

**For Immediate Release**

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## **HCC Executive Director Accepted into Community Health Center Executive Fellowship Program**

(November 13, 2012 Lexington, MO) – The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri, deemed by some as the premier rural health network in the country, has grown leaps and bounds over a short span. Couple this growth with a fledgling economy and it’s hard to imagine how a two-person, Lexington, MO-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit with an annual budget of about \$150,000 morphed into a network that has tripled in size and grown its annual budget to roughly \$1.5 million—in five years.

But if you ask HCC’s Board of Directors how this could be done as cash-strapped businesses cut corners to stay afloat and foundations meticulously decide who and what they will fund, they’ll tell you that it is because of HCC’s leadership.

“Toniann Richard is one of the best young minds in health care today,” said Pathways Community Health CEO Mel Fetter. “She has taken HCC regionally, in the spirit of collaboration, and created partnerships with health care providers. She has gained significant public and financial support for these efforts, efforts that are positioning rural Missouri far into the future when it comes to health care.”

Richard is now looking to take her leadership role to a whole new level with acceptance into the Community Health Center Fellowship. The program, led by the University of Kansas Medical Center, includes collaborations with The Greater Midwest Association of Primary Health Care and the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved. Collectively, these organizations have developed a rigorous educational program for professionals serving as senior managers and executive directors of community health centers.

“My goal is to create a dynamic health care network that leverages technology to improve health outcomes of rural residents,” Richard said. “It’s also important for HCC and its Network Partners to create, support and/or expand on delivery models of care for the underserved. From a leadership standpoint, I believe this Fellowship will help support these goals.”

When asked what her success is attributed to as HCC’s executive director, Richard is quick to tell you that the Board and staff’s dedication to the mission is the driving force. She’ll also tell you that bringing people together who are passionate about delivering high quality health care is also a key factor.

“When you bring people together who are passionate about health care and equally passionate about looking out for the underserved, you can move the needle,” Richard said. “That is what the HCC Network has done. We come together, lay out plans and follow-through. Collaboration is our strength.”

The Fellowship comes at a time when HCC is embarking on yet another collaborative move—applying for Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) “look-alike” status for two Lafayette Regional Health Center (LRHC) managed clinics in Waverly, MO and Concordia, MO. If approved, a designation award will come down in early 2013. The move comes after HCC Network Partners LRHC, Pathways Community Health and I-70 Medical Center combined efforts to increase access to quality care, and

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establish health home models in Lafayette County. Both Waverly and Concordia clinics will provide primary care, oral and behavioral health services for insured, uninsured, and Medicaid and Medicare patients.

If the FQHC application is approved, these clinics will be owned and operated by HCC.

“Good leaders are rare,” said LRHC CEO Bret Kolman. “Toniann has that rare, natural leadership quality that brings diverse groups together to accomplish great things. We are fortunate to have her leading the Health Care Collaborative.”

For more information, contact Toniann Richard at 660.259.2440. To learn more about HCC, visit [HCCNetwork.org](http://HCCNetwork.org).

### **About the HCC**

The Health Care Coalition of Lafayette County partners with area agencies, businesses and other non-profits to advocate for the health and well being of rural Missourians.

Among HCC's current programs are:

- **Health information technology** initiatives to equip health care providers with the resources needed to offer telemedicine and telehealth services that increase patient access to quality health care;
- **Telehealth Outreach Diabetes and Depression (TODD)** program designed to use both traditional health care and telemedicine to create healthy outcomes for individuals suffering with diabetes and/or depression;
- **Social Innovation for Missouri (SIM)** that addresses tobacco cessation and obesity prevention; among other programs; and
- **Rural Missouri Health Co-op**—with a workplace wellness component—aimed at creating a healthier workforce and reducing insurance premiums.

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