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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO RAZE JEANNETTE HOSPITAL;
CITY OPEN TO LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PRIME REAL ESTATE**

GREENSBURG, PA, February 10, 2014 ... Excelsa Health plans to demolish the former Jeannette Hospital this spring clearing the property in the City of Jeannette for future sale and redevelopment. The building, located at 600 Jefferson Avenue, has been vacant since 2011 when the health system transitioned the remaining outpatient services from the campus to Excelsa Square at Norwin as part of a 72,000-square foot expansion by the health system of its North Huntingdon Township outpatient facility.

“Because we know the community helped to build the hospital, we have been diligently searching for a new use for the complex for more than two years. But we’ve had no success,” said Excelsa Health CEO Robert Rogalski. “When Excelsa Health ceased operations in the building we pledged to the City of Jeannette that we would not allow the unoccupied structure to become a blight on the neighborhood from dis-use. We don’t want to allow any more time to pass without taking action. Given the feedback from prospective tenants and buyers, we are certain the land alone will have greater value to a developer given the projected costs to retrofit an aging structure.”

Jeannette Hospital nearly closed in 2007, when UPMC acquired Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, but not Jeannette Hospital. Following discussions involving the boards and leadership of Catholic Health East and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Excelsa purchased Jeannette Hospital later that year. At that time, the facility became a campus of nearby Excelsa

Westmoreland Hospital. In 2010, Excela ended inpatient admissions at the facility as acute care became fully integrated at Westmoreland, but many former Jeannette Hospital employees continue to work for Excela today.

- Excela hired 70% of Jeannette Hospital employees, a total of 441 people in 2007.
- 14 are in leadership roles in marketing, human resources, rehabilitation, laboratory and support services, among others.
- Excela currently employs 212 people who live in the City of Jeannette.
- Excela Health continues to maintain a medical office building and parking garage at the site.

The new mayor of Jeannette, Richard Jacobelli, welcomed the announcement. “I fully understand the reasons for this decision and know it was made with careful deliberation,” Mayor Jacobelli said. “Excela Health is a good corporate citizen, and is honoring the commitment to the City to act prudently regarding the upkeep of a building in need of substantial investment to remain viable. We are grateful that Excela recognizes its responsibility, not only to the City of Jeannette, but to the residents of Westmoreland County to use finite resources wisely.”

Jeannette’s Community Development Plan calls for the property to be utilized, ideally a for-profit assisted living community that could provide a much-needed service to the community while also contributing to the city’s tax base.

“Excela Health shares the City’s desire to identify a new use for the property,” added Rogalski. “We will continue to work with city leaders to explore options that not only meet the long-term health care needs of the community but contribute to the City’s financial health, as well.”

During the time Excela Health sought to repurpose the building, more than a dozen inquiries were fielded. Among them interest from an independent film company, telemarketing call center, human services agencies and assorted small businesses. Each found the costs of upgrading the infrastructure prohibitive.