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2023

SUMMER EDITION

## CareSouth Carolina's Pat Weaver, APNP-BC, featured in NPR, highlighted for making a difference in patients' lives struggling with diabetes



Patricia E. Weaver, APNP-BC  
Bennettsville

CareSouth Carolina's Patricia Weaver, APNP-BC, was featured by National Public Radio (NPR) in its latest piece, highlighting the difference CareSouth Carolina is making in its patients' lives who are struggling with diabetes, chronic conditions, and medical debt.

Patricia Weaver, APNP-BC, who serves as a provider in the CareSouth Carolina Bennettsville office, revealed the struggle that many patients go through, as those who are living with chronic conditions are also living with medical debt. She explains that the departure of plants to overseas locations over the past 15-20 years has had a devastating impact on the town. A hospital that once existed there is now gone, leaving the community in a state of poverty.

Over one-third of residents in the surrounding county have medical debts in collections, and an equal proportion live in poverty, according to locals interviewed by NPR. Weaver and others attribute the community's health problems to Bennettsville's shifting economic circumstances. Half of the city's households earn less than \$32,000 annually. Lower-income residents often lack the means or make choices that compromise their ability to consume healthy meals necessary for managing diabetes. The prevalence of fast-food consumption exacerbates this issue.

"The fast foods don't help at all, and a lot of people just eat it every day, and that's a problem. It truly is," she said.

Weaver shared that over 90% of her 3,300 annual appointments involve patients with Type 2 diabetes and that CareSouth Carolina offers programs to assist its residents who are struggling with the chronic condition. One of CareSouth Carolina's programs involves going into the grocery store with patients. At the grocery store, the patient shops as they normally would and CareSouth Carolina's FSS III workers spend time educating them on healthy nutrition and giving helpful tips when it comes to their selections. The FSS III workers let the grocery store know ahead of time that they are coming so they are aware, as well.

In the fight against poverty and its impact on health in Bennettsville, CareSouth Carolina also takes additional measures. The center employs a sliding fee scale based on individuals' ability to pay, and it operates an in-house pharmacy that leverages a federal program to maintain affordable drug prices. Though these measures have made an impact on Marlboro County and the surrounding community, CareSouth Carolina still has plans in the future to continue addressing the health needs of the Pee Dee region.

# Full-Service CSC Community Pharmacy set to open Dillon



**Lucile Owen, PharmD**  
**Pharmacist in Charge**  
**Dillon**

In a move that is set to greatly benefit patients in the community, CareSouth Carolina (CSC) will soon be opening a new pharmacy at its Dillon medical office (1016 Old Latta Highway Dillon, SC 29536).

The addition of an onsite pharmacy, which is set to open later this summer, means that patients will no longer have to wait for next-day delivery and can conveniently walk straight to the pharmacy for their medication needs. This development has been hailed as a significant step forward in providing enhanced care and improved patient experiences.

“Being able to actually open up a pharmacy in Dillon for CareSouth Carolina will be huge for the patients that utilize our medical facility,” CareSouth Carolina Chief of Pharmacy Ashley Singleton said. “Now, they’ll be able to have a pharmacist to speak to, put a face with a name, develop relationships, and have all the benefits that come with continuity of care. Hopefully, that will make the process much smoother for the medical team, pharmacy team, and most importantly, the patient, as we are all working under one roof.”

The pharmacy accepts all major insurances and is open to all, even those who are not patients of CareSouth Carolina, and aims to be a full-service pharmacy that offers excellent care through consultation and affordable prices on prescriptions. The pharmacy is equipped to handle various services, including the 340-B retail program, and has a full-service drive-thru.

The CSC Community Pharmacy will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, providing ample opportunities for patients to access their prescriptions. For more convenience, patients can also download the mobile app, Mobile Rx, which allows them to manage and fill their prescriptions online.

Lucile Owens, a Dillon native, will serve as the Pharmacist in Charge at the new pharmacy.

“I am thrilled to be returning back to my hometown to open the newest CSC Community Pharmacy location in Dillon,” Owens said. “CareSouth Carolina is an exceptional organization that provides our patients much-needed cost-saving opportunities for their medications that cannot be found elsewhere in our community. Patients should not have to choose between their life-saving medications or their other essential needs and CareSouth, through our 340B program, in all of our pharmacies, allows for ALL of our patients the ability to afford both. My pharmacy team and I are looking forward to opening our newest location and serving the patients of the Dillon community.”

## CSC Community Pharmacy in Bishopville now offering FREE prescription delivery



CSC Community Pharmacy is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new Medication Delivery Program in Bishopville, offering free at-home delivery of prescriptions to patients.

The program, which started on May 1, aims to enhance convenience and accessibility for patients in the Bishopville area. This initiative from CSC Community Pharmacy first started in Chesterfield County and has now made its way to Bishopville.

Patients who use the CSC Community Pharmacy in Bishopville, regardless of whether they use CareSouth Carolina medical facilities or other healthcare providers, are eligible for the home delivery service at no extra cost. The program’s primary objective is to ensure that patients receive their medications in a timely manner, regardless of their circumstances or transportation limitations.

When patients call in for prescription refills, they will be informed about the convenient delivery option. The pharmacy staff will also give patients information about the service during face-to-face interactions. Once patients express their interest in medication delivery, the necessary information will be recorded.

Whenever possible, same-day delivery will be arranged. If not, the medications will be delivered the next day.

Once the medications are prepared, the pharmacy staff will provide information and consultation over the phone, ensuring that patients are well-informed about their prescriptions. The delivery driver will then head to the patient’s location, obtain their signature, and deliver the medications directly to their doorstep.

Teshonna Gregg, the Pharm Tech and Delivery Driver at the Bishopville office, emphasized the significance of the new Medication Delivery Program.

“I think the delivery option is important for our patients because it’s local, convenient, and most importantly, it’s FREE!!,” said Gregg. “There’s no greater feeling than going to a patient’s house and them saying, “Thank you so much! You don’t know how much I appreciate this.” A lot of the patients have trouble getting a ride to the pharmacy, and with delivery services, we at CSC Community Pharmacy can continue to put the patient and their health first.

For more information about the Medication Delivery Program, patients are encouraged to contact the pharmacy directly at 803-588-7960. The CSC Community Pharmacy team will be delighted to provide further details and assist you in taking advantage of this convenient and cost-free service.

# CareSouth Carolina to celebrate Community Health Center Week in August



CareSouth Carolina is proud to join the nationwide celebration of National Community Health Center Week. This annual event, which takes place from August 6 through August 12, recognizes the critical role that community health centers play in providing accessible and affordable healthcare to underserved populations across the country.

National Health Center Week is an opportunity to highlight the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 30 million patients across 14,500 communities annually.

For more than 40 years, CareSouth Carolina has served as a medical home — a place where people can experience healing, caring relationships — regardless of their personal circumstances. As a community health center, we understand our patients to be part of our family. We are part of their community, and we deliver a comprehensive set of services that meet the whole need — from pediatrics to pharmacy to community outreach — all under one roof.

The theme for 2023 is “The Roadmap to a Stronger America.” Community Health Centers provide comprehensive care to more than 30 million patients at 14,500 service delivery sites in every U.S. state and territory. By providing highly coordinated and integrated care, Community Health Centers save the healthcare system more than \$24 billion annually in reduced emergency, hospital, and specialty care costs.

## CareSouth Carolina showcased by The Commonwealth Fund For “Transforming Care”

The monumental task of assessing the eligibility of 92.3 million Americans for Medicaid benefits based on their age, income, and disability status has begun in all 50 states. These crucial “redeterminations,” typically conducted annually, were temporarily halted during the COVID-19 public health emergency to ensure continuous coverage for individuals at high risk of severe outcomes from the disease.

As the redetermination process unfolds, an estimated 15 million individuals are projected to lose their Medicaid benefits over the next 13 months, according to The Commonwealth Fund. Some will no longer meet their state’s eligibility criteria, while others may be disenrolled due to administrative and paperwork errors. Among those affected will be individuals who miss notifications regarding the redetermination process, subsequently missing deadlines to enroll in affordable marketplace plans or apply for coverage through an employer.

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), responsible for caring for approximately one in six Medicaid beneficiaries, are expected to play a pivotal role in identifying individuals at risk of losing their coverage. These centers will assist in maintaining their enrollment, or alternatively, support them in finding alternative insurance options.

As a federally-qualified health center, CareSouth Carolina was one of the community health centers showcased in the report. CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis expressed the concern the organization has about ensuring people get the coverage they need.

“It can be a heavy lift for each application because there’s so much uncertainty about the personal information the state has and may request,” says Lewis. One of her biggest fears is that the addresses in the state’s database are outdated. “This is a population of patients that moves around quite a bit. Ultimately, people are going to fall through the cracks.”

CareSouth Carolina’s Community Outreach Team is working hard to ensure that community members are properly re-enrolled in Medicaid. One of these ways is through the newly-introduced Healthy Kids Project initiative. CareSouth Carolina was awarded a grant from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to help enroll and renew Medicaid coverage for kids, parents, pregnant individuals, and non-English speaking individuals.

For more information or help with Medicaid re-enrollment, please call 1-866-498-0399 and a CareSouth Carolina representative will be happy to help.

## Ann Lewis, CEO of CareSouth Carolina, Joins Taking the Pulse Podcast to Talk About FQHCs Role in the Pee Dee



Ann Lewis  
CEO

CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis recently joined the “Taking the Pulse” Pdocast to talk about the importance of FQHCs and much more.

The podcast is a weekly series that takes a current look at one of America’s largest industry sectors with Attorneys with Maynard Nexsen Health Care Practice Group and co-host Heather Matthews.

To check out the podcast, where they discuss a variety of topics pertaining to FQHCs and CareSouth Carolina’s role in the Pee Dee community, please visit: <https://www.thepulsehealthcast.com/?wix-vod-video-id=5c44c4941c0c419c802d7d91f6c1d3d1&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-k9vtcpgx>



# Services:

Family Medicine  
 Pediatrics  
 Women's Care  
 Behavioral Health Counseling  
 Lab  
 IV Therapy  
 Internal Medicine  
 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 Road, 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  
 1016 Old Latta Highway  
 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

## Contact

PO Box 1090

Hartsville, SC 29551

Telephone: 843.857.0111

Fax: 843.857.0150

Website: [www.caresouth-carolina.com](http://www.caresouth-carolina.com)

## CareSouth Carolina's Jeri Andrews Presents at IHI Spring Alliance



CareSouth Carolina Associate Medical Director Jeri Andrews, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, was invited to present at IHI (Institute for Healthcare Improvement) Leadership Alliance Spring Meeting.

Andrews spoke during the panel titled "The (Doctor) Will Not See You Now An Alliance-led panel," facilitated by Dr. Kedar Mate.

**Jeri Andrews, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Medical Director** "I was humbled and honored to be asked to share the IHI Spring Alliance stage with such accomplished leaders in the healthcare world," Andrews said. "We are making great strides at CareSouth Carolina in the realm of breaking away from only offering the traditional provider-based office visit. Sharing ideas, both success and challenges, with like-minded colleagues from across the country has proven to be a great tool in helping us improve our own processes and increase quality healthcare access to our patients and community."

In recent Alliance collaborations (The Office Visit is a Dinosaur), members demonstrated "unbundling" long-held mental models and system designs with the aim to deliver care where, when, and how patients want it. What have we continued to learn about how patients want and need their care and caring? This session focused on innovations and adaptations across complex systems and emerging innovations.

Andrews 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.

## CareSouth Carolina's Lee County Food Pantry in Urgent Need of Volunteers



CareSouth Carolina is reaching out to community individuals who are willing to make a difference by addressing food insecurity in the Lee County area. The CSC Resource Center and Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to help with various tasks including bagging food, sorting donations, loading food for clients, and assisting with client intakes.

Operating from Tuesday to Thursday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and

4:00 p.m. (with a one-hour lunch break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.), the food pantry also welcomes volunteers on Mondays for prepping activities such as sorting foods and bagging items. The building, located at 106 Hospital Square, Bishopville, S.C., formerly served as Dr. Leon E. Hunt's medical office.

Whether you can spare half a day, an entire day, or commit to volunteering daily, your contribution will play a vital role in supporting our community.

Currently, the pantry is functioning with only three employees, two of whom are available on a single designated day. The overwhelming volume of clients that the pantry has served has made it increasingly challenging for the small team to keep up with demand. By offering your time and effort, you can directly impact the lives of those facing food insecurity in our community.

To apply for a volunteer position, please contact Tameeka Lesane at 803-229-5843 and request an application form.



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