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Hospital, clinic explore merger

No formal action has been taken, but there is potential for a merger between Douglas County Hospital and Alexandria Clinic Vaagenes, "Our negotiations have been positive, productive and we are working from a common set of goals and values."

By: **Amy Chaffins**, Alexandria Echo Press

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According to Douglas County Hospital CEO Carl Vaagenes, "Our negotiations have been positive, producti goals and values."

In 2009, informal discussion of a merger initially started among Douglas County Hospital, Alexandria Clinic Center.

"Those earlier discussions eventually led to the integration of Heartland Orthopedic Specialists with Dougla Vaagenes noted.

Last May, Broadway Medical Center stepped away from the local merger concept and turned toward a part official in January.

In the meantime, Douglas County Hospital is still actively discussing the possible integration with Alexandri

Vaagenes said, "A locally owned, integrated system results in improved efficiency, the potential to eliminate integrated medical records between the clinic and hospital, and it creates a more seamless experience of c about the opportunity this merger brings to both keep care decisions local and improve the experience our

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