

Westchester Medical Center and Saint Francis Hospital — a match made to preserve many local services — look forward to

STITCHING TOGETHER



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Poughkeepsie Journal

ONLINE

For archived stories, photos and videos on the Saint Francis Hospital bankruptcy and sale process, visit poughkeepsiejournal.com/stfrancis

SALE HEARING

The public hearing about the sale of Saint Francis Hospital to a bidder is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Poughkeepsie. Check poughkeepsiejournal.com for updates throughout the day.

If Westchester Medical Center completes its acquisition of Saint Francis Hospital, the resulting entity may look a lot like what employees and patients currently find when they pull up to Saint Francis' doors off of North Road in Poughkeepsie.

Whether the Valhalla-based medical center takes over Saint Francis still depends on final approvals from federal bankruptcy court and regulators.

But in court documents and through interviews with industry experts and executives, a picture emerges of how the two institutions could come together.

One thing is clear: Saint Francis expressed preference for Westchester Medical's bid in large part because it would preserve services where they are and allow for some local control.

Both institutions, in deference to the ongoing bankruptcy case, declined to comment on how the merger would unfold.

But in its court filings, Saint Francis said Westchester Medical "has every intent" to retain the Saint Francis campus inpatient psychiatric beds and emergency mental-health services, chemical dependency and detox services and Level II trauma services.

Furthermore, it would preserve pre-school and early intervention services.

"This pledge," Saint Francis said in its court documents, "has a tremendous benefit to the Dutchess County community as it will ensure the continuity of services at the Saint Francis campus with minimal disruption."

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SAINT FRANCIS court documents