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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Prepared to Begin Behavioral Health Renovation and Relocation Project

March 1, 2011...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital announced that will begin construction and renovations to space on its 3 West unit to accommodate relocation of the inpatient Adult Psychiatric Unit.

This project commenced with the submission of a Certificate of Need to the New York State Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health for their review and approval. The three-phased construction project began with the relocation of certain functions to other areas of the hospital in preparation to start the project once the requisite approvals were obtained.

The next phase will involve upgrading and replacing plumbing and the ceilings in the current 2 West inpatient unit, and is expected to be completed over the next two to three months. Portions of the 2 West wing will be temporarily closed and access restricted in order to ensure patient, staff and visitor safety. During this time, patients will continue to be admitted and cared for on 2 West and visitors will be allowed access as well.

"We are excited about the progress we are making with this important project," said Trish Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer. "Once this phase is complete, we will begin the 3 West construction phase. This project will consolidate all adult inpatient psychiatric care, creating new, contemporary space to unify these much-needed services."

Ms. Uldrich stated that the project will enhance inpatient adult psychiatric services in several ways:

- Provide a unified environment for adult inpatient care, by moving the sleeping and quiet room quarters to the same floor as the day treatment area.
- Provide two new comfort rooms for patient management.

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- Maximize staff efficiency by providing all services on one floor.
- Create contemporary clinical space that supports the management of psychiatric patients with co-existing medical problems on the unified unit.
- Allow St. James Mercy to completely update the behavioral health unit utilizing the new structural recommendations identified in NY State guidelines; these will enhance safety and the well being of patients and staff on the unit.
- Enhance family and patient visitation space in a private area with a relaxing atmosphere.
- Improve the overall patient care experience.

3 West construction is expected to begin in mid-2011. “We thank our patients, staff and visitors for their patience and support as we complete this project to improve patient care, enhance access to psychiatric services, and better serve our community,” said Ms. Uldrich.

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