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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Interim CEO Outlines Vision for Hospital, Healthcare in Hornell

SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 – HORNELL, NY... St. James Mercy Hospital is quickly approaching a pivotal moment in its history, but "continues to provide quality, compassionate care" according to the hospital's Interim President and CEO Jennifer Sullivan. Sullivan articulated her vision for the hospital and for healthcare in Hornell at last night's Community Summit hosted by the City of Hornell and the Industrial Development Agency.

More than 75 community leaders, physicians and stakeholders attended the event, which featured a presentation by Sullivan entitled "A New Day, A New Vision, A New Look at Healthcare in Hornell."

"St. James Mercy Hospital is an economic engine driving local business development in Hornell," said Jim Griffin, Hornell IDA executive director. "With so many recent changes at the Hospital, we want our community's leaders to understand the vision for the future of local healthcare services in Hornell as well as how we as a community can support this vision."

"St. James Mercy Hospital is very much open for business, providing the same safe, quality, accessible, and cost-effective healthcare as we have for over 120 years," said Sullivan during her remarks.

Sullivan outlined the many challenges facing SJMH — low utilization, declining reimbursements, and challenges to attracting and retaining physicians, to name a few. The hospital, said Sullivan, is facing a pivotal moment where it must quickly realize a new vision for healthcare services.

This vision includes the selection of a larger, tertiary care partner, and a newly focused suite of services that directly addresses the needs of the community. In addition, the hospital will be requesting funding and regulatory assistance from state legislators.

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“The economics are such that we will need to move very quickly to realize our new vision,” said Sullivan. “And, more than anything, we will need to embrace change. Change is the only way our hospital will stay viable for the long-term. Change is essential to sustaining our ministry.

“I am confident we will continue our healing presence in the community, with the support of our dedicated partners in care, the talented medical staff and colleagues who embody our mission, and our loyal and supportive neighbors,” added Sullivan.

Mayor Shawn Hogan applauded the meeting, and thanked the community for the participation in the discussion about the future of healthcare in Hornell.

“St. James Mercy contributes more than \$106 million to the local economy through payroll, taxes, capital expenditures, and community benefit programs and services,” said Hogan. “But, more than that, the people of Hornell are fortunate to have quality healthcare services available close to home, and we encourage the community to support its continued presence.”

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