



Dear Southcoast Health Colleagues,

As we enter the month of February, a time dedicated to honoring and celebrating Black history, we are excited to engage our organization in meaningful initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This year, I invite you to join us in the [28 Day Anti-Racism Challenge](#). Sponsored in collaboration between Southcoast Perinatal Health Equity Council and More Voices of Color Coalition (MVCC), this challenge aims to foster a deeper understanding of healthcare disparities and how we, as a healthcare system, can actively contribute to a more equitable future.

Throughout the month, we will be featuring members of our community in our Faces of Southcoast series. Thank you to the members of our system who graciously shared their individual stories, which provide valuable perspectives for our collective growth.

Our February DEI Lunch and Learn is The History of Black Hair, presented by Shahidah Ali, co-owner of Mixx Naturals in Providence. This session will provide insight into the history of hair as an integral part of African society and the impact it has had on the integration of African and American cultures. This event will be held Thursday, February 22, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. To register, please [click here](#).

To further support our commitment to equity in our community, I encourage you to explore the vendors listed in the "Buy Black New Bedford" directory. This initiative allows us to celebrate and support our local black-owned businesses. The directory link is available [here](#) for your review. Finally, as executive sponsor, I would like to personally encourage interested employees to join our Southcoast Health More Voices of Color Coalition Employee Resource Group (ERG), chaired by Kim Pina and Dr. Daphne Remy Gomes. The More Voices of Color Coalition is dedicated to fostering an environment where diverse voices are heard and valued.

Let us come together as a unified and inclusive healthcare organization, embracing the richness of diversity within our team. Your participation in these initiatives will not only contribute to a more equitable workplace but also empower us to provide better care for all.

Thank you for your dedication to fostering an environment of inclusivity and understanding.

Sincerely,

Renee Clark
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, More Voices of Color Executive Sponsor
Southcoast Health

