

**For Immediate Release**    **Contact: Toniann Richard**  
**Office: 660.259.2440 Cell: 816.807.7774**  
**Toniann@HCCNetwork.org**



## **HCC of Rural Missouri Appoints Community Health Manager**

**(March 23, 2012) Lexington, MO** – The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri is leading the charge when it comes to obesity prevention, sidewalks, connectivity routes, and tobacco prevention and control. In its second year of funding through a Social Innovation for Missouri (SIM) grant, the HCC and its collaborating partners have rolled out a variety of programs to enable area residents to live healthier. SIM partners include Lafayette County Health Department, University Extension and school districts in Lafayette County.

To support these efforts, HCC recently appointed Tom Corporon as its Community Health Manager. In this capacity, he leads and manages SIM programs and collaborating partners, collects data, cultivates relationships with local, state and federal stakeholders, and ensures programmatic goals and outcomes are met among many other duties.

“Social Innovation for Missouri is a dynamic program that tackles pervasive risk factors like obesity, sedentary lifestyles and tobacco use that increase disease and mortality rates,” said Toniann Richard, HCC’s executive director. “Having a community health manager that focuses on program efficacy is crucial to our success as a collaborative partnership. Tom, who has been a staple in the community and brings a variety of experience to the table, is a perfect fit for this position.”

“In this new role, I am working with people that I have known for years and building new relationships with people I have met as a result of my work with the HCC,” Corporon said. “It’s evident that everyone is extremely dedicated to one common goal—creating healthier lifestyles in Lafayette County.”

Corporon, born and raised in Pittsburg, Kansas, earned his Bachelor’s degree in education at KU in 1976. He taught English and Speech at Louisburg High School before earning a Master’s degree in counseling in 1981 at Pittsburg State. While in school he and his wife Melanie worked as house parents at a youth crisis shelter in Parsons, Kansas.

After serving as a counselor for six years at Eureka Springs High School in Arkansas, Corporon began working as a counselor at Lex-La-Ray in 1988, ultimately becoming the Center’s director three years prior to his retirement in June 2011.

In addition to spending 31 years in education, his new post at HCC, Corporon is also pursuing credentials as a licensed professional counselor (LPC) with The Center for Counseling and Training.

He and his wife Melanie have two adult sons, Nicholaus who works as an Assistant Casting Director at Pilgrim Productions in Los Angeles, and Jason who works as a customer service supervisor for CVS/Caremark in Lee’s Summit.

## About the HCC

The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri (formerly called Health Care Coalition of Lafayette County) is an active rural health care network focused on enhancing health and wellness in West Central Missouri.

Founded in 2005, HCC consists of six other rural organizations: Lafayette Regional Health Center, Pathways Community Health, Care Connection for Aging Services, Lexington 4Life Center, Lafayette County Health Department, and Rodgers-Lafayette Dental and Health Center (an FQHC).

Since 2005, HCC has created collaborative partnerships that span Lafayette, Ray, Saline, Marshall, Johnson, and Carroll counties in Missouri.

The Lexington-based, 501 (c) (3) non-profit's mission is to advocate for the health and well-being of those who live and who work in West Central Missouri. As a result, the HCC has focused efforts on the following:

- 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;
- Telemedicine programs aimed at tackling diabetes and depression;
- Social Innovation for Missouri (SIM) that addresses tobacco cessation and obesity prevention; among other programs;
- Rural Missouri Health Co-op—with a workplace wellness component—aimed at creating a healthier workforce and reducing insurance premiums; and
- Recruiting health care providers and specialists with a passion for rural health care.

To learn more, contact Toniann Richard or Tom Corporon at 660.259.2440. Visit [HCCNetwork.org](http://HCCNetwork.org) and follow HCC on Facebook and Twitter.

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