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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Confirms Planned Closure for Inpatient Adult and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services

December 3, 2013…Hornell, NY…St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) applied for closure of its inpatient psychiatric units in June 2013, and is moving forward with an anticipated closure date of December 19, 2013. Final approvals from the New York State Office of Mental Health and Department of Health are in process, and SJMH is working with the state to attain final approval for closure.

Individuals who have a psychiatric emergency are advised to go to the nearest emergency department. SJMH has agreements with four hospitals that are authorized to evaluate psychiatric complaints, to transfer and evaluate patients who present to the SJMH emergency department. The hospitals include WCA Hospital (Jamestown), Wyoming County Community Hospital (Warsaw), Olean General Hospital, and St. Joseph's/Arnot (Elmira).

SJMH has informed the Office of Mental Health of its tentative plan to discontinue admitting psychiatric patients as of December 5, 2013. Local EMS and law enforcement services have been informed of the plan, and SJMH emergency department staff will be trained to assist individuals who need to be transferred for evaluation.

During the closure process SJMH has consulted and worked closely with Office of Mental Health, Steuben County Mental Health, and other agencies, and will continue to assist patients in accessing inpatient and outpatient mental health services.

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