

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2026

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Community Hospital and Montrose Regional Health Explore Possible Partnership to Strengthen Local Care

Proposed nonprofit collaboration would preserve independence and strengthen local ecosystem of care within western Colorado and eastern Utah

MONTROSE, Colo. (March 9, 2026) – Community Hospital and Montrose Regional Health (MRH) announced the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to explore creating a new tax-exempt, nonprofit entity designed to strengthen community-based health care across western Colorado and eastern Utah, while maintaining each hospital’s independence. Importantly, this marks the beginning of an exploratory process. No definitive agreement has been finalized.

“Community Hospital and MRH both share a deep commitment to our communities, treating our patients like we would our own families,” said Jeff Mengenhause, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. “We are excited about how this collaboration would strengthen this commitment, championing a competitive health care landscape while increasing access and affordability for providers, patients, and communities.”

The partnership would create opportunities for collaboration that would help both organizations remain strong and competitive in a rapidly changing health care environment. Under the proposed structure, the new organization would collaborate on nonclinical initiatives, such as information technology alignment, group purchasing, long-term planning, and revenue cycle optimization, to create economies of scale and improve overall care quality and efficiency. Both hospitals would remain independent, locally governed, tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations with their own boards, leadership, medical staff, employees, finances, and facilities.

“Community Hospital and MRH have proudly offered compassionate, high-quality health care services to our region for generations,” said Chris Thomas, President and CEO of Community Hospital. “The people we serve remain our top priority and are a key reason we are exploring this partnership. This potential collaboration would stimulate economic growth and strengthen health care opportunities for our community, improving quality and choice for patients and employees alike.”

Community Hospital and MRH anticipate reaching a definitive agreement later this fall, with the goal of finalizing the details by the end of this year. Both organizations are committed to a thoughtful and transparent process as conversations continue. For more information, please visit montrosehealth.com/partnership.

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[About Community Hospital](#)

Community Hospital is a full-service, acute care hospital licensed for 60 beds. As part of the Colorado West Healthcare System, Community Hospital is a Level III Trauma Center that offers full outpatient diagnostic services and inpatient care for the Western Slope region of Colorado and eastern Utah.

Community Hospital brings together expert staff and world-class technology in a healing, family-centered environment. Community Hospital is an independent, nonprofit health care organization, proudly offering health care services in the Grand Valley since 1946.

About Montrose Regional Health

Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) health care system serving Montrose and surrounding western Colorado counties. The system includes a 75-bed hospital with a Level III Trauma Center, along with an Ambulatory Care Center and Montrose Regional Medical Group outreach clinics. An award-winning health system and one of the region's largest employers, MRH includes more than 950 employees and approximately 190 providers representing over 30 medical specialties, delivering comprehensive, patient-centered care close to home.