

## LRGH Announces Consolidation of Services and Program Closures

### Reduced services at Franklin Regional Hospital

#### Press release

On Monday, the LRGHealthcare Board of Directors voted to merge and consolidate several medical facilities and programs within their network to address unexpected financial challenges that have emerged over the last couple of months.

“The changes being implemented by the Board of Directors are focused on maintaining patients’ access to care, as well as their access to their medical providers, and at the same time reducing the cost of maintaining the LRGHealthcare network,” said Kevin W. Donovan, President and CEO of LRGHealthcare. “We want our patients to know that the high level of care they expect from LRGHealthcare will continue uninterrupted as we make this transition.”

The changes approved by the LRGHealthcare Board of Directors are aimed at creating \$7 million in annualized improvement. The consolidation of services and program closures include:

Moultonborough Family Practice will be closed effective Friday, March 30. Moultonborough Family Practice is staffed by Carolyn Brown, APRN, and she will join Belknap Family Health – Meredith starting Monday, April 2. Richard Young, APRN will no longer be affiliated with LRGHealthcare, as he joins our valued partner, HealthFirst. Both providers are welcoming patients at those new locations. All patients will be notified by letter as to the new service locations of their providers.

Newfound Family Practice in Bristol will be closed effective Friday, March 30. Dr. Peter Doane and Laurie Jorgenson, APRN currently staff Newfound Family Practice, and they will continue to see patients starting April 2 as part of Westside Healthcare at Franklin Regional Hospital. Both providers are welcoming patients at that new location. All patients will be notified by letter as to the new service locations of their providers.

Laconia Clinic Pediatrics will be

closed effective Friday, March 30. The Laconia Clinic Board is working with LRGH to determine the future of the current providers. All patients will be notified by letter as to the new service locations of their providers.

Franklin Surgical Services and Operating Rooms will be closed effective Friday, April 27. This closure will focus all of LRGHealthcare’s surgical services at Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia and the Hillside Ambulatory Surgery Center in Gilford. Currently, Franklin Surgical Services provides only elective surgery, which will now be performed at the remaining LRGH sites.

Laconia Clinic Lab will be consolidated with the LRGH Lab effective Wednesday, February 28, but a blood draw station will remain. All test samples will be sent to LRGH for testing.

LRGH Family Birthplace will be closed effective the end of May. LRGHealthcare and Concord Hospital will be announcing a collaboration to provide labor and delivery services to patients in the LRGHealthcare service area. More details will follow.

LRGHealthcare is also implementing workforce reductions affecting 16 employees. The workforce reductions result from the elimination of administrative positions and program restructuring. LRGH Human Resources will work closely with employees whose jobs have been affected by this reduction to review current openings within LRGHealthcare and other providers for potential placement, as well as assisting with support from NH Employment Security and the Employee Assistance Program.

“We are profoundly aware of the impact our decisions have on the lives of our co-workers and their families, and we will make every effort to support all LRGHealthcare employees through these difficult changes,” said Donovan. “We are fully committed to working with affected employees to minimize the effects of this change as much as possible.”

## LRGH To Close Labor and Delivery Services

### Partnership formed with Concord Hospital

#### Press release

The LRGHealthcare Board of Directors has voted to close the hospital’s inpatient labor and delivery services effective May 30, 2018, and is collaborating with Concord Hospital to ensure continuation of delivery services to the local community. LRGHealthcare will continue to provide prenatal, postnatal, women’s health and pediatric care through local LRGHealthcare providers.

“Maternity care and delivering babies is one of the most rewarding things we do as a healthcare organization,” said Kevin W. Donovan, President and CEO of LRGHealthcare, “so this was an extremely difficult decision for everyone. However, to ensure the quality of care for our patients and address financial concerns associated with those services, it was a decision

that we felt was right and ultimately inevitable.”

Donovan said that the number of deliveries at Lakes Region General Hospital has declined annually over the past several years, and that the decline is expected to continue into the future. Donovan said the hospital had 346 deliveries in 2015, 318 in 2016 and 283 in 2017, and that the decline in the number of deliveries is expected to continue in 2018.

“This is not a problem only impacting LRGH,” said Donovan. “It is a problem facing many rural hospitals in New Hampshire and nationally. The continued reduction in the number of deliveries not only presents financial challenges to providing access to the latest technology and ensuring quality care, but also presents challenges for recruiting and retaining physicians who require certain volumes to maintain skills and certification in rural areas.”

## “Granite Shield” Yields 151 Arrests and Large Quantity of Narcotics

#### Press release

New Hampshire State Police with state, local and federal law enforcement partners announced today the conclusion of Thursday’s massive statewide Granite Shield operation resulting in the arrest of 151 suspects, and the seizure of more than 551 grams of heroin and fentanyl, about 18,000 doses with a street value of more than \$22,000, 24 weapons, and \$37,000 in cash.

“New Hampshire is safer today because of this months-long cooperative effort between state, local and federal partners,” New Hampshire State Police Colonel Christopher Wagner said. “I want to thank everyone who participated in this massive effort and thank Governor Chris Sununu for providing the grant funds that make Granite Shield possible. I want anyone in New Hampshire who is engaging in the selling and trafficking of narcotics to know that you are not welcome in our State and you will be arrested.”

The New Hampshire State Police is the grant administrator for the Granite Shield program and was the coordinating agency during this operation

with State Police Captain John Encarnacao, the Commander of the Investigative Services Bureau, serving as the lead officer. State Police also provided support to participating agencies when assistance was requested.

“This collaborative operation was carried out through careful coordination between 88 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies,” Encarnacao said. “The objective of the operation was to utilize all available state, local and federal resources to disrupt opioid and other drug trafficking activities in the State of New Hampshire.”

Other supporting activities during this operation included, intelligence gathering by the Information and Analysis Center, intelligence-based interdiction by the Mobile Enforcement Team, the making of controlled purchases and provision of warrants by the Narcotics Investigations Unit, air support by the Special Enforcement Unit, and coordination through the State Emergency Operations Center and the State Joint Information Center by State Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Encarnacao said.



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