

BUSINESS

Sharon Hospital joins Health Quest

SHARON » Sharon Hospital's patients can stay better connected with excellent healthcare services in their community now that the hospital has joined Health Quest, a family of hospitals and healthcare professionals based in the mid-Hudson Valley of New York.

"Joining Health Quest opens the doors to numerous resources that will develop a healthier community," said Peter Cordeau, president of Sharon Hospital. "Our patients will benefit from new pain management and enhanced cardiology services right off the bat and our neighbors will see their local healthcare system thrive."

Cordeau has been with Sharon Hospital since 2013 and has served as CEO since 2015. He will stay on as the president of the hospital and will be a member of Health Quest's executive team.

With approvals from the State of Connecticut, the change in ownership took place on Aug. 1. The 78-bed hospital was sold by Essent

Healthcare of Connecticut, an affiliate of Tennessee-based RCCH Healthcare Partners. Six Regional Healthcare Associates (RHA) medical practices, affiliates of Sharon Hospital, also joined Health Quest, bringing an additional 10 doctors into the system.

Adding Sharon Hospital and the RHA medical practices into the same system will allow for better coordination of care through expanded access to specialists and an integrated electronic medical record system said Robert Friedberg, president and CEO of Health Quest.

As part of Health Quest, Sharon Hospital will revert to nonprofit status, governed by a newly formed Board of Trustees. The board is tasked with reinvesting in the hospital to make program advancements and infrastructure improvements.

"Sharon's alignment with Health Quest is a tremendous win for our community," said Joel W. Jones, chairman of the Sharon Hospital Board of Trust-

ees. "When we invest in advanced services and expand the Health Quest network of specialists into the Sharon area, we are enhancing the health of our neighbors, family members and friends."

The Foundation for Community Health, the nonprofit based in Sharon that brought Health Quest and Sharon Hospital together, will play an important role in the transition of the hospital to nonprofit status. Health Quest will assist the Foundation for Community Health's grant-making abilities and mission to serve the community over the next 10 years. Health Quest includes Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY, Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel, NY, and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. Those hospitals are complemented by Health Quest Medical Practice, a physician group of more than 265 providers across the region, covering Dutchess, Ulster and Putnam counties.

For more information, visit www.healthquest.org/sharon.