

Pride Month Virtual Panel Event!

Tuesday, June 27
6-7pm

Athena Xifaras, MD

Associate Director of Pediatrics

Dr. Athena Xifaras was born at St. Luke's Hospital and raised in New Bedford. She graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology earned her Doctor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Following medical school, she completed her residency in Pediatrics at Tufts Medical Center. She is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in both General Pediatrics and Pediatric Hospital Medicine. Dr. Xifaras is a staff Pediatrician at St. Luke's Hospital, where she also serves on the hospital's Medical Executive Committee and Southcoast Health's Community Benefits Advisory Council. She also holds clinical and teaching responsibilities at Boston Children's Hospital, New Bedford Public School District, and Brown University School of Medicine.



Katelyn Ferreira, MPH

Health Equity Program Manager

Katelyn Ferreira (she/her) is a Health Equity Program Manager at Southcoast Health. Katelyn was born at Charlton Memorial Hospital and raised on the South Coast. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she focused on Social Determinants of Health and Disparities and completed a concentration in Women, Gender, and Health. Katelyn's past work has involved direct service with populations including children with psychiatric diagnoses, families involved with child protective agencies, and incarcerated adults. She has also worked in research and policy translation with teams at the Mount Sinai Health System, Boston Children's Hospital, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Katelyn joined Southcoast Health in January 2023 and is excited about the opportunity to advance health equity in her home community.



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Lisa Bechard, MS, RN

*Chief Nursing Information Officer,
Executive Director, Digital Health
Services*

My background includes nursing experience in oncology, med/surg and emergency services. I have extensive experience in administrative roles, including various management roles in Emergency Services, Staffing, Quality, and house supervision. Throughout almost every position I held, there was a component of participation in technology and information, which is forever emerging. My passions in work include continuous improvement, patient satisfaction, and efficiency in documentation. These ideals led me to my current position, which enables me to combine all of my guiding principles, and apply them to making our patient record better, as well as create a documentation system which is easily utilized by our clinicians and patients, while striving to include the latest technology available.



Stephen Finney, MD, MS

Primary Care Physician

Dr. Stephen Finney is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences then subsequently obtained a Master in Science at Mississippi College. Dr. Finney earned his Doctor of Medicine at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. Following medical school, he completed his residency in Family Medicine at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he served as Wellness Director. He is board-certified both by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Obesity Medicine.



Dr. Finney was inspired to become a physician after watching his father help locals in his community who were stranded during Hurricane Katrina. He enjoys creating relationships with his patients and promoting healthy lifestyles through a more holistic approach. His clinical interests include family medicine, obesity medicine, and LGBTQ health.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians, and Obesity Medical Association.