



Dear Southcoast Colleagues,

This Monday, January 16, we commemorate the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. across the United States. An American religious and civil rights leader, he was a strong advocate for equality, dignity, kindness, courage and non-violence. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he also stood firmly against racial division, hatred and intolerance.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent leader in the United States Civil Rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. Today, his legacy lives on as we celebrate his courageous leadership and contributions to social justice and equality for all.

Although as a nation we have made great progress, particularly in the area of civil rights legislation, there is still much work to be done. As a not-for-profit community health system, we at Southcoast Health recognize that the enduring mission of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is to serve our whole community – every background, color, gender, language, and disability. It is our responsibility to celebrate differences, ensure equitable treatment for all and advance greater diversity and inclusion throughout our organization.

In 2019, Southcoast Health established our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council. A year later, the first Employee Resource Group, Black Lives Matter Coalition, was formed with the mission of recognizing and celebrating the rich diversity of one another, promoting meaningful dialogue and initiating needed change through action. By fostering an environment of inclusion with each other, we extend those values and respect to all those who rely on us for care.

In February, Southcoast Health will celebrate Black History Month. The Southcoast Health Black Lives Matter Coalition in conjunction with the Southcoast Health Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council is proud to sponsor a very special Health Equity event in honor of Black History Month. Please watch for more details.

Thank you for all you continue to do to create a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate community.

With gratitude,

Lauren A. De Simon Johnson
SVP & Chief Human Resources Officer