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***St. Charles Hospital: Another 100 Years
Alternate Plan to Berger Recommendations Accepted by DOH***

(Port Jefferson, NY) – Fourteen months after the Berger Commission recommendations were released; St. Charles Hospital received official notification from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) that their alternate plan, submitted in June 2007, is in full compliance with the recommendations and has been accepted by the DOH. This means that the hospital's Emergency Room will remain open and the medical/surgical program will remain intact. In addition, St. Charles will receive \$3 million dollars in HEAL grant monies to implement its plan.

The Berger Commission, as appointed by then Governor Pataki, was charged with performing a statewide review of the New York health care system with the intent of restructuring and reducing beds. In November, 2006, the Commission released its recommendations for hospitals across the State. The initial recommendations for St. Charles stated that the Emergency Room should close, there would be an exchange of 37 medical/surgical beds for 37 of Mather's behavioral health beds and 77 medical/surgical beds would be removed from St. Charles' operating license. In June 2007, the 37 bed swap between Mather and St. Charles Hospitals was overturned when the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) informed the DOH that they could not support the recommendation.

St. Charles Hospital's alternate plan proposed downsizing the total number of beds in the hospital by converting semi-private rooms into private rooms and eliminating beds that are not currently utilized. The plan also allows for the continuation of the hospital's Emergency Room, where more than 25,000 patients are seen annually, and leaves its substantial medical/surgical service, including inpatient surgeries, intact.

Jim O'Connor, Executive Vice President, St. Charles, stated, "We are thrilled at the outcome of the Berger Commission recommendations. From the beginning, our intent was to work with the DOH in order to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution that would meet the objectives of the Berger Commission. St. Charles will continue to provide the services that insure the ongoing health and well-being of the residents in the communities we serve. This includes our centers of excellence in orthopedics, rehabilitation and maternity as well as our busy Emergency Room. I am deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, our legislators, the medical staff, our employees and the entire community for their support and grassroots effort on behalf of St. Charles."

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St. Charles Hospital is a 301-bed, not-for-profit hospital located in Port Jefferson, New York. The hospital's centers of excellence include orthopedics, obstetrics and rehabilitation. In addition to these core areas, St. Charles offers services in pediatrics, including Long Island's only pediatric inpatient traumatic brain injury program, neonatology, radiology, palliative care, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, diabetes, community re-entry, general medical and surgical services, video-EEG monitoring and a nationally certified Sleep Disorders Center. St. Charles Hospital is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.