



Gunn: Building our future together

By Terry Gunn, KershawHealth CEO
C-I contributing columnist
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KershawHealth was envisioned and built by local philanthropy. It has been sustained for more than a century by the commitment of a community dedicated to caring for its own. And, even as it has grown, decade after decade, it has never lost that sense of purpose that comes from neighbors caring for neighbors. Now, we have joined with our neighbors to take another step on that journey.

Over the last few years, it has become apparent that community hospitals across the country are struggling to deal with enormous changes resulting from the massive transformation of our entire healthcare delivery system. Some local hospitals are losing that battle and facing closure. KershawHealth has not escaped this challenge, but the organization has been committed to meeting it head-on. The hospital's leadership, medical staff and board recognized that to provide the care our neighbors demand and deserve, it was no longer possible to go it alone. Finding a suitable strategic partner capable of providing the management, financial, clinical, and development resources essential to success was absolutely critical.

On Nov. 1, KershawHealth began building a new future together with Capella Healthcare and MUSC Health. It's a partnership designed to elevate and expand the level of quality healthcare available to our neighbors. Just as important, though, it's a partnership designed to let KershawHealth -- and those who serve here -- lead the way.

Capella is a proven leader in developing and managing community hospitals. They are dedicated to the concept that all health care is local -- neighbors serving

neighbors. They understand that working closely with local hospitals and physicians is the best way to transform communities and deliver exceptional care. Capella not only will provide a great environment where our employees can serve, but they will bring an exceptional focus on quality, collaboration and cost-effectiveness that will lead us all in the right direction.

MUSC's mission focuses on improving the health of all South Carolinians by bringing the scope of one of the country's leading academic medical centers to communities across the state. That is certainly a mission KershawHealth embraces, and our organization looks forward to working closely with them to enhance clinical excellence and patient safety, develop physician resources, and provide seamless access to advance care for our neighbors.

We are moving forward into a new healthcare landscape. KershawHealth's partnership with MUSC Health and Capella Healthcare is positioned to build a stronger hospital that will continue to be here for the citizens of Kershaw County, their children, and generations to come.

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