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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH, UNITED WAY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY RELEASE
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

GREENSBURG, PA, June 28, 2013 ... Excelsa Health and United Way of Westmoreland County are proud to announce the publication of their collaborative 2012-2013 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report. This report summarizes a comprehensive review and analysis of health status indicators, public health, socioeconomic, demographic and other qualitative and quantitative data from Westmoreland County, PA. The data review and analysis determined the top priority needs and issues facing the community.

Over the past year, both organizations, along with a diverse steering committee of professionals representing all aspects of the community facilitated a comprehensive process, designed to ensure that the needs and interests of the broad community, as well as specific groups and underrepresented populations were considered through the assessment. The process included a review of more than 50 public health indicators and other data, 12 interviews with community stakeholders representing specific need and interest areas, 20 focus groups involving 400 participants and a community survey completed by an additional 400 county residents.

“This comprehensive look at our community is critical to determining how best to meet the health needs of those who call Westmoreland County home,” said Robert Rogalski, Chief Executive Officer, Excelsa Health. “Committed to putting patients first, Excelsa has a leading role in shaping the response to those needs to ensure the vitality of our community. I am gratified that so many participated in the assessment process and look forward to working with our community partners to achieve lasting results.”

The needs assessment process reviewed a total of 30 distinct issues, potential needs and possible priority areas for intervention. The steering committee prioritized and discussed the needs and identified the top concerns as obesity, physical activity, diabetes, hypertension/heart disease, elderly access to care and mental health/substance abuse. The implementation strategies selected by the partners address these needs in a variety of ways.

Bobbi Watt Geer, President and CEO of United Way of Westmoreland County, noted, "Our partnership with Excela Health to complete the 2013 Community Needs Assessment is another example of how United Way works in the community to focus on shared issues, such as assessing the needs. The results we obtain from this needs assessment play an important part in providing our volunteers and partners with the information they need to ensure funds raised go to critical needs in our community. The primary focus issues of Education, Financial Stability and Health Access will continue to guide our prioritization."

Ron Ott, Excela Health's Senior Vice President for Community and Government Relations, expressed appreciation to the United Way of Westmoreland County and the steering committee members and community representatives for their "valuable input throughout this process. The recent decision of the American Medical Association (AMA) to officially recognize obesity as a disease comes at an opportune time. Having selected obesity as a top priority in our county, the AMA's determination will bolster our efforts to raise awareness and hopefully encourage more coverage for treatment options. Excela Health is committed to partnering with primary care, regional employers, schools and community organizations to improve the health and well-being of the communities that we are very proud to serve."

Beyond the education, patient care and program interventions provided by Excela Health and United Way of Westmoreland County, the information presented in the needs assessment should encourage additional activities and collaborative efforts that can improve the health status of the community.

To review the Community Health Needs Assessment, visit www.excelahealth.org, www.unitedway4u.org, or contact Community Relations, Excela Health, 724-689-0201.

