

Women & Infants Files Letter of Intent for Renovation of Labor and Delivery Suite

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island has filed a letter of intent (LOI) with the Rhode Island Department of Health for its proposal, “Women & Infants Hospital Labor & Delivery Renovation.” This LOI is the first step in the hospital’s plan to file a certificate of need (CON) application in January 2017.

As one of the largest stand-alone obstetrical services in the country, Women & Infants delivered more than 8,800 babies last year. Since the current space was designed in 1986, there have been dramatic changes in the hospital’s patient population, care models and the introduction of new technologies. Women & Infants has seen a sizable increase in patients with significant chronic illness who require specialized monitoring and care; has moved to an electronic medical records system; and has instituted a team-based model of care that includes patients and families in all aspects of care.

“As a specialty hospital with a unique

focus, Women & Infants is a well-cherished jewel, providing incomparable care to the women and newborns of our region. But our physical environment in labor and delivery no longer provides the optimal support for today’s modern birth approach,” said **MARK R. MARCANTANO**, president and chief operating officer of Women & Infants Hospital. “It’s time for our physical environment in labor and delivery to match the incredible level of clinical care provided here.”

Women & Infants’ Labor and Delivery Suite is comprised of 19 private labor/delivery/recovery rooms, three dedicated Cesarean birth rooms and a recovery area, and an Alternative Birthing Center that offers a high-touch, home-like, midwife-led birthing experience for low-risk births. This project will consist of renovating all 20 labor rooms and increasing the room size from 220 square feet to the current guidelines of 400 square feet with a private bathroom and shower in each room.

The project design will be based around a universal room that exceeds the needs for all levels of patient and family centered care. The renovation will integrate the newest technologies and include upgrades to the electrical, HVAC, plumbing and medical gasses systems.

The renovation, with a projected cost of approximately \$18.6 million, is scheduled to be completed in October 2018 will be done in phases over 14 to 16 months in order to minimize any disruption to existing service.

“Having a baby is a wonderful experience for a family,” said **JAMES A. O’BRIEN, MD**, director of inpatient obstetrics and an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. “We want to provide the highest level of complex care when necessary, but also provide a warm, personal and engaging experience, with hidden technology that is only used as needed.” ❖

Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation donates \$1.1M for maternity care at St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford

Donation is part of Southcoast Health’s \$25 million capital fundraising campaign

NEW BEDFORD – Southcoast Health announced recently that the Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation has donated \$1.1 million to the Campaign for Southcoast Health – a \$25 million capital fundraising campaign which is the largest in the not-for-profit healthcare system’s history. The Maternity Center at St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford will receive \$1 million, while the additional \$100,000 will go towards the care of drug-addicted newborns.

“Healthcare is extremely important to me and my foundation,” said Bob Stoico, who began the foundation after retiring as chairman, president and CEO of FIRSTFED America Bancorp Inc. “By supporting excellent maternity care at St. Luke’s, we are helping to ensure the health and well-being of families. That is a vital service for the community.”

Southcoast Health is the only provider of maternity services in the South Coast region. Each year nearly 3,500 babies are delivered between its three acute-care hospitals with 1,400 of those births taking place at St. Luke’s. Maternity

services at all three sites offer a family-centered approach that provides the right combination of compassionate care and the latest technology.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation for this extremely generous donation, which benefits moms, newborns and families,” said **KEITH A. HOVAN**, President & CEO of Southcoast Health. “As a not-for-profit healthcare system, we rely on the generosity of so many within our community to support vital programs and services. This substantial contribution has helped us to completely renovate our maternity department at St. Luke’s, where families in greater New Bedford can now celebrate the birth of a child in a brand new, state-of-the-art unit that offers privacy and comfort.”

The Campaign for Southcoast Health is currently raising funds to support major capital initiatives across Southcoast Health’s three acute-care hospitals – St. Luke’s, Charlton Memorial in Fall River and Tobey in Wareham. ❖