



Susanna Fier  
VP, Public Affairs & Marketing  
Elliot Health System  
Pager: 603-639-4787  
sfier@elliott-hs.org

Suzanne Tammaro  
VP, Marketing  
Southern New Hampshire Health  
Phone: 603-281-8802  
suzanne.tammaro@snhhs.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 30, 2017**

## **ELLIOT HEALTH SYSTEM AND SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE HEALTH SIGN COMBINATION AGREEMENT TO FORM “SOLUTIONHEALTH” REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**Manchester and Nashua, NH:** Elliot Health System (“Elliot”) and Southern New Hampshire Health System (“SNHH”) today announced that they have signed a binding Combination Agreement to create “SOLUTIONHEALTH,” a new regional healthcare system organized as a non-profit organization. The new organization, pending final regulatory approval, will oversee a highly-coordinated, community-based regional health care network that will enhance access to affordable care while ensuring quality of care delivered throughout southern New Hampshire. Elliot and SNHH will each retain their respective names, identities, and local governance structures as independently licensed organizations.

The Combination Agreement comes as a result of the process set forth in a Letter of Intent signed by both parties in June of this year, which required Elliot and SNHH to work together on an exclusive basis to complete due diligence and negotiate a final, binding combination agreement. After months of careful review and discussion, a final Combination Agreement was unanimously approved by both the Elliot and SNHH Boards of Trustees.

The combination agreement is now subject to a statutorily required 120 day review period by the New Hampshire Department of Justice, which will include hearings in both Manchester and Nashua to solicit the public’s input.

In a joint statement, **Elliot President and CEO Doug Dean and SNHH President and CEO Mike Rose** stated:

“By signing this Combination Agreement today, we announce our intent to create a new regional healthcare system – **SOLUTIONHEALTH**. This name reflects our shared goal of creating a regional, New Hampshire-based solution for the unique and increasingly complex challenges facing healthcare providers in our state. In this rapidly changing environment, our commitment is to develop a highly-coordinated, community-based regional health care network that will enhance access to affordable care while ensuring quality of care delivered throughout southern New Hampshire. In so doing, we reaffirm our shared commitment to strengthening and expanding our charitable missions to provide the very best healthcare possible to the communities we serve, where and how it is needed most.”

**Elliot Board Chairman Jim Hood and SNHH Board Chairman Tim Sullivan** added: “Each of our institutions has a time-honored mission of service to our respective communities. Seeking ways to enhance our ability to advance those missions is always at the forefront of our decision process. It has been in that context that over

the past few months, our respective boards have engaged in a rigorous review of the many aspects concerning the creation of the regional SOLUTIONHEALTH health system. Our board members have both listened and asked tough, probing questions, and have carefully considered what the Combination Agreement announced today means for healthcare in the greater Manchester and Nashua communities. Ultimately, after completing a thorough evaluation, our boards each unanimously approved the Combination Agreement because we recognize that this proposed combination will strengthen both organizations at a time when economic pressures are challenging patients and their providers, while affording us greater ability to provide easier access to quality healthcare. Our compatible missions and shared values allow us to work together through SOLUTIONHEALTH to meet these and other critical needs, including mental health, while ensuring long-term organizational sustainability.”

**Elliot Chief Medical Officer Dr. Gregory Baxter and SNHH Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rob Dorf** added: “The creation of SOLUTIONHEALTH will better allow us to align our technology and care delivery systems to collect and compile data that gives us insight into the needs of our patients and communities. The enhanced ability to care for our patients locally is another important factor. Through the regional system, we will be able to expand and introduce special clinical programs that allow providers to manage the care of their patients locally, with the confidence that high quality care is both accessible and affordable. To have providers and patients rely on clinical subspecialists located outside of our area is burdensome and costly. With the increased scope of services and demand from our combined populations, we can bring clinical expertise into our communities in areas where alone we would not be otherwise able to.”

The creation of the proposed SOLUTIONHEALTH regional healthcare system envisions the nomination of a new board of governors, five each from Elliot and SNHH respectively. Each organization has identified its trustees to serve as the board for the new organization – an impressive list of healthcare stewards and community leaders with long experience in the greater Manchester and Nashua communities. They are:

**From Elliot Health System:**

Mr. Howard Brodsky  
Mr. John Hession  
Dr. Lawrence Hoepf  
Dr. Stephen Loosigian  
Ms. Dianne Mercier

**From Southern New Hampshire Health:**

The Honorable Clifford Kinghorn  
Martha O’Neill, Esq.  
Mr. James Steiner  
Dr. Praveen K. Suchdev  
Timothy Sullivan, Esq.

The website previously created by Elliot and SNHH – [www.nhregionalhealthcare.org](http://www.nhregionalhealthcare.org) – to provide public information about the proposed combination, including the Combination Agreement announced today, will continue to be the online headquarters throughout this process. The site will be updated as discussions

proceed and will include schedules and information on meetings and the ability for the public to submit comments and questions.

Both organizations will now focus on collaborating with the Attorney General's office in its review of the Combination Agreement, part of which will entail public hearings held in Manchester and Nashua, which Dean and Rose point to as essential. "In June we began an important conversation with our 6,000 employees and providers, our communities, our civic and legislative leaders and the general public, concerning the Letter of Intent between our two organizations." says Rose. "Today we reaffirm our commitment to continuing that conversation, in seeking the public's input and sharing our excitement about the positive benefits of SOLUTIONHEALTH for SNHH, Elliot and healthcare in southern New Hampshire."

Concludes Dean, "Both Mike and I are grateful to our staff, our boards and community leaders who have all expressed support for our respective institutions throughout this process. We share their enthusiasm about SOLUTIONHEALTH and how it can strengthen the health and well-being of our communities, while assuring affordability and easy access to comprehensive and high quality health care that has defined each of our organizations for more than 125 years."

### **About Elliot Health System**

Elliot Health System is a non-profit organization serving the healthcare needs of the community since 1890. The largest provider of comprehensive healthcare services in Southern New Hampshire, Elliot Hospital, a 296-bed acute care facility and the first community hospital in the state, serves as the cornerstone of the health system. Elliot is home to Manchester's designated Regional Trauma Center, Elliot Breast Health Center, Elliot Urgent Care, a Level 3 Newborn Intensive Care Unit, Elliot Behavioral Health Services, Elliot Regional Cancer Center, Elliot Senior Health Center, Visiting Nurse Association of Manchester and Southern New Hampshire, 1-Day Surgery Center, Elliot Memory & Mobility Center, Elliot Retail Pharmacy, Elliot Medical Centers in Londonderry and Hooksett, and The Elliot at River's Edge. Elliot has primary care providers and specialists throughout southern NH as part of the Elliot Physician Network. For more information about any of Elliot's services visit [www.elliothospital.org](http://www.elliothospital.org).

### **About Southern New Hampshire Health**

Southern New Hampshire Health is a non-profit organization serving the healthcare needs of the community since 1892 and is comprised of Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and Foundation Medical Partners. SNHH is Massachusetts General Hospital's first clinical affiliate in the region. SNHMC is a 188-bed facility that has two campuses in Nashua. Foundation Medical Partners is a multi-specialty physician group practice with more than 300 primary care and specialty care providers who serve patients in 32 communities across southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. SNHH also offers urgent, walk-in care through 7 Immediate Care locations. Through SNHH's MGH affiliation, patients have easy access to advanced clinical expertise in areas including stroke, cancer, trauma and pediatric specialties. Together, SNHMC and Foundation Medical Partners comprise an organization working collaboratively to achieve the mission of maintaining and preserving the overall health of individuals living in the communities it serves.