



- ACA
- ACOs
- Finance
- Government
- Healthcare IT
- Payers
- Physicians
- Safety/Quality
- Supply Chain

Welcome, FREDI | Profile | Get Daily Dose | Log out | Help

2012 **ASHPE Winner!** **Gold Award Best Website** | **Gold Award Best E-Newsletter**

ModernHealthcare.com



Join, Follow & Connect
[in](#) [t](#) [f](#) [+](#) [r](#)

- News ▾
- Topics ▾
- Research ▾
- Opinion ▾
- Blogs ▾
- Recognition ▾
- Videos & Webinars ▾
- Events ▾
- Marketplace ▾
- Jobs ▾

Patient-focused.

Think you overpaid for that MRI system?

Healthcare Business News



Vanguard plans Conn. joint venture



By [Beth Kutscher](#)

Posted: November 2, 2012 - 2:15 pm ET

Tags: [Acquisitions](#), [Connecticut](#), [Deals](#), [Finance](#), [Healthcare Reform](#), [Hospitals](#)

(Story updated with comment from Waterbury Hospital.)

Vanguard Health Systems, Nashville, has entered into an agreement to form a joint venture that will operate Waterbury (Conn.) Hospital.

The publicly traded system has inked a letter of intent to form a limited liability company with the Greater Waterbury Health Network, which owns the 192-bed hospital. Vanguard would own 80% of the joint venture.

Matthew Burgard, a spokesman for Waterbury Hospital, noted that the parties hope to have a definitive agreement in place within 45 days, and the deal would then progress through the certificate-of-need process.

He added that the deal would help Waterbury prepare for the challenges under healthcare reform, providing it for example with the tools to boost physician recruitment as well as a capital injection.

Trip Pilgrim, senior vice president and chief development officer at Vanguard, noted that the joint venture could take several months to close. He declined to disclose financial terms, but said that Vanguard will maintain Waterbury's leadership team.

Advertisement | [View Media Kit](#)

Under the deal, a 12-member board would run the joint venture and consist of six representatives from Waterbury and six from Vanguard, according to Burgard. Carl Contadini, who chairs the hospital's current board of directors, would serve as the first chairman of the new board for a three-year term, he noted.

The joint venture would also establish a community advisory board of six Waterbury physicians and six community members.

The deal would be Vanguard's first in Connecticut, but the system is already present in Massachusetts with MetroWest Medical Center, with hospitals in Framingham and Natick, and St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester.

"We like to grow regional platforms," Pilgrim said. "We believe in regional platforms."

Asked about other buys in the region, he added, "We're always looking to grow our footprint."

LHP Hospital Group, Plano, Texas, and St. Mary's Health System, Waterbury, last year **sought to include the Greater Waterbury Health Network** in their own joint venture, in which LHP would hold an 80% stake.

Burgard noted that the deal unraveled in late August after "we couldn't get to a solution on some of the key issues." The hospital had previously identified Vanguard as a preferred buyer, but Burgard said LHP had offered Waterbury the possibility of building a new hospital. That plan has now been tabled, he noted.

Related Articles

More in:

[UK firm to buy Texas-based Healthpoint for \\$782 million](#)

[Calif. system seeks to launch health plan](#)

[FICO acquires CR Software](#)

[More Acquisitions Articles](#)

This Week's Issue



November 26, 2012

- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Digital Edition](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

Healthcare ads need more facts, less fluff

Key players fight to manage insurance regs

Medical image-sharing networks to eliminate need for redundant scans

Largest healthcare unions

What sparked a hospital to design a centralized energy system to provide critical power?

Learn the story of **Rush University Medical Center**

Bristol Hospital

Bristol Hospital And Health Group, Inc., Signs Letter Of Intent With Vanguard Health Systems, Inc.

11/28/2012

BRISTOL, Conn.—Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group, Inc., announced today that it has signed a Letter of Intent to be acquired by Vanguard Health Systems, Inc., of Nashville, Tenn, (NYSE: VHS). Vanguard Health Systems is a nationally recognized and respected network of for-profit hospitals and a Fortune 500 company.

"This honors the long-standing heritage of Bristol Hospital and its mission to care for the patients and families in our communities," said Marie O'Brien, chairman of the Bristol Hospital Board of Directors. "By becoming part of a high-performance integrated care network with new financial resources, clinical excellence and innovative opportunities presented under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the board is assured that our commitment to care will continue for generations to come."

O'Brien added that Bristol Hospital is planning extensive renovations to its main campus as well as expanding its range of outpatient services. The transaction will allow the hospital to enhance its strong record of attracting and maintaining high-quality physicians.

The financial terms of the deal are not being disclosed but O'Brien said that the Board of Directors is very satisfied with the terms and conditions of the deal which are in the best interest of the hospital and the community. With the Letter of Intent in place, Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group and Vanguard Health Systems will work over the next 60 days on preparing a definitive purchasing agreement while preparing for the Certificate of Need process and approval from the state Office of Health Care Access and the Office of the Attorney General.

Founded in 1997, Vanguard Health Systems, Inc., is based in Nashville, Tenn. Vanguard owns and operates 28 acute-care and specialty hospitals in Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan and Texas. As of June 30, 2012, Vanguard had approximately 41,000 employees and generated \$5.95 billion of revenue for its fiscal year then ended.

As part of the agreement, the hospital's Board of Directors will establish a 10 member Board of Trustees which will be comprised of four physicians, five community leaders and Kurt Barwis, FACHE, president and CEO of Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group.

"I applaud the diligent work of the members of the Corporate Board of Directors and the Board Partnership Committee," Barwis said. "Vanguard Health Systems brings a depth of experience in navigating markets with changing payer influences which will be very beneficial in preparing for health care reform."

In addition to the Letter of Intent with Vanguard Health Systems, Bristol Hospital recently signed a new network member agreement with Yale-New Haven Health System. The agreement includes the coordination of joint clinical programs and the development of protocols used when patients are transferred to Yale-New Haven Hospital for tertiary and quaternary care. Other network services such as purchasing also are part of the agreement.

[Financial Assistance](#) | [Patient Bill of Rights](#) | [HIPAA Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | © 2012 Bristol Hospital, All Rights Reserved

Bristol Hospital 41 Brewster Road, Bristol CT 06010