

Southcoast Health Colleagues:

Just over a year ago, after more than three decades as a surgeon and physician leader here, I was humbled and honored to accept the role of President and CEO at Southcoast Health.

When the Board of Trustees offered me this position, the plan was for me to serve as someone who could help the system navigate a time of great adversity amid our response to the pandemic and other challenges that so many healthcare organizations have experienced recently.

Still another part of the plan at the time was charting out a course of succession when circumstances allowed and the time was right – when we could begin to see beyond the pandemic; beyond the roughest waters to a steadier horizon line for Southcoast Health.

When we saw that opportunity arise, we wanted to be ready. And now we are.

I am pleased to tell you that after discussion among the Trustees and myself, we have agreed to bring in a national executive leadership firm to guide us in identifying my successor.

This search will be thorough, deliberate, and wide-ranging. Until it is complete, regardless of how long it takes, I will work every day to serve our patients, providers and staff, and community partners.

For example, I am proud to share that I have been asked to represent Southcoast Health on Governor-Elect Maura Healey's healthcare policy transition committee. Doing this vital work alongside you is the privilege of my professional life, and we will achieve much more of it together throughout the transition process.

I look forward to Southcoast Health's bright future, and remain grateful for the opportunity to play an active part in it: First as a surgeon; then as a physician leader; and now as chief executive.

Thank you for all you do for our patients, community, and each other.

Ray

Rayford Kruger, MD, FACS
President & CEO
Southcoast Health