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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Announces Staffing Adjustments

July 18, 2011...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital announced that it will implement staffing adjustments effective July 18, 2011.

"We deeply regret having to make this difficult decision," said Mary LaRowe, President and CEO of St. James Mercy Health System. "St. James Mercy has experienced a decline in patient volumes attributed to high unemployment in the area and is facing a significant decline in state and federal funding," she said. "We are committed to assisting the transition for those employees affected by the adjustments".

The staffing adjustments will include the elimination of positions, restructure of departments, and reduction in hours. "Employees who are directly affected have been notified, and will be provided support and options for their consideration," said Ms. LaRowe. Employees were informed of the adjustments on July 18.

St. James Mercy Hospital recently announced an affiliation agreement with Guthrie Healthcare System in Sayre, PA. "The need for staffing adjustments were identified prior to our agreement with Guthrie and are unrelated to our new relationship," said Ms. LaRowe. "The primary intent of our affiliation with Guthrie is to strengthen St. James Mercy's financial position by expanding access to quality care in our area, including recruitment of physicians and specialists to fill high-demand needs. We anticipate that our relationship will result in a strengthened financial position for St. James Mercy Hospital."

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