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## SoutheastHEALTH Holds Renovation Ribbon Cutting for Lacey Street Multi-Use Facility

OCTOBER 02ND 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

### SoutheastHEALTH Holds Renovation Ribbon Cutting for Lacey Street Multi-Use Facility

SoutheastHEALTH today celebrated the completion of a sweeping renovation of 1708 Lacey, located directly across from the hospital. The four-story building will house several services, including greatly expanded quarters for its rapidly growing Reference Laboratory Services.

SoutheastHEALTH President and CEO Ken Bateman said the 1708 renovation is a part of a multi-million project that is the largest in the history of SoutheastHEALTH. The \$30 million Southeast Behavioral Hospital in Cape Girardeau was completed in March 2021. The \$25 million Southeast Center for Integrated Services located on South Mount Auburn Road opened in January 2023 and is home to Southeast Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Southeast Women's Integrated Health and

## Southeast Breast Health.

Work now underway includes \$50 million for sweeping renovations of 1708 Lacey, renovation of the Emergency Services Department and conversion of semi-private rooms to private rooms within the hospital. Planning is under way for a \$20 million Ambulatory Surgery Center on the West Campus featuring surgical suites for specialties that include orthopedics, general surgery, women's health and more.

“With the opening of 1708 Lacey, we are continuing to grow to serve our region in the best possible way. We are positioned to provide a wide range of both clinical and non-clinical services well into the future,” Bateman said, adding that SoutheastHEALTH will continue to identify new opportunities that will benefit our patients and region.

Services located in 1708 Lacey include, on the ground level, MRI Services, Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab and Facilities Management. Southeast Reference Lab Services occupies the first floor, Human Resources and Education Services are located on the second floor and a Training Center is located on the third floor. That space includes a classroom for new employee orientation or other large events and a skills lab.

## Southeast Reference Lab Services

Lauren Thomas, executive director of Laboratory and Outreach Services at SoutheastHEALTH, said Southeast established a partnership with Abbott Laboratories in 2020 to bring COVID testing capabilities to our region, allowing Southeast to continue to treat patients during the pandemic.

Since 2020, Southeast has upgraded instrumentation to Abbott's newer technology, the Alinity. This is a family of instruments that, for SoutheastHEALTH, includes instruments for Chemistry, Immunoassay, and Molecular testing. Their partnership encompasses laboratories at Southeast Hospital, Southeast Cancer Center, Southeast Health Center of Stoddard County and now the Southeast Reference Lab. “While a hospital lab performs initial general patient testing, a reference lab has an expanded test menu capable of testing lab samples sent from another lab or institution,” she explains.

The Reference lab will include new software programs as well, most recently with the Abbott AlinilQ AMS, Indexor, and Inventory Management. Drinda Swanson, district manager, Chicago District, Abbott Core Diagnostics, explained that these digital health solutions allow the lab to better manage flow of data through the entire laboratory process, leading to standardized decision making, a reduction in errors by automating manual processes, an alleviation on the impact of staff shortages and a

reduction in operational costs.

## Phenomenal Growth

“The growth we have experienced with our Outreach Lab has been nothing short of phenomenal and we recognized the need to establish Reference Lab services,” Thomas added. She noted that Southeast currently works with 238 outreach lab sites locally and over 100 client locations extending to 17 states throughout the nation. “With these newest technologies, we now have the ability to support additional growth to expand across the country at Southeast Reference Laboratory.”

In the coming months, Southeast Reference laboratory will be one of the first locations in the United States to install new lab automation system. These types of systems use robotics to transport patients’ blood tubes from one area of the lab to another, eliminating manual workflows and freeing up lab staff to focus on quality and accuracy of patient testing services.

## About SoutheastHEALTH

At SoutheastHEALTH, the region's premier healthcare system in southeast Missouri, patients receive excellent care of the highest clinical quality, close to home. Within the SoutheastHEALTH network are 48 care locations in 11 communities, including hospitals, primary and specialty care clinics representing 52 clinical specialties and extending care for patients in a four-state area. Learn more at SEhealth.org.

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