



National Cooperative of Health Networks Association, Inc.

News Release

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RELEASE DATE: April 27, 2012

LOCAL LEADER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Toniann Richard (Lexington, MO) --- Outstanding New and Emerging Health Network Leader of 2012



Toniann Richard, Executive Director of the Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri (the HCC), was recognized as the 2012 Outstanding New & Emerging Network Leader of the Year during the 4th Annual National Cooperative of Health Networks Awards Luncheon held on Monday, April 16, in Denver, Colorado. The National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN) is a membership organization comprised of health network leaders from throughout the nation. The Outstanding New & Emerging Network Leader Award recognizes extraordinary leadership demonstrated by a health network leader who has held the position for less than 5 years. Award nominations are submitted by NCHN members and reviewed and voted upon by the Awards Committee.

“We received multiple submissions nominating Toniann Richard for this award,” said Rebecca Davis, Executive Director of NCHN. “Since becoming a member in 2009, Toniann has been very active, participating in multiple committees and sharing lessons learned during her tenure as a network director. She truly stands out as a leader among her peers and has tremendous energy for collaboration not only within her region, but with network leaders nationwide.” According to one nomination for Richard, “Her willingness to share her knowledge is contagious. She is determined, fast acting, resourceful, and displays the great entrepreneurial skills that make a great network leader.”

The HCC was founded in 2006 and, under Toniann Richard’s leadership, has implemented numerous successful programs which enhance the delivery of quality health care in the region. “Our strength lies in developing collaborative relationships,” said Richard. “Utilizing the strengths of individual organizations, we are able to develop services and programs that are larger than any single organization.” Richard has been persistent, systematic, and successful in her efforts to secure funding for program implementation and development, having applied for and received grants to evaluate and address needs for the uninsured and underserved, implement Telemedicine and Electronic Health Records, provide education, support, and access to diabetes care and encourage overall wellness.

In 2009, the HCC of Rural Missouri (formerly the HCC of Lafayette County) was recognized locally as the first recipient of the Healthy Lafayette Award from the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City. “This shows how strong Toniann’s leadership has been. Her organization has a clear impact within its region and, through her active participation in NCHN activities, nationwide,” said Davis.

By definition, health networks are formed when three or more health care providers formally come together to better meet the needs of patients in their service area. These providers often include hospitals, community health centers, critical access hospitals, physician practices, mental health providers, rural health clinics and other for-profit and not-for-profit health care organizations. These networks work to increase access to quality health care for local patients and streamline the cost of that care, as well.

NCHN is a national level professional membership organization of health network leaders across the nation. Its mission is to support and strengthen health networks through collaboration, networking, leadership development and education. The Association has members in 33 states. For more information please go to www.nchn.org