



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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EMHS and Mercy Sign Letter of Intent

BREWER and PORTLAND, ME - (December 7, 2012) – Mercy Health System of Maine and EMHS (Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems) have entered into a joint, nonbinding letter of intent, which sets the stage for Mercy’s integration into EMHS. This process paves the way for Mercy to become a member of a health delivery system that covers half of Maine’s population and offers a comprehensive continuum of care.

Both parties will perform due diligence to ensure there is a good fit between the organizations, with the goals of reaching a definitive agreement and achieving a smooth integration. The process of seeking regulatory and canonical approval for this proposed transaction will begin immediately. Patient choice would remain in force for patients in the greater Portland region and Mercy would retain its Catholic identity, legacy and non-profit status.

Mercy and EMHS will keep our communities and stakeholders informed as these discussions reach significant milestones.

About EMHS

The mission of EMHS is to maintain and improve the health and well-being of the people of Maine through a well-organized network of local healthcare providers who together offer high quality, cost-effective services to their communities. EMHS, headquartered in Brewer, Maine, is a not-for-profit health delivery system, with a strong imprint in central, eastern, and northern Maine. EMHS employs more than 8000 people, including more than 500 physicians. The system includes seven hospitals, five emergency transport units, including half of the joint venture that is LifeFlight of Maine, and nine nursing homes and retirement communities. For more information on EMHS go to www.emhs.org.

About Mercy Health System of Maine

Mercy Health System of Maine includes Mercy Hospital, Gary’s House, McAuley Residence, Mercy Recovery Center, and VNA Home Health & Hospice. Mercy Health System provides a broad range of medical and surgical services, as well as primary and specialty care. It is a continuum of care provider for patients in southern Maine.

A not-for-profit organization, Mercy is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Northeast Community. Mercy is a member of Catholic Health East, a multi-institutional Catholic health system serving communities in 11 eastern states from Maine to Florida. More information on Mercy is available at www.mercyhospital.org.