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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Receives Approval for New York State Funding

HORNELL, NY (June 9, 2014) – St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) announced it has requested \$6.4 million from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Interim Access Assurance Fund (IAAF). Authorization for the initial payment of \$1.2 million has been received. The funds will be used to support the operations of SJMH through early 2015, ensuring the continued, uninterrupted provision of local healthcare services while the organization transforms to a new ambulatory-focused model of care delivery.

“We are very pleased that our application has been approved,” said Jennifer Sullivan, President & CEO, St. James Mercy Hospital. “We have worked diligently in recent months with NYSDOH officials to preserve healthcare services in Hornell. This award of IAAF funding clearly demonstrates the commitment of the Department of Health to support rural healthcare delivery and the need to transform to a sustainable model of care.”

The IAAF funds are part of New York State’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo on April 14 to reinvest \$8 billion in federal savings generated by New York State’s Medicaid Redesign Team reforms. The IAAF funding awarded to SJMH comes from a \$500 million fund set aside under the DSRIP program to provide temporary, time-limited funding to ensure that critical healthcare needs are met in communities across the state.

“On April 30, 2014 we announced our intent to work with Rochester-based UR Medicine on a plan to preserve quality health care services in Hornell,” said Sullivan. “That strategy is contingent upon securing funds needed to transition from traditional hospital-based care to a more robust array of outpatient-focused services. This IAAF award is the first step in that funding. 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.”

The overall goal statewide is to reduce avoidable hospital use by 25 percent by improving access to ambulatory care.

Sullivan emphasized that discussions between SJMH and UR Medicine, while well underway, have yet to be finalized.

“SJMH is committed to collaborating with other healthcare providers in a system of integrated services delivery to ensure regional access to quality healthcare services while demonstrating financial viability,” said Sullivan. “As we did at the most recent Town Meeting, held on May 21, we will continue to keep the community apprised of our progress, and appreciate the community’s ongoing support for St. James Mercy.”

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