Stony Brook University-Southampton Hospital Affiliation
Frequently Asked Questions

What is type of partnership is being proposed between Stony Brook University and Southampton Hospital?

Leadership at Stony Brook University, State University of New York, and Southampton Hospital have signed a non-binding letter of intent to strengthen an affiliation in which the 125-bed facility would join the Stony Brook Medicine healthcare system, as the two hospitals work more closely to improve healthcare quality and access, coordination of care and efficiency for their patients. In Phase II of the partnership, a new, replacement Southampton Hospital could potentially be built on SB Southampton Campus.

What is the current relationship between Stony Brook University Hospital and Southampton Hospital?

The two hospitals have a long history of a strong, cooperative working relationship. Stony Brook University Hospital and Southampton Hospital have been formally affiliated since 2008, as recommended by the Berger Commission Report issued by New York State Department of Health in 2006. The two hospitals work collaboratively to provide healthcare services to the South Fork of Long Island, with services that are highly complementary in nature.

What are the potential benefits of a closer collaboration?

The proposed collaboration would allow the two hospitals to work even more closely together to improve healthcare quality and access, coordinate care and improve efficiency for their patients through shared resources and managing the flow of patients between the two facilities. The affiliation would combine a financially sound community hospital with a high-quality tertiary state-owned academic medical center to improve healthcare delivery and education in the rapidly changing landscape of healthcare reform. It would help both hospitals move toward creating an “accountable care organization,” with a network of hospitals, community physicians, shared best practices and electronic medical records.

How would patients benefit from the closer affiliation?

Patients would benefit from this relationship because it helps the two hospitals match the level of care provided to the level of care needed. Patients would receive the best possible care in the facility best suited to the patient’s needs. The relationship also helps both facilities prepare for healthcare reform by cultivating a broader, stronger network of hospitals and healthcare providers to improve efficiency, control costs and better coordinate care across Suffolk County.

How would the proposed affiliation affect employees at the two hospitals?

As the planned relationship moves forward, Stony Brook and Southampton leadership will comply with collective bargaining agreements with the public unions at Stony Brook University Hospital and the
private sector unions at Southampton Hospital. Southampton employees would maintain their status as private sector employees.

Is Southampton Hospital profitable?

Yes. The hospital reported net revenues of $2.2 million in 2011 in its Annual Report to the community, as posted on its website at www.southamptonhospital.org.

How would the hospital operate under the proposed affiliation?

Under the terms of the letter of intent, Southampton Hospital would provide care under Stony Brook University Hospital’s New York State operating license.

What would happen in Phase II of the proposed affiliation?

The non-binding letter of intent stipulates that Southampton Hospital will raise philanthropic funds to help build a new state-of-the-art replacement Southampton Hospital on Stony Brook University’s Southampton campus – bringing with it the prospect of expanded educational opportunities to train the next generation of healthcare professionals, as well as a real potential for additional healthcare services, jobs and economic development for the east end of Long Island. The new hospital would replace the current 125-bed facility, located at 240 Meeting House Lane in Southampton, which opened in 1909.

What is the benefit of allowing a replacement hospital to be built on Stony Brook’s campus?

The facility would replace a hospital that is more than 100 years old and provide an improved geographic location for patient access to care. The new hospital would provide a valuable teaching and research environment for Stony Brook University students in the health sciences, contributing highly trained healthcare professionals to meet the East End’s needs as the population grows and ages. It would enable Stony Brook University to expand its education programs on the Southampton campus, helping fulfill its mission to train the next generation of healthcare providers across Long Island.

What are the next steps in the process?

The “non-binding letter of intent” demonstrates the good faith intentions of both parties to work together in negotiations to complete the transaction. The next step will be the “due diligence” phase, in which the institutions will exchange financial, business and legal information. A final agreement would also require the approval of various New York State regulatory and legislative authorities and the Southampton Hospital Board of Trustees.