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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Creates Task Force to Develop the Future of Healthcare in Hornell

February 7, 2014...Hornell, NY....In support of the “New Vision” for healthcare in Hornell, St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMh) has created a community-based task force that will develop a business plan for sustainable healthcare in Hornell. The Task Force has pledged to complete the plan within 90 days.

Led by SJMH interim CEO Jennifer Sullivan, the “New Vision Task Force” is composed of physicians, rural and tertiary healthcare experts, hospital administration, financial professionals, and community leaders. Members include Shawn Hogan, Mayor; Dr. Bruce MacKellar; Dr. Spencer Annabel; Dr. Ismail Mehr; Mark Darrow, managing director, Alstom; Dhruv Sharma, president, TTA; Stewart Putnam, special assistant to the CEO, Unity Health System; and Stan Konopko, SJMH interim CFO.

“With the formation of the New Vision Task Force, we have assembled a team with expertise in rural healthcare, tertiary healthcare, and finance that understands what will be needed to sustain high-quality healthcare in Hornell, along with physician leaders and community stakeholders, who understand the needs of the community,” said Jennifer Sullivan.

The Task Force assembled initially on January 8 and is meeting weekly to develop the business plan for sustainable healthcare. The plan will guide the transition from St. James Mercy as we know it to the new healthcare presence in Hornell, outlining the services the community needs most and the role of a tertiary care partner in making the New Vision a reality.

“We know we cannot continue the depth and range of services St. James Mercy currently provides, and we can expect healthcare will look quite different than it does today,” said Sullivan. “We must redefine the way we deliver care in Hornell. Our challenge is great, so the vision must be significant and supported by new, innovative thinking. That’s the charge of the Task Force.”

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SJMH has provided compassionate care to the Hornell community for more than 120 years, with emphasis on the poor and underserved. New initiatives, such as the Center for Orthopedic Care in partnership with Rochester General Hospital, are reflective of the New Vision and are bringing greater access to specialized and high-quality care to local residents.

“The Task Force is committed to creating a new vision that meets the healthcare needs of the community today, tomorrow, and well into the future,” said Sullivan. “We have a solid track record of quality, compassionate care, thanks to our dedicated employees, medical staff and volunteers. They are truly what make St. James Mercy Hospital a great organization, one that we all can be proud of.”

Sullivan will present the New Vision and field questions at a public Town Meeting on for February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hornell High School Auditorium. “We welcome community members and anyone interested in learning about our process and the future of local healthcare to attend the Town Meeting,” said Sullivan. More information on the event is available at www.StJamesMercy.org.

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Seated left to right: Stan Konopko, Bruce MacKellar, Shawn Hogan
Standing left to right: Ismail Mehr, Spencer Annabel, Jennifer Sullivan, Mark Darrow and Dhruv Sharma.
Insert: Stewart Putnam