

The HARI *Perspective*



Last week, Lou Giancola, president and CEO of South County Health, formally [announced](#) his intent to retire. Lou's career in healthcare spans 50 years, including his earlier leadership roles at Lahey Health and Women & Infants Hospital. Lou joined South County Health in 2000, serving the hospital for a total of 18 years.

As a member of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) Board of Trustees, Lou has continuously advocated for South County Health at the state level. As a member of the Board, Lou served as chairman from 2005 to 2007.

Throughout his 18 year tenure Lou has made significant contributions to the overall growth of South County Health. Under his leadership, South County Health has been the recipient of numerous prestigious recognitions from organizations such as The Leapfrog Group, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Press Ganey, and many more. In addition, Lou has enhanced patient care through the openings of two Medical and Wellness Centers, additional operating rooms, significant investments in new and advanced technologies, as well as a comprehensive cancer center that offers patients the opportunity to receive treatments in Washington County.

Three years ago, Lou submitted an Op-Ed to the [Providence Journal](#) and in it he addressed the community approach to health, a point Lou continues to promote at HARI Board meetings as a top priority for South County Health. In the article, Lou stated "that health, not healthcare, can only be addressed when communities unite to promote the common good. Whether through advocacy, volunteering or promoting healthy behaviors, the health of individuals requires mobilizing the entire community to understand and attack the underlying societal factors contributing to ill health."

Lou's retirement will not only be a loss for South County Health, but also for the healthcare community throughout the state. On behalf of HARI, I would like to congratulate Lou on his well-earned retirement and thank him for his many contributions to HARI.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "M. Teresa Paiva Weed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teresa Paiva Weed, HARI President