

Daily Freeman

St. Francis Hospital sale to Westchester Medical Center gets final approval



Part of St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie Photo from www.sfhospital.org

By Freeman staff

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POUGHKEEPSIE >> A federal Bankruptcy Court judge on Monday granted final approval for Westchester Medical Center to buy the assets of St. Francis Hospital, according to a joint statement issued by the two hospitals.

The hospitals said the deal will usher in “an era of unique cooperation, collaboration and momentum for the Poughkeepsie hospital and its programs.”

The judge, Cecilia Morris, ruled last week that St. Francis was authorized to enter into the “contemplated asset purchase agreement,” subject to the entry of a final order by the court. That order was issued on Monday.

St. Francis [filed for bankruptcy protection in mid-December](#) and announced that Health Quest, the parent company of Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie and Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, planned to buy St. Francis’ assets.

Westchester Medical Center, based in Valhalla, entered the process in later December and ultimately submitted a bid that St. Francis said it preferred over Health Quest's offer. Health Quest then announced it [no longer would participate in the bidding process.](#)

St. Francis said in bankruptcy court papers filed this month that the offer from Westchester Medical center was "substantially and materially better" than Health Quest's offer, though neither amount was revealed.

Westchester Medical officials have said their mission for St. Francis is, "from day one, to work together to enhance and strengthen all of their fine services, including the Level Two Trauma Center, emergency department, intensive care units and critical care psychiatric services, while introducing additional advanced-care offerings locally to more patients in areas such as orthopedics, cancer, neurosciences, trauma and critical care, and cardiovascular."

Westchester Medical also has said it will increase the number of patients cared for at St. Francis.