# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CSC!





February is celebrated as American Heart Month in the United States, serving as a reminder of the importance of heart health. This annual observance was established to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases, which remain the leading cause of death for both men and women in the country.

During American Heart Month, various initiatives and events take place across the nation to encourage healthier lifestyles. Many organizations offer free heart screenings, health fairs, and educational workshops to help individuals understand their risk factors and make informed choices.

One of the key messages of American Heart Month is that heart disease is largely preventable. By adopting healthier habits such as quitting smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and managing conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes, individuals can reduce their risk of heart disease.



CareSouth Carolina, serving your local area since 1980.

February 2024

## CareSouth Carolina Provides More Than \$149.5 Million in Economic Impact to the Pee Dee Area

CareSouth Carolina is pleased to announce the release of the comprehensive Value & Impact Report, which shows the organization made an economic impact of more than \$149.5 million. This report, which was released at the end of 2023 for the year 2022, underscores the influence CareSouth Carolina's health centers have had on the regions they serve, which include Lee, Darlington, Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield Counties.

#### **Economic Stimulus**

In 2022, CareSouth Carolina made a significant economic impact on the communities it serves, with a total economic stimulus of \$149.5 million. This stimulus was attributed to the creation of 1,062 jobs directly within health centers, \$74.5 million in health center job salaries, and an additional \$75.0 million in other jobs within the community.

#### **Care for Vulnerable Populations**

CareSouth Carolina's commitment to caring for vulnerable populations is exemplified by its dedication to delivering essential healthcare services to those in need. In 2022, the organization saw 218,779 clinic visits, reflecting a 3.0% increase in patient growth over four years. Clinic visits amounted to 57,533, while virtual visits reached 276,312, culminating in a total of 276,312 visits.

#### Savings to the System

CareSouth Carolina's health centers have demonstrated an impressive cost-saving effect on the healthcare system. The organization achieved a 24% reduction in healthcare costs, resulting in \$62.0 million in savings to the overall health system. A substantial portion of these savings was attributed to providing lower-cost healthcare options for Medicaid patients.

#### Pandemic Response

- Testing: CareSouth Carolina conducted a total of 62,524 in-person COVID tests, contributing significantly to community-wide testing efforts.
- At-Home Self-Test Distribution for Racial/Ethnic Minorities: CareSouth Carolina distributed 124,155 at-home self-tests, prioritizing access for racial and ethnic minority populations, with a distribution rate of 58.7%.

#### **MEDICAL LOCATIONS:**

Hartsville • Society Hill • Bennettsville • Bishopville • Cheraw • Chesterfield • Dillon • Lake View • Latta • McColl PHARMACY LOCATIONS:



## CareSouth Carolina's Kris Lane, FNP-C, named "Best Nurse Practitioner" in Dillon

Congratulations.

Voted

Best of the Best!

BEST
NURSE
PRACTITIONER
Kris Lane,
FNP-C

CareSouth Carolina is pleased to announce that Kris Lane, FNP-C, has been recognized as "The Best Nurse Practitioner" in the Pee Dee area by the readers of The Dillon Herald.

Lane, a native of Latta, has been an invaluable member of the CareSouth Carolina team, practicing at the organization's Latta office for six years. This esteemed accolade marks the third time Kris Lane has received this prestigious honor, having previously been awarded in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and in 2018.

"It's an honor. I appreciate the citizens of Dillon County having faith in me and enjoying the quality of care we provide as an office," Lane said.

Reflecting on his passion for primary care, Kris Lane remarked, "Taking care of the people that I've known all my life. It's a blessing. I came up through the ranks of emergency medicine and critical care medicine. I thought that was what I wanted to do, but I got into primary care and fell in love with it. I love taking care of every aspect of the patient."

Outside of work, Kris Lane enjoys a variety of interests, including his involvement in sports as an Athletic Trainer at Latta High School. Additionally, he finds solace and enjoyment in activities such as fishing and golf.

## CareSouth Carolina set to open new state-of-the-art facility in Cheraw



CareSouth Carolina is inching closer to the opening of its all-new state-of-the-art facility in Cheraw. The new facility, located at 812 State Road Cheraw, will open on Monday, February 26. The office, with over 15,600 square feet, more than quadruples CareSouth Carolina's capacity to provide services to Cheraw and surrounding areas. In addition to the services provided at the current location, the new facility will provide space for additional primary care providers, behavioral health counseling, x-ray, lab, ultrasound, a pharmacy with a drive-thru, and a community room for various health and community events.

The new facility will also be home to CareSouth Carolina Foot Care, which provides numerous services, including General Foot Care, Foot Pain Management, Diabetic Foot Care, Sports Injuries Rehabilitation, and more.

All CareSouth Carolina services, including pharmacies, will be located in the new facility beginning February 26.

### CareSouth Carolina Welcomes Kirsten Forinash, LMSW to Lake View



Kirsten Forinash, LMSW

CareSouth Carolina is pleased to announce the addition of Kirsten Forinash, LMSW, as a Behavioral Health Counselor in the Lake View office. "In the capacity I was in before, I couldn't interact one-on-one with patients at CareSouth Carolina. That prompted me to be able to help more. I wanted to be able to help in a broader capacity," says Kirsten Forinash, reflecting on her motivation to join CareSouth Carolina.

One of the key factors that attracted Kirsten to CareSouth Carolina is the organization's commitment to a patient-centered approach. She appreciates the warm handoff process that CSC employs, allowing her to be directly involved with patients, their medical teams, and the wide range of services that CSC offers, all under one roof. This approach aligns with Kirsten's goal of providing evidence-based interventions that truly benefit people.

"Seeing people accomplish the goals that they set for themselves is incredibly rewarding," she said. "I'm looking forward to serving in a larger capacity in this new role."

Outside of work, Kirsten enjoys spending time with her family, watching movies, and traveling.

Kirsten Forinash, LMSW is accepting new patients. To make an appointment, please call 843-759-2189.

## CareSouth Carolina named Community Service Award Recipient by People to People of Hartsville

People to People of Hartsville, an organization dedicated to working towards creating a better community, has awarded CareSouth Carolina with the prestigious Community Service Award during its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Award Service. The event took place at Jerusalem Baptist Church earlier this month, in January.

"It was an honor for CareSouth Carolina to receive this award," Director of Social and Community Services Marek Calhoun, DMAC, MSAJS, said. "We work tirelessly in the communities that are in our service areas so that we have a healthy and more informed community. We'll continue to put the community at the forefront of everything we do as we have for the last 40+ years of our existence."