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2022

SPRING EDITION

CareSouth Carolina and DHEC Announce a New Combined Location in Dillon County

Through a collaborative effort, CareSouth Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SC-DHEC) will be opening a new location in Dillon on May 10.

The office, located at 1016 Old Latta Hwy. in Dillon, S.C., will take over as the new location for both CareSouth Carolina—currently located at

207 E. Monroe Street—and SC-DHEC (Dillon County Health Department)—currently located at 201 W. Hampton St. The partnership will allow the two organizations to provide more convenient and accessible services to Dillon County.

“This is a great opportunity for collaboration and we couldn’t have better partners in this than CareSouth Carolina and Dillon County Government,” said Jim Bruckner, DHEC’s public health director for the Pee Dee. “The co-location of DHEC and CareSouth Carolina services will expand access to more comprehensive health services by making them more convenient and accessible to the residents of Dillon County.”

“In this partnership CareSouth Carolina will be assuming some of the direct clinical services currently provided by DHEC. DHEC will continue to see WIC clients and will focus on the more traditional core public health services like community epidemiology (communicable disease surveillance/management); tuberculosis surveillance and treatment; compliance work (Title X, vaccines for children, etc.); newborn home visits when applicable; community health promotion and education efforts; and working with the community on Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Planning. DHEC’s goal in all of this is to make Dillon County a healthy and thriving community to live and work in,” Bruckner said.

SC-DHEC will continue to provide both WIC services and COVID vaccinations at the new office.

CareSouth Carolina will begin providing several preventative health services currently provided at DHEC, including family planning, STD/STI, HIV and immunizations.

CareSouth Carolina will also be providing all the services it currently offers at its medical office.

CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis said the building will be a “one-stop shop innovation.”

“This will be a one-stop shop innovation that brings together partners who have been successfully working together for a considerable length to make the vision of this new building and the combined services a reality: DHEC, CareSouth Carolina and Dillon County,” Lewis said. “With the DHEC provision of WIC services combined with the expansion of the CareSouth family planning and immunization services, residents of Dillon County will have simple, easy access to a wide array of care and services—in one building.”

The new facility, with a total of 18,640 square feet, more than quadruples CareSouth Carolina’s capacity to provide services to Dillon County and surrounding areas. In addition to the services provided at the current location, the new facility will provide space for additional primary care providers and additional support services including a pharmacy with a drive thru.



CareSouth Carolina's Jeri Andrews Awarded Award for Nursing Leadership by The Center for Nursing Leadership at the University of South Carolina



Jeri Andrews, FNP-C (l) was presented the award by Jeanne Cavanaugh (r), Director of the Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellowship

CareSouth Carolina's Jeri Andrews, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, was presented the Award for Nursing Leadership 2022 by the Center for Nursing Leadership at the Annual Leadership Summit on March 25, 2022.

Andrews, who serves as CareSouth Carolina's Associate Medical Director, has been with CareSouth Carolina for more than a decade and was instrumental in the implementation of the organization's ROADS (Reach Out And Delivering Services) units, which are a fleet of mobile units that are used to provide services— including school-based care and Telehealth services— in the community.

Andrews said she was surprised when she heard the news that she was going to be receiving the award at the annual Amy V. Cockcroft Graduation Ceremony and Summit on Friday, March 25.

"I was completely surprised," Andrews said. "I thought I was just going for the summit and graduation and I had actually nominated another colleague for the award not knowing that I had been nominated. I am humbled and very blessed to receive such an honor. I want to thank those leaders in the organization who have invested in me, mentored me, and most importantly believed in me. I must also thank my family who has supported me through this journey. I truly love what I do, where I do it, and the people I do it with and for. I wish for many more years at CareSouth Carolina where I can continue to live our mission of enhancing and improving the health and well-being of everyone!"

The Center for Nursing Leadership's Annual Leadership Summit is held annually and features state and national speakers discussing current and emerging issues in leadership, nursing, and healthcare. The Summit is a full-day conference and includes a graduation and awards ceremony and leadership presentations by the graduating class of the Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellowship. The Annual Summit is a full-day conference for all nurses: CNOs, Nurse Managers, Deans and Directors, Staff Nurses, Health Educators, Students, and Aspiring Leaders. The Summit includes networking time with colleagues.

After working as Mobile Health and Off-Site Services Program Director for CareSouth Carolina, Andrews was named the Associate Medical Director for the organization in 2021. She is the first Nurse Practitioner to hold the role in the organization.

The nomination for Andrews detailed her involvement at CareSouth Carolina and how she has been a leader for change with the organization since the very beginning:

"Jeri came to CareSouth Carolina (CSC) as a staff NP in 2010. In 2015, Jeri was transferred to a new position as a Nurse Practitioner to provide well-child visits on a new mobile unit (ROADS) that we purchased," the nomination read. "We started with a partial school district. In 2018, CSC had expanded ROADS into all five of our service counties. We had to hire 2 additional Nurse Practitioners and purchase 2 additional mobile units. We had, also, hired another NP to run a public employee health center. One of the Nurse Practitioners who was hired for ROADS began going to local DAODAS agencies and delivering MAT services. We, also, began delivering MAT services in a local DAODAS agency. Jeri was named as Director of ROADS and Offsite services. The expansion of our mobile and offsite services were a direct result of Jeri's leadership and relationships she developed with our local schools and government agencies. In March of 2020 when COVID hit, Jeri took the lead in transitioning all of our providers to telehealth. Jeri had become familiar with Telehealth as she had, also, implemented this service in some of our school districts. In December of 2020, CSC rolled out a new EHR. Jeri was designated as a "super user". She was instrumental in assisting our staff and providers how to use this new system. In 2021 Jeri was promoted to Associate Medical Director! She is the first NP in our organization to hold this title! It is an honor to have watched Jeri's professional growth throughout the years! She is a true inspiration to those that work with her. We know she will be "the face" for The Amy Croft Leadership award!"

In 2021, Andrews was named the recipient of the 'Emerging Leader of the Year Award' by the South Carolina Primary Healthcare Association (SCPHCA) for 2021. She also recently graduated from the 2021-22 Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Fellowship program as the lone representative from a federally-qualified health center (FQHC) in the state and one of just 15 selections overall.

Special Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Marketplace

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services launched at the federally facilitated health insurance marketplace a new monthly special enrollment period for consumers with household incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level who aren't eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The marketplace intends to phone or email previous applicants who may be eligible for the new SEP, which was included last September in a final rule for health insurance issuers and marketplaces.

If you have questions or need help, CareSouth Carolina can assist in the process.

Certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), CareSouth staff are available and offer free assistance educating the community and helping individuals complete an application for coverage through the New Health Insurance Marketplace created through the Affordable Care Act.

We have Certified Application Counselors on staff to help you navigate through the web-based health insurance site, www.healthcare.gov.

The Marketplace is a new way to find health coverage that fits your budget and meets your needs. With one application, you can see all your options and enroll. Every health insurance plan in the new Marketplace will offer essential health benefits, including doctor visits, preventative care, hospitalization, prescriptions, and more. The Marketplace can compare plans based on price, benefits, quality, and other features important to you before you make a choice. You can call any CareSouth Carolina health center for assistance.

To reach a Certified Application Counselor, you can call 1-866-498-0399.

CareSouth Carolina names Tracie Thigpen, MSN, RN 2021 Employee of the Year

CareSouth Carolina was happy to announce Tracie Thigpen as the 2021 Employee of the Year.

Thigpen, who serves as CareSouth Carolina's Chief Nursing Officer, has been with the organization for almost five years.

"It takes an entire team to accomplish what we've been able to accomplish," Thigpen said. "We all support each other and we're working for the same goal: To take care of our patients and our staff."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Thigpen has gone above and beyond the call of duty. She has been the go-to contact for CareSouth Carolina employees and patients when they test positive for COVID-19 by providing guidance, care, contact-tracing and maintaining data, all in addition to her regular duties as the Chief Nursing Officer.



Tracie Thigpen,
MSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer

"Committed. That is one of the words I use to describe Tracie Thigpen," CareSouth Carolina Chief Personnel Officer Denise Ellis said. "She is committed to CareSouth Carolina – patients, staff, mission, vision, values. That commitment is on display every minute of every day and it shows in all that she does. CareSouth Carolina is fortunate to have Tracie Thigpen as Chief Nursing Officer and I'm thankful every day to have her on my team."

As we move forward, Thigpen said she is hopefully we can put COVID-19 behind us and focus more on taking care of patients with chronic conditions who need to get back into care.

"I hope we can put COVID-19 behind us soon and get back on track, focusing on our patients with chronic conditions and making a bigger impact with those folks who need cancer screenings, or who have hypertension, diabetes or many other conditions," Thigpen said.

Thigpen was named the South Carolina Nurse of the Year at the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association's 26th annual Clinical Network Retreat in 2020.

Thigpen said she felt the Lord's calling from an early age to be a nurse and to get involved in healthcare management.

"Growing up, my mother had some health problems and I helped my dad in taking care of her. I knew then I wanted to be a nurse and I knew that I wanted to be in management," Thigpen said. "The Lord made ways and opened up doors and I'm very blessed to be working here and in this capacity."

Thigpen said a lot of prayers goes into her decision-making and she always looks to put patient care first.

"That's the foundation of who I am," Thigpen said. "I spend a lot of time seeking the Lord's guidance in prayer. I like working at CareSouth Carolina because of the values. We put the patient first and it's all about what's best for the patients. We are committed to the community and that allows me to make a difference."

Services:

Family Practice
Pediatrics
Women's Care
Behavioral Health Counseling
Lab
Radiology/Ultrasound
Chiropractic Care
Dental Care
Family Support Services
Substance Abuse Prevention Program
Infectious Diseases Primary Care
Senior Support Services
Community Pharmacy

Convenient Locations

Bennettsville Center
999 Cheraw Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.479.2341

Bennettsville Pediatric Center
210 W. Main Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.479.1200

Bennettsville Women's Center
1076 Marlboro Way, Suite 1
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.454.2294

Bishopville Center
545 Sumter Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010
803.484.5317

Bishopville Pediatric Dental
101 Harris Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
866.815.9845

Cheraw Center
715 S. Doctors Drive Suite E
Cheraw, SC 29520
843.537.0961

Chesterfield Center
204 Perry Wiley Way
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843.623.5080

Dillon Center
207 E. Monroe Street
Dillon, SC 29536
843.774.4337

Hartsville Center
1268 S. Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29550
843.332.3422
843.339.5520 Chiropractic

Lake View Center
103 N. Kemper Street
Lake View, SC 29563
843.759.2189

Latta Center
122 Latimer Street
Latta, SC 29565
843.627.6252

McColl Center
3080 Highway 15-401 E.
McColl, SC 29570
843.523.5751

Society Hill Center
737 S. Main Street
Society Hill, SC 29593
843.378.4501

Public Employee Health
Services - Marlboro County
100 Matheson Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.456.7752

CSC Community Pharmacy Locations

HARTSVILLE
1280 South Fourth Street
843.339.5530

BENNETTSVILLE
999 Cheraw Street
843.456.7777

CHERAW
715 S. Doctors Drive, Suite A
843.865.4080

MCCOLL
3080 Highway 15-401 E.
843.523.6212

LATTA
122 Latimer Street
843.627.6261

BISHOPVILLE
545 Sumter Highway
803.588.7960

SOCIETY HILL
737 S. Main Street
843.378.4148

CHESTERFIELD
204 Perry Wiley Way
843.927.1030



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CARE SOUTH CAROLINA TO HOST RUN2CARE 5K ON SEPT. 17

CareSouth Carolina is planning a 5K Run/Walk road race on September 17, 2022 to help raise money for CareFIRST Carolina Foundation.

The race route will direct runners/walkers through the historic streets of downtown Hartsville.

Early registration is \$25 and includes a race T-shirt. The last day for early registration and to receive a T-shirt is August 17th.

CareFIRST Carolina is an independent supporting foundation dedicated to financially supporting the mission of CareSouth Carolina. Together, we provide and improve access to health and support services to those who need them most. It is the first regional foundation to focus on improving the access and the quality of primary health care in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.

Anyone interested in participating in the 5K may register online at <http://caresouthcarolinarun2care5k.itsyourrace.com>.

For more information about "Run2Care," contact Amanda Adelman at 843-307-1466.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**

**Run/Walk**

Saturday, September 17, 2022

All participants will be entered for a chance to win* fabulous prizes!

Starts at 8:00AM

REGISTRATION FEES:
\$25 THRU September 16th
\$30 on Race Day

Register online at:
<https://CareSouthCarolinaRun2Care5K.itsyourrace.com/>

For more information, please call 843-861-6570.