



Dear Southcoast Health Colleagues:

Last weekend was another disturbingly violent one in the United States. The horrific hate crime that took place in Buffalo, New York, once again has people of color and their allies feeling unsafe and targeted just for being who they are in the everyday places where they live, work, and play.

“This is a time of great pain for the community of Buffalo,” Erik Jean Pierre, RN, and Chair of the Southcoast Health Black Lives Matter Coalition, wrote this week. “Words can never fix the scars a tragic event like this leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected.”

The Black Lives Matter Coalition, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council and *all employees* of this organization stand in solidarity with Buffalo, with Black Americans across the United States and with our very own Southcoast Health Black colleagues and colleagues of color as we process the terror, injustice and heartbreak of this unacceptable tragedy perpetrated by an avowed white supremacist.

Please help us to commit to working even harder within Southcoast Health and our South Coast community to create awareness and understanding that builds respect for all of our colleagues and neighbors.

“Southcoast has been diligent in ensuring that our healthcare environment embraces diversity and reflects inclusiveness for all employees, patients and visitors, and we have more work to do,” wrote Barbara Schmidt, Director of Organizational Culture and Engagement and Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, in a message to Southcoast leadership just after the tragedy in Buffalo occurred.

Please consider joining Erik, Barbara, and the entire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council (schmidtb@southcoast.org), as well as the Black Lives Matter Coalition (jeanpierree@southcoast.org), to help us in our journey toward an anti-racist future.

Thank you for all that you do to make Southcoast Health safe and supportive of everyone.

With gratitude,

Ray Kruger, MD
President and CEO