



*A Member of
Catholic Health East,
Sponsored by the
Sisters of Mercy*

Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Plans to Close Aquinas Psychiatric Day Treatment Program

January 5, 2012...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) has initiated the process to close the Aquinas Psychiatric Day Treatment (PDT) program, located at 373 Canisteo St., Hornell. The closure, expected to occur during the first quarter of 2012, requires approval from the New York State Office of Mental Health and New York State Department of Health. Both agencies have received applications for closure.

According to Mary LaRowe, St. James Mercy Health System President and CEO, "Closure of this program was a very difficult decision for Hospital leadership and the Board of Directors. Due to the ongoing challenges of the economy, declining client volumes, decreased Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and new regulatory requirements for the program, St. James Mercy Hospital can no longer continue to subsidize this service, and must direct limited resources to other services."

As the program ceases operation, SJMH staff will assist clients in transitioning to a new provider. According to Patricia Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer, "In order to ensure continuation of care and services during the Aquinas program closure, SJMH will assist clients in identifying outpatient psychiatric service providers, and will work with community providers to develop individually focused plans of care for all clients. Steuben County Mental Health Office, in Bath, NY, is actively participating with SJMH staff in transition planning and has the capacity to service a majority of our Aquinas clients."

"We are grateful to have served the community through this program," said Ms. LaRowe. "We are especially thankful for the high quality, compassionate care our mental health staff members have provided to clients over the years in support of our mission. We are committed to assisting the transition for those employees who are affected by the closure, providing support and options for their consideration," she said.

SJMH remains committed to serving the community's most vulnerable and will continue renovations and program enhancements to behavioral health services and core businesses.

###