



WENTWORTH-DOUGLASS HOSPITAL

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL SUBSIDIARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Wentworth-Douglass Employees and Medical Staff

FROM: Gregory J. Walker, FACHE
President & CEO

DATE: May 15, 2018

SUBJ: **Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Exeter Health Resources* sign letter of intent to explore opportunities to develop a new regional network**

I have some exciting news to share on behalf of the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Board of Trustees and the Executive Team. Today, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Exeter Health Resources are publicly announcing that we have signed a letter of intent to explore opportunities to develop a new regional network to collaboratively deliver health care within the Seacoast region.

A new, regional non-profit corporation will be developed to serve as the parent of Exeter Health Resources and Wentworth-Douglass. The new corporation will be a subsidiary of Massachusetts General Hospital. This new regional network will enable us to enhance the care we provide to our separate Dover and Exeter communities by creating a combined regional delivery system. This is an exciting opportunity and one we at Wentworth-Douglass welcomed. The ability to collaborate with Exeter to develop a new regional model of care with the support of Mass General takes our vision of strengthening, enhancing, and growing services to a new level and makes sense for the communities that both hospitals serve.

As part of the process, the organizations will be looking at ways to support a shared vision of developing programs and services to best meet the needs of the Seacoast community, while providing care in a cost-effective, coordinated, and sustainable manner.

Much like the process when we joined the Mass General family, we will now be moving in to the robust due diligence phase. Assuming this is successful, we will collaboratively negotiate and develop a Definitive Agreement, which is subject to review by regulatory officials. The due diligence and regulatory process is expected to take 15-18 months to complete.

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**Exeter Health Resources is the parent corporation of Exeter Hospital, Core Physicians and Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice.*

We will be holding internal and external forums where staff and community members will be invited to ask questions and learn more about our vision. Staff Forums will be held the week of May 21st so that members of the Executive Team can answer questions to the best of our ability.

STAFF OPEN FORUMS

1. May 21 at Noon, Garrison Auditoriums at WDH
2. May 21 at 5:30pm, Garrison Auditoriums at WDH
3. May 23 at 5:00pm, Wentworth-Douglass Professional Center - Members Way (Exit 9)
4. May 24 at 10:30am, WDH Business Systems at Broadway
5. May 24 at 12:00pm, WDH Business Systems at Broadway

MEDICAL STAFF

1. May 30 at 5:30pm: All Wentworth-Douglass medical staff members are invited to attend the May 30th Wentworth Health Partners All Provider meeting where remarks will be shared about this news.

Since joining the Mass General family in early 2017, we have already jointly developed several new programs and services for patients in our community. We have realized impactful savings in supply chain, equipment purchases, and pharmaceutical costs and are now working to implement the PeopleSoft business support applications and Partners eCare (EPIC) electronic medical record system which will create more seamless patient care processes and experiences.

Integration efforts with Mass General continue in many parts of our Organization and we understand there are still many questions related to our integration plan that remain unclear at this time. While the decision to join together with Exeter Health Resources will help us find ways to better serve our patients and families, we know it will also raise more questions and may cause some additional anxiety among our staff as we plan the new regional model of care. We ask for your patience and support as we continue to develop this plan. Exeter Hospital, like Wentworth-Douglass, is a leading healthcare institution in the southern NH region. The development of this new network supports our vision of strengthening, enhancing and growing services and programs, and also helps us together become the clinical hub for health care in the Seacoast.

We know that uncertainty is uncomfortable. Exeter, Wentworth-Douglass, and Mass General are just beginning due diligence and cannot take action on collaboration efforts, service development, or processes to improve efficiencies until the Definitive Agreement is finalized and the transaction is approved by the regulatory agencies. We may not be able to answer all of your questions at this time but we are committed to listening to your concerns and keeping you informed as soon as information is available.

I look forward to your continuing good work on behalf of our patients and your support going forward.