical Staff** have earned this prestigious recognition!

Of those honored, **11 physicians practice exclusively or primarily at South County Health**—a testament to the exceptional expertise and compassionate care available right here in our community.



On February 3, Ian Madom, MD, an orthopedic spine surgeon at Ortho Rhode Island, performed his **500th case** using the Globus ExcelsiusGPS® robotic navigation system at South County Hospital.

In 2019, Dr. Madam performed Rhode Island's first navigation-guided, robotic-assisted spine surgery with ExcelsiusGPS at SCH.



South County Hospital has been named a **2025 Castle Connolly Top Hospital for Spine Surgery**, placing it in the **top 25%** of hospitals nationwide for excellence in spine care.

This inaugural recognition underscores South County Health's commitment to delivering exceptional orthopedic outcomes through its Center for Advanced Orthopedic Surgery, in partnership with Ortho Rhode Island.



South County Health Urology marked a major milestone on June 10, **performing its 200th Aquablation procedure**—just 17 months after offering the innovative treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). The milestone case was performed by Arnold Sarazen, MD, and **marks one of the fastest Aquablation adoption rates in the country**, according to Procept BioRobotics.

Learn more about these awards and milestones at southcountyhealth.org/news

VOLUNTEERING AT SCH

WE'RE LOOKING FOR CARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS to join us at our Warwick and Westerly Medical & Wellness Centers and in the Emergency Department. A few hours of your time every week can make a big difference for patients, families, and staff. Whether you have experience in healthcare or just a helping heart, we'd love to have you.



Join our dedicated team of volunteers! Apply at southcountyhealth.org/volunteer



WELCOME OUR NEWEST PROVIDERS

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



Leanne Benson, CNM

Seeing new patients in
Wakefield and Warwick



Sarah DeMartino, FNP

Seeing new patients in
Wakefield, Warwick,
and Westerly



Martha Moe, MD

Seeing new patients in
Wakefield and Warwick



Kelly Russell, CNM

Seeing new patients in
Wakefield and Westerly

Accepting New OB & GYN Patients

South County Health's Women's Health is accepting new patients at our Wakefield, Warwick, and Westerly locations. **Call 401-789-0661 or visit southcountyhealth.org/womens-health** to schedule an appointment today.

GENERAL SURGERY



Shennel Gelin, MD

Joining our team in September

Call 401-284-1212 for a surgical consultation



Allison Jones, FNP-C



Nicole Odabashyan, FNP

Call 401-788-8780 for an appointment

PRIMARY CARE



Melanie Bowdy, FNP

Seeing new patients
in Westerly



Taryn Carbone, FNP

Seeing new patients
in East Greenwich



Erin Hogan, MD

Seeing new patients
in Narragansett



Lauren Levanduski, FNP

Accepting new patients
in Westerly

Accepting New Primary Care Patients

South County Health Primary Care is accepting new patients at our East Greenwich, Narragansett, Warwick, and Westerly locations. **Call 401-789-8543** to schedule an appointment today.

Looking for a Physician or Advanced Practice Provider? Meet our providers at southcountyhealth.org/providers

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SouthCountyHealth.org/Subscribe



CANCER CENTER UPDATE

Dr. McKinney Accepts Permanent Position at SCH Cancer Center

South County Health is proud to announce that Nancy McKinney, MD, a board-certified medical oncologist and hematologist who has been caring for patients at our Cancer Center as a locum provider since October 2024, has officially joined the team. Her decision to come on board in a permanent position reflects a deep trust in our team, mission, and community.



"From the moment I arrived, I felt the difference at South County Health," says Dr. McKinney. "The warmth of the patients, the support of the staff and administration, and the commitment to delivering expert, compassionate care—it's something special. I chose to stay because this is exactly where I want to be for the next chapter of my career."

Strengthening Our Oncology Team

Dr. McKinney's transition to a permanent role comes at a pivotal time for the Cancer Center, under the leadership of Interim Medical Director, Dr. Seidler. With a renewed focus on continuity of care and expanded access, South County Health is also proud to welcome surgical oncologist, **N. Joseph Espat, MD**, who previously was the Chief of Surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center and **Michelle Viveiros, DNP**, an advanced practice provider with over 25 years of experience in healthcare.

Additionally, we are excited to welcome **James Assif, MD**, who will be joining Dr. Joyce in Radiation Oncology in August. 📍



N. Joseph Espat, MD



Michelle Viveiros, DNP



James Assif, MD