



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Freeman Health System to Welcome Northwest Health System to its Care Network

JOPLIN, Mo. (March 5, 2026) – Freeman Health System today announced it has entered into a purchase agreement with a subsidiary of Community Health Systems, Inc. (NYSE:CYH) to acquire Northwest Health in Northwest Arkansas, including its four hospitals - Northwest Medical Center – Bentonville, Northwest Medical Center – Springdale, Northwest Medical Center – Willow Creek Women’s Hospital, and Siloam Springs Regional Hospital – along with associated outpatient centers and practices. The transaction, which is subject to customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions, is expected to be finalized in the second quarter this year, pending customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions.

“This is a meaningful moment for Freeman and the communities we serve,” said President and CEO of Freeman Health System Matthew Fry. “While this marks our first expansion into Arkansas, it is a natural extension of our longstanding regional presence. Northwest Health has a long history of caring for its communities, and we are honored to continue that legacy while bringing forward Freeman’s commitment to compassionate, community-focused care.”

Freeman Health System is a not-for-profit health system offering more than 80 specialties across more than 30 points of care. As the region’s largest local healthcare provider, Freeman is committed to delivering care in ways that prioritize long-term community well-being. Welcoming Northwest Health aligns with Freeman Health System’s *Freeman Forward* strategic plan to expand access, support caregivers, and invest in clinical excellence throughout the Four-State region.

There will be no disruption to patient care during the transition, and both organizations are working closely together to ensure a smooth, thoughtful process for employees, providers, and patients.

More information will be shared closer to the completion of the transaction. Updates will be shared online at www.freemanhealth.com/northwesthealth.

About Freeman Health System

Locally owned and nationally recognized, Freeman Health System includes Freeman Hospital West, Freeman Hospital East, Freeman Neosho Hospital and Ozark Center – the area’s largest provider of behavioral health services – as well as two urgent care clinics, dozens of physician clinics and a variety of specialty services. A not-for-profit health system, Freeman provides cancer care, heart and vascular care, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, children’s services, and women’s services and has more than 300 physicians on staff. Additionally, Freeman is the only Children’s Miracle Network Hospital in a 70-mile radius. For more information visit freemanhealth.com.

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