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Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health and GraniteOne Health Participate in Public Forums on Combination to Create New Hampshire-based Health Care System

Forums mark important next step in seeking regulatory approval

Lebanon & Manchester, NH (October 6, 2021) – Continuing the process that began in early 2019, [Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health](#) (D-HH) and [GraniteOne Health](#) (GOH) will share details around the proposed combination of the two health systems at three public forums hosted by the New Hampshire Attorney General’s Charitable Trusts Unit (CTU). Forums will take place Wednesday, October 6, from 4-6 p.m. in Peterborough; Thursday, October 7, 2021, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Manchester; and Thursday, October 12, from 6 – 8 p.m. in Wolfeboro. Sessions will be conducted in a hybrid format, with options to attend in-person or virtually via Zoom.

During the forums, New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella and CTU Director Thomas Donovan will accept comments from the public on the proposed combination.

“This combination is centered on improving lives and creating healthier outcomes for our patients throughout New Hampshire, through building capacity in Southern New Hampshire, strengthening support for rural hospitals, making strategic investments, and coordinating care to meet patient needs in the right place at the right time,” said Joanne M. Conroy, MD, CEO and President of Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health. “This is especially true in the critical area of behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, where we will invest tens of millions of dollars to add providers, improve access and integrate services across all areas of care.”

In January, 2019, D-HH and GOH signed a Letter of Intent to combine the two health systems, followed by the signing of a [Combination Agreement](#) in October, 2019. The combined non-profit health system will build on more or than 15 years of existing successful clinical collaborations and community engagement, and will meet the growing demand for seamlessly-integrated primary, specialty, ambulatory, and inpatient care throughout the region. The result will be a high-quality, lower-cost, New Hampshire-based alternative to out-of-state providers.

“Although the process was slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our teams have pressed forward with diligence and patience amidst significant challenges,” said Conroy. “In the past several years, New Hampshire’s health care landscape has shifted significantly, and the pandemic further illustrated the need for health care organizations to be strong, nimble and responsive. Swiftly deploying our robust telehealth technologies, for instance, allowed our providers to continue seeing patients in even the most rural corners of the state until it was safe to return to in-person visits.”

Once approved, D-HH would combine with GOH’s three hospitals – Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro and Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough.

“Even before the pandemic, health systems were challenged with changing the way we do business to meet the increasingly complex needs of the communities we serve,” said Joseph Pepe, MD, CEO of GraniteOne Health. “In New Hampshire, that means being able to offer the same access to care and technology wherever our patients need it. Combining our systems will allow us to do that. Together, we will be able to operate more effectively and efficiently, expand capacity, and enhance services across all the hospitals in our systems and in our communities to meet growing patient demand.”

The combined and integrated system will transform health care delivery in New Hampshire while maintaining members’ local identities, traditions and community commitments, including the distinct Catholic model of health care provided by Catholic Medical Center. All organizations within the combined system will also retain local leadership.

In September, 2019, the Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Bishop of Manchester, issued a *nihil obstat*, or [declaration of no objection](#), allowing the Combination to proceed. The Bishop's declaration was a significant milestone in the approval process, and paved the way for the health care systems to submit their application for review to the CTU and Consumer Protection Bureau, as well as to the Federal Trade Commission for review and approval.

Members of the public are invited to attend the forums, and may register at <https://www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/graniteone-health.htm>. To learn more about the proposed combination, visit www.ForAHealthierNH.org.

About Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH), New Hampshire's only academic health system and the state's largest private employer, serves a population of 1.9 million across northern New England. D-HH provides access to more than 2,000 providers in almost every area of medicine, delivering care at its flagship hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH. Again in 2021 – for the ninth consecutive year – DHMC was named as the #1 hospital in New Hampshire by *U.S. News & World Report*, and recognized for high performance in 11 clinical specialties and procedures. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health includes the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, one of only 51 NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation; Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, the state's only children's hospital; member hospitals in Lebanon, Keene, and New London, NH, and Windsor, VT, and Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire; and 24 Dartmouth-Hitchcock clinics that provide ambulatory services across New Hampshire and Vermont. The D-HH system trains nearly 400 residents and fellows annually, and performs world-class research, in partnership with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and the White River Junction VA Medical Center in White River Junction, VT.

About GraniteOne Health: GraniteOne Health (GOH) is a network of New Hampshire hospitals that combines their experience, resources, and expertise to provide exceptional care to individuals and families across the Granite State. Member hospitals which include [Catholic Medical Center](#) (CMC) in Manchester and its nationally renowned New England Heart & Vascular Institute, [Huggins Hospital](#) in Wolfeboro, and [Monadnock Community Hospital](#) in Peterborough. A non-profit, community-based health care system, GraniteOne Health offers access points throughout New Hampshire to advanced clinical services such as open-heart surgery, angioplasty, minimally invasive heart valve and vascular surgery, cancer care, comprehensive weight loss management, orthopedics, innovative maternal health services and over 30 other medical and surgical subspecialties. GraniteOne Health gives patients access to high-quality, coordinated care across the continuum of health.

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