



For Immediate Release

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HCC Launches Telehealth Outreach Diabetes and Depression Program

(October 23, 2012 Lexington, MO) – With one in 10 people diagnosed with depression and more than 25 million adults battling diabetes, the health care community is looking for ways to get ahead of these diseases.

The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri has launched a Telehealth Outreach Diabetes and Depression program for individuals with diabetes, depression or both.

“Telehealth allows us to use a variety of techniques to reach out to those dealing with diabetes and/or depression,” said HCC Executive Director Toniann Richard. “The technology allows us access to programs across West Central Missouri that focus on these conditions. We can then ‘televis’ these initiatives for individuals participating in the program so that they can join in via TV, while staying close to home.”

The telehealth program is offered at no out-of-pocket costs to participants. Adults 18-years-of-age and older may participate, including those who are insured, uninsured or on Medicare or Medicaid.

“Our objective is to eliminate common barriers to access to care,” Richard said. HCC, based in Lexington, MO, will reimburse health care providers for the cost of the program.

Health care facilities participating in the program include:

- Carroll County Memorial Hospital and Clinics
- I-70 Community Hospital and Clinics
- Lafayette Regional Health Center and Clinics
- Pathways Community Health

Diabetes and depression are often co-occurring diseases, as diabetics are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression as the general population, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Although there are no out-of-pocket fees, participants will be asked to take periodic assessments to measure the effectiveness of the program, which continues for 36 months.

The program aligns with a push for health care providers to provide a “health home” model for their patients. For instance, Pathways has integrated a coordinated system of care to provide whole health services.

Partnerships with I-70 Hospital, Lafayette Regional and Carroll County, among others, enable patients' mental and physical conditions to be addressed.

"The telehealth program is one more way we are working together to solve health problems in the area," said Pathways CEO Mel Fetter. "Through this collaboration, we are able to provide care for individuals—both mentally and physically—who may not have the means to seek care otherwise."

Participants will receive both telehealth and face-to-face doctor's visits. For information or to enroll, contact the HCC at [660.259.2440](tel:660.259.2440), www.hccnetwork.org/todd.

The three-year program is funded by a \$450,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

For more information, contact Toniann Richard at [660.259.2440](tel:660.259.2440), or visit HCCNetwork.org.

About the HCC

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