



For Immediate Release

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HCC Receives FQHC Designation for Waverly and Concordia Clinics

(Lexington, MO – November 21, 2013) It's been a long haul, but it's official. The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri has been awarded a New Access Point grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As a result, Live Well Community Health Center – Waverly (retroactive November 1, 2013), and Live Well Community Health Center – Concordia will operate as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

FQHCs include all organizations that receive grants under 330 of the Public Health Services (PHS) Act. These entities qualify for enhanced reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as level funding from the federal government. HCC will receive \$775,850 in year one, and \$650,000 in level funding for subsequent years to help support both clinics.

FQHCs must cater to underserved populations or areas, offer a sliding-fee scale, provide comprehensive services, execute an ongoing quality assurance program and have a governing board of directors.

The Waverly clinic is currently owned and operated by HCC. Transfer of ownership of the Concordia clinic from Lafayette Regional Health Center to HCC is underway. The Concordia clinic will begin operations as an FQHC on March 1, 2014.

"It's difficult to put into words what this means to us and ultimately, to the communities that we serve," said HCC Executive Director Toniann Richard. "Many hours have been invested by many people to make this dream become reality. I would like to thank our funders, the HCC board of directors, our staff and consultants for their support and commitment. We've had so many people go above and beyond the call of duty to lend their support and expertise. A heartfelt, 'thank you,' also goes out to our network partners, including: Lafayette Regional Health Center, Pathways Community Health, I-70 Community Hospital, Carroll County Memorial Hospital, Fitzgibbon Hospital and Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center. Their friendship and collaboration through the years has been a huge part of our success as a rural health care network."

HCC's FQHC designation is timely. For a while now, the organization has been making moves to create a model for a patient-centered medical home in Waverly, as well as assist individuals with purchasing insurance through the health insurance marketplace. As for those who don't qualify for the marketplace, and who don't qualify for Medicaid, the new designation will provide the clinics with additional resources to serve those who might otherwise get left behind.

“This designation provides more resources to help those who might otherwise have nowhere to go for primary care services and no means to pay for it,” Richard said. “In our line of work, we often identify with the motto, ‘Leave no man behind.’ Our goal is to simply provide quality health care—regardless of a person’s ability to pay. No one should have to suffer or compromise quality of life because they can’t afford health insurance.”

Richard congratulated Pathways Community Health Center which also received a \$635,250 New Access Point grant. In all, HHS awarded \$6.4 million in New Access Point grants to Missouri health centers as a provision of the Affordable Care Act.

About the HCC

The Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri collaborates with area agencies, businesses and other non-profits to advocate for the health and well-being of West Central Missouri. Funding support comes from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, REACH Healthcare Inc., and Missouri Foundation for Health.

Among HCC’s current programs and services are:

- Health information technology initiatives to support telemedicine and telehealth services designed to increase patient access to quality health care;
- Social Innovation for Missouri (SIM) that addresses obesity prevention and access to healthy fruits and vegetables;
- Telehealth Outreach Diabetes and Depression Program (TODD), designed to improve the health status of individuals with diabetes and/or depression;
- Student nursing programs through a collaboration with Area Health Education Centers (AHEC);
- ACA Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment assistance
- Rural Health Initiative, funded by REACH, to increase access to quality health care
- Primary care, oral health care and behavioral health care services

For more information, contact Toniann Richard at 660.259.2440, visit HCCNetwork.org and follow HCC on Facebook and Twitter.

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