

With Attached Photo: Michael D. Scherneck, President and CEO, Southeast Georgia Health System

**Contact:** Laura Young, director, Marketing & Public Relations; [laura.young@sghs.org](mailto:laura.young@sghs.org), 912-466-2148

## **Southeast Georgia Health System CEO Michael Scherneck Announces His Plans to Retire Next Year After 17 Years of Successful Leadership**

BRUNSWICK, Georgia: April 29, 2021 – Michael D. Scherneck, president and chief executive officer, recently announced his intent to retire from Southeast Georgia Health System in early 2022.

Scherneck has spent nearly two decades in leadership roles with the Health System, including more than 12 years as the executive vice president and chief financial officer. In 2015, Scherneck was appointed president & chief executive officer by the Southeast Georgia Health System, Inc. Board of Directors.



“Mike has positioned the Health System well for the future and guided us through some extraordinary times, including three hurricanes and a global pandemic,” says Kay Hampton, incoming chair, Southeast Georgia Health System, Inc. “We are very appreciative of his leadership. During a time when many hospitals are struggling or scaling back services, the Health System has remained financially secure and able to meet our community’s health needs.”

During his tenure, Scherneck has led numerous initiatives to enhance the Health System’s ability to provide quality health care to the communities it serves, including the creation of a physician strategy and the growth of the Health System’s affiliated physician practice group, Southeast Georgia Physician Associates. Scherneck also helped create partnerships, such as Coastal Community Health, a regional alliance with Baptist Health in Jacksonville, Florida, to share best practices, optimize resources and achieve greater efficiency, higher quality of care and better patient outcomes.

A significant highlight of Scherneck’s tenure includes the \$142 million Master Renovation and Expansion Project of its Brunswick Campus, launched in 2018. Many phases of the project, including the Surgical Services and Inpatient Tower, Parkwood Drive main entrance and lobby, and covered visitor/patient parking areas were completed in 2020. Three major phases of the Emergency Care Center renovation are also complete and the final phase is slated for completion in July 2021. The renovation of two existing patient floors has begun and will finish in 2022.

Scherneck also continues to lead the Health System through the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding the Health System’s intensive care capabilities; securing necessary supplies and equipment; dedicating resources for community COVID-19 testing; bringing additional highly regarded critical care physicians to the community; and investing resources to provide more than 35,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to area residents. He also developed a collaborative relationship with the Department of Public Health’s Coastal Health District, partnering to provide testing, vaccination and education events to the community.

“When the coronavirus pandemic hit our communities, the importance of building partnerships became evident in order to meet our communities’ needs,” says Lawton C. Davis, M.D., District Health Director, Coastal Health District. “The collaboration between the Coastal Health District

and Southeast Georgia Health System allowed efficient sharing of resources and expertise for COVID-19 testing and vaccination, and illustrates the importance of public-private partnerships.”

“I’m very proud to have served the Health System, my fellow team members, and this community,” says Scherneck. “From the time my wife, Kathy, and I arrived here in 2003, we have developed a great affinity for our community. It has proven to be a wonderful opportunity, both professionally and personally, one for which I will be forever grateful. Our community is such that we are friends and family caring for friends and family and I am honored to have played a part in that service commitment.”

In addition to his Health System role, Scherneck serves on several professional and community boards, including the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals, Vizient Southern States, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Coastal Georgia, Morningstar Children and Family Services, Inc., and St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Finance Council.

Scherneck has been working with the Southeast Georgia Health System, Inc. Board of Directors on succession planning since September 2020, providing ample time to prepare for a successful transition. The Board established a search committee and hired an executive search firm. While Scherneck has identified early 2022 as his target retirement timeframe, he has agreed to continue with the Health System until a new president and chief executive officer has transitioned into the role.

Additional highlights of Scherneck’s CEO tenure include:

- 2020: *Georgia Trend* includes Camden Campus in its Top Small Hospital List
- 2020: Brunswick Campus ranked high performing in “Heart Failure” and “COPD” by U.S. News & World Report
- 2020: Health System receives American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award
- 2019: Brunswick Campus designated Baby-Friendly hospital by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc.
- 2019: Brunswick Campus awarded American Orthopaedic Association’s® Own the Bone Program Star Performer
- 2019: Health System receives LifeLink® of Georgia Workplace Partnership for Life Platinum Award
- 2018: *Georgia Trend* includes Brunswick Campus in its Top Medium Hospital List
- 2017: Scherneck named CEO/Administrator of the Year by the Council on Auxiliaries/Volunteers of the Georgia Hospital Association.

#### **ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM**

**Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, two comprehensive Cancer Care Centers and multiple specialty care centers, including orthopaedic and spine care, joint replacement, breast care, maternity, outpatient rehabilitation, sleep management and wound care. The Brunswick Campus Cancer Care Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and offers the only CyberKnife® M6 with MLC technology in Georgia. Additionally, the Southeast Georgia Physician Associates medical group includes more than 140 providers working in 20 different medical specialties at more than 50 locations. The Health System is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional affiliation between Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System forming a highly integrated hospital network focused on significant initiatives designed to enhance the quality and value of care provided to our contiguous communities. In 2020, the Brunswick Campus was rated High Performing in COPD and Heart Failure by the U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit [sghs.org](https://www.sghs.org).**