

?WCMH in negotiations with Saint Vincent Hospital

Written by

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? At a public meeting on Thursday, November 20, the Washington County Memorial Hospital (WCMH) Board of Directors announced that an agreement has been reached with Saint Vincent Hospital (SVH) of Indianapolis to join the two entities in a, yet undetermined, relationship.

When asked to confirm the specific type of relationship that is being negotiated, WCMH Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Melissa Richardson, said that the negotiations are ongoing and that all possibilities are on the table.

A special, joint executive session of the WCMH Board of Directors, the Washington County Council, and the Washington County Board of Commissioners was called for Monday evening, November 24 for the purpose of "hospital board strategic planning" and "discuss(ing) recruitment of health care providers.

The recent agreement between WCMH and Purdue University's Healthcare Technical Assistance Program has been well documented in local newspapers. This most recent announcement about affiliation with SVH is yet another sign that the hospital board is making efforts to improve the quality of healthcare service to the residents of Washington County.

In January of 2005, WCMH severed ties with Jewish Hospital, citing need to be more independent. Since that time, financial/billing issues have surfaced numerous times and rumors have run rampant about the viability of the hospital's ability to meet its community and financial obligations.