EDITOR’S NOTE: This is not a merger and should be described as a strategic alliance.

UAB Health System, Ascension St. Vincent’s develop strategic alliance for better health

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System (UABHS) and Ascension St. Vincent’s are entering into an alliance that will increase access to high-quality, innovative medical care through multiple outlets and health programs.

Pending appropriate approvals, including the approval of the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees, the new strategic alliance will enable the two entities, which have a long history of collaboration, to further enhance patient care and address Alabama’s most challenging health threats.

The alliance will utilize innovative strategies to address health disparities, mental and behavioral health, and diabetes, with an emphasis on expanded access for poor, vulnerable and rural populations.

UABHS and Ascension St. Vincent’s leaders say the new alliance enhances their longstanding relationship and affirms each organization’s ability to help patients receive the right care in the right setting at the right time, including those who need highly specialized care.

Ascension St. Vincent’s and UABHS have worked together successfully in many ways, including neonatal and anesthesia services. Currently, Ascension St. Vincent’s facilities receive admissions from UAB’s Gardendale Emergency Department and UAB faculty perform surgery at Ascension St. Vincent’s One Nineteen.

“As health care continues to evolve, it is important for health systems to work with each other to provide innovative, person-centered care,” said UAB Health System CEO Will Ferniany. “It has always been our shared commitment with Ascension St. Vincent’s to remain on the forefront of this vital health care transformation.

“Through closer alignment of each organization’s many locations, specialties and expertise, the health systems will strive to better accommodate patients,” Ferniany said.

“Ascension St. Vincent’s and the UAB Health System have a longstanding, very positive relationship,” said Jason Alexander, CEO, Ascension St. Vincent’s and Ascension Providence, and senior vice president, Ascension. “We look forward to continuing to build on the complementary strengths of both organizations to serve the increasing needs of residents across our state.
“These positive changes will strengthen our ability to better serve our community,” Alexander said. “Our expectation is that, through this alliance, both the UAB Health System and Ascension St. Vincent’s will be better positioned to carry out our missions.”

Alexander says a closer alignment with the UABHS supports Ascension St. Vincent’s ability to achieve its strategic goals for the benefit of everyone the health system is privileged to serve.

Ascension St. Vincent’s joins a growing number of health care organizations to expand collaborations with the UAB Health System to improve health care delivery to Alabamians.

UABHS facilities will retain the UABHS or UAB Medicine brands. Ascension St. Vincent’s facilities will be Ascension St. Vincent’s.

Entities in the alliance include:

- **UABHS:**
  - UAB Hospital
  - University of Alabama Health Services Foundation
  - Medical West Hospital
  - Callahan Eye Hospital, Clinics and Ophthalmology Services Foundation
  - Gardendale Freestanding Emergency Department (FED) and Clinics
  - Highway 150 Clinics and Medical West Freestanding Emergency Department
  - Acton Road
  - Primary Care Network

- **Ascension St. Vincent’s:**
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s Birmingham
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s East
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s One Nineteen
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Clair
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s Chilton
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s Blount
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s Trussville
  - Ascension St. Vincent’s Medical Group

While the Cooper Green Authority initiative is not part of the alliance, operations will be coordinated to enhance services for Cooper Green patients.