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Contact:
Kate Kreger, Director of Business Development and Marketing
St. James Mercy Hospital
411 Canisteo Street
Hornell, NY 14843 Ph: 607-324-8233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Begins Final Phase of Behavioral Health Renovation and Relocation Project

August 24, 2011...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital announced that it will begin the final construction phase to relocate and renovate its inpatient adult psychiatric unit. Construction will commence in early September and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The project originated out of the need to provide better care to patients, as part of St. James Mercy's mission to provide quality, accessible healthcare services to all in the community.

According to Trish Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer, "Our goal is to create contemporary space to unify St. James Mercy's adult inpatient psychiatric services and improve the care experience for patients and their families. As the only inpatient mental health provider in three counties, it was essential that we initiate this project to expand regional access to psychiatric services." The project will enhance services by:

- Providing a unified care environment with sleeping and quiet room quarters and day treatment area located on the same floor
- Creating unified clinical space that supports the management of psychiatric patients with co-existing medical problems
- Providing two new "comfort rooms" for patient care

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- Utilizing the new structural recommendations to enhance the safety of patients and staff
- Enhancing family and patient visitation space in a private area with a relaxing atmosphere
- Improving the overall patient and family experience

Initial work on the project began in 2010. Upon approval of a Certificate of Need by the New York State Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health, pre-construction upgrades were completed. The construction bid process followed, and the Pike Company (Rochester, NY) was selected as the general contractor.

“We are excited to be in the final stretch of this major care improvement initiative,” said Ms. Uldrich. “We thank our patients, staff and visitors in advance for their understanding and patience during this last phase of construction. Although there will be some noise and inconvenience, we will be sensitive to the needs of patients and their families.”

St. James Mercy Hospital offers the area’s most comprehensive array of adult and adolescent behavioral health and addiction treatment services. For more information visit www.StJamesMercy.org/behavioral-medicine.

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