FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 22, 2014

**GENESEE HEALTH SYSTEM PART OF STATEWIDE GRANT TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID**

Genesee County, Michigan – The Michigan Department of Community Health recently awarded a grant of $468,000 to eight counties and one city to provide Mental Health First Aid Training to their communities. The counties are Genesee, Saginaw, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Kent, Kalamazoo and Muskegon and the city of Battle Creek. Genesee Health System will receive $54,530 from the full grant.

“Genesee Health System has been offering Mental Health First Aid training to the residents of Genesee County since 2009 and we’ve trained over 500 people so far,” says Danis Russell, CEO of Genesee Health System. “This grant will allow us to focus on training many more members of our community.”

Mental Health First Aid was developed to model the physical first aid and CPR training, where individuals learn and then practice. Individuals learn risk factors and warning signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse, build understanding, and look at common supports. They also learn what to do until professional help arrives. There are two different trainings offered. One focuses on how to work with adults, another with youth. Each training is 8 hours.

GHS will be offering free trainings at their location at 420 W. 5th Avenue. They will also go to organizations to train groups of 20-25 individuals. To register or for more information, contact GHS’ Training Department at 810-762-5280 or Training@genhs.org.

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Genesee Health System provides services and supports to Genesee County residents who are adults and children with developmental disabilities, adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, and adults and children with substance use disorders. Our focus is on the health of the whole person. For more information, call Customer Services at (810) 257-3705.

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