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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Receives Confirmation of \$6.4 Million in New York State Funding

HORNELL, NY (July 14, 2014) – St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) received confirmation it has been awarded the full \$6.4 million it applied for from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Interim Access Assurance Fund (IAAF). SJMH announced June 9 the initial payment of \$1.2 million was approved.

The temporary funding available through the IAAF program will enable “safety net” hospitals like SJMH to work toward transforming into sustainable operations, while maintaining critical services to their communities. A “safety net hospital” provides a significant level of care to low-income, uninsured, and vulnerable populations. St. James Mercy will use the IAAF funds to support its operations into early 2015, ensuring the continued, uninterrupted provision of services during its transformation to a new ambulatory model of care delivery.

“The approval by the state of our full request for \$6.4 million is great news,” said Jennifer Sullivan, president and CEO, St. James Mercy Hospital. “With this support, we continue to provide key healthcare services that are essential to our community.”

The IAAF program is the first phase of funding under the state’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. The DSRIP program was announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo on April 14. Organizations seeking funds under DSRIP are required to collaborate in order to achieve the program’s statewide goal of reducing avoidable hospital use by 25 percent by improving access to ambulatory care.

On April 30, SJMH announced its intent to work with Rochester-based UR Medicine on a plan to preserve quality healthcare services in Hornell. In May, UR Medicine informed the NYSDOH of its intent to participate in the DSRIP program, and SJMH is listed as a potential partner in that effort.

“Along with other healthcare providers in the region, UR Medicine and SJMH are exploring a system of integrated services delivery to ensure regional access to quality healthcare services,” said Sullivan. “Our strategy is contingent upon securing DSRIP funds to transition from traditional hospital-based care to an outpatient focused system,” she said.

“This is an exciting time of rapid change for SJMH,” said Sullivan. “We invite the public to attend our next Town Meeting on August 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hornell Golf Club to hear more about our progress and the future of health care in our region.”

Statewide, the New York State Department of Health awarded a total of \$462 million in IAAF awards to 22 safety net hospitals and five major public hospital systems in 2014. A complete list of IAAF awards can be found at www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/iaaf_awards.htm.

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