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HCC and its Live Well Centers Deliver Over \$5 Million in Economic Impact

September 19, 2016 (Lexington, Mo.) The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri is the only rural health care network in the country with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Suffice it to say, HCC is one of America’s rural health success stories. Just five years ago, the nonprofit thrived with only three employees. Today, HCC employs about 50 staff members [and] owns and operates four FQHCs in Buckner, Carrollton, Concordia and Waverly in Missouri.

“These FQHCs help the underserved receive primary, dental and behavioral health care that they may not otherwise receive,” said HCC’s Executive Director Toniann Richard. “The bottom line is that these Live Well Community Health Centers are closing gaps that have traditionally existed between quality health care services and the underserved.”

By default, HCC -- a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and rural health network -- and its Live Well Centers are impacting the community. According to an independent report conducted by advisory, investor relations and financial firm Capital Link, HCC’s total economic impact in 2015 hit \$5,227,337. This is nearly a half million over the previous year.

“Providing quality primary, dental and behavioral health care services is our main priority,” Richard said. “Improving the economic landscape, as we go, is an incredible reward. Everything we do is about the communities we serve.”

Economic impact is defined as net changes to a region’s economic base that can be attributed to industry, event or policy that would otherwise not be there. HCC’s economic footprint collectively represents community and economic variables. The breakdown looks like this:

Community Impact

- 3,455 patients served at its Live Well Centers with 8,792 patient visits
- 95 percent of these patients fall under the 200 percent federal poverty level
 - 31 percent receive Medicaid
 - 15 percent receive Medicare
 - 20 percent are uninsured
 - 34 percent are privately insured
- Health care cost savings as a result of the Centers is \$4.4 million

Economic Impact

- Of the total \$5,227,337 annual impact, \$2,098,250 represent non direct (i.e. impact of employee spending, vendor and contractor spending, etc.); and \$3,129,087 represent direct (revenues that would have been outside of the region if it were not for HCC/Live Well)
- There were 48 total jobs generated in 2015 -- 15 non-direct and 33 direct
- Tax revenue totaled \$700,000 -- \$200,000 for state/local and \$500,000 for federal

As for the Live Well Centers, targets include health risks like obesity, heart disease and mental health among other conditions. This focus is especially crucial since the prevalence of obesity for the service area is 41.2 percent compared to the 27.6 percent national benchmark. High blood pressure is prevalent among almost 40 percent of the service area compared with a national benchmark of 28.7 percent. Additionally, cigarette use during pregnancy is at 22.9 percent compared with a national benchmark of 14.1 percent. Overall, 13.6 percent of the service area's population reported not being able to see a doctor in the past year due to cost.

The Live Well Centers have been designated as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs) by the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). A patient centered medical home coordinates patient care to make accessing integrated services easy and seamless. In addition, it provides comprehensive care to patients in a manner they understand and is relevant to their needs.

To learn more about HCC and its Live Well Community Health Centers in Buckner, Carrollton, Concordia and Waverly, call 660.259.2440 or visit HCCNetwork.org.