

Dear South Coast Community,

As Southcoast Health recognizes Pride Month this June, we invite you to join us in reflecting on the many contributions that members of the LGBTQ community make to our society and our mission as a community healthcare organization.

Through observing Pride Month, we honor the efforts, struggles and dignity of all members of the LGBTQ community and emphasize our mission at Southcoast Health to always foster an environment of kindness and inclusivity.

Pride Month is a time for both LGBTQ community members and allies to come together to recognize how far the gay rights movement has come. Celebrating the accomplishments of activists, Pride Month is also a time to acknowledge the work that must still be done to create a more inclusive society.

Southcoast's goal is always to provide equitable care and support for all our patients, their families, our community, and each other. We must decidedly be aware and ensure that we are doing our part to end racism, homophobia and all forms of bigotry and intolerance. The varied backgrounds of our providers and employees enhance our success in providing the highest quality care to all those we serve.

We are excited to announce that we are launching a project, as a part of Pride Month, to enhance our care of Southcoast Health LGBTQ patients. The name of the project is **LGBTQ Welcoming and Knowledgeable** and includes new capabilities in our Health Records System and comprehensive education to all of our providers and employees, especially those who are patient-facing.

To further commemorate Pride Month, we are spotlighting four Southcoast "Ally Moms," who are employees with teenage or young adult children who are members of the LGBTQ community. Their genuine and touching stories of love and support will be shared on social media starting this week.

Please visit <https://www.southcoast.org/diversity-and-inclusion-at-southcoast-health/> for more information about Southcoast's recognition of this important month. Our diversity recognition months are led by the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Council.

Thank you for joining us in celebration of Pride Month. May we work together to build a stronger and more inclusive community, today and always.

Warm regards,

Barbara Schmidt
Chair, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council
Director, Organizational Culture & Engagement