**CONCERNED CITIZENS CREATE COALITION TO FIGHT MISMANAGEMENT AT SOUTH COUNTY HEALTH**

**Save South County Hospital Members to Protest Closed Door Community Hearing Tonight Organized by the Hospital**
**CONTACT:  Patti Doyle, 401-374-2553;****patti.doyle@gmail.com**
 **South Kingstown, Rhode Island, October 30, 2024:**  A new non-profit organization of concerned citizens has been created to continue to seek reform at South County Hospital as it believes management is fostering a toxic work environment, driving physicians and staff to leave.

The broad-based community coalition, Save South County Hospital, seeks to address this exodus which has generated anxiety and limited patient’s access to quality outpatient medical care and forcing them to seek care outside the community.  Loss of outpatient services revenue will impact the hospital’s financial situation andultimatelyjeopardize the quality of care provided by the hospital.

To give voice to these concerns, members of Save South County Hospital will also protest tonight’s “community” meeting organized by South County Health, owner of South County Hospital. The protest will begin at 4 p.m. at the entrance to The Towers, [35 Ocean Road, Narragansett](https://www.google.com/maps/search/35%2BOcean%2BRoad%2C%2BNarragansett?entry=gmail&source=g). The hospital's meeting is restricted to 150 people, all of whom have been selected by hospital management, leaving many concerned citizens unable to attend.

Save South County Hospital registered with the state just two days ago and will be designated as a 501C (4) non-profit entity. It already has nearly 100 members comprised of donors, former hospital trustees, patients, opinion leaders and members of the medical community. Save South County Hospital has already collected nearly 2,000 signatures on a petition calling into question hospital leadership’s failure to make doctor-patient relationships a priority.

According to Laurie Kelly, one of the steering committee members, Save South County Hospital will focus on highlighting management behaviors that threaten the existence of this 105-year-old community hospital and encourage community education and engagement to call for change in management.

 “We represent a diverse spectrum of concerned citizens from the South County region,” said Ms. Kelly. “From medical practitioners within the hospital, to former Board of Trustees; from donors who have long supported the health care institution to former and current patients, we seek to have new management who can demonstrate professionalism, collaboration, and compassion to prevent further deterioration in relationships critical to successful patient recovery from illness, injury and on-going treatments."

Prior to the creation of the Save South County Hospital coalition, an ad hoc group of concerned citizens publicly expressed concerns about:

* A lack of support and adversarial relationship between executive leadership and providers that led to the resignation of most hematology oncologists from the hospital’s cancer center.
* The resignation of the director of radiation oncology despite a dramatic increase in patient volume.
* The imposition of benchmarks for patient visits that result in shorter visit times for services such as nephrology.
* Departures of primary care doctors from South County Medical Group due to “irreconcilable differences with management.”
* Staffing shortages of cardiology and pulmonary services.
* The elimination of the sleep lab and reduction of other services.

The Coalition's website is [www.savesouthcountyhospital.com](http://www.savesouthcountyhospital.com/).