



For Immediate Release

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The HCC of Lafayette County Appoints Health Information Technology Manager

(November 7, 2011) Lexington, MO – The Health Care Coalition (HCC) of Lafayette County has appointed Julie Coram as its new health information technology (HIT) manager. As the health care advocate continues to make huge strides in bringing HIT to Lafayette County and surrounding areas, creating a dedicated position to support telehealth initiatives became imperative. Participating HIT partners include Lafayette Regional Health Center, Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., I-70 Community Hospital, Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center Lafayette Family Medicine - Dental & WIC Services, Richmond Family Clinic, Carroll County Memorial Hospital and Fitzgibbon Hospital.

“Telehealth is converging on West Central Missouri in a serious way,” said Toniann Richard, HCC executive director. “It became evident, early on, that we needed someone who could provide support to our HIT partners as they transition into electronic medical records (EMRs), telemedicine, and distance learning initiatives. We also needed someone who could serve as a community liaison to educate the community on what telehealth is, how it works, and how it benefits the overall delivery of quality health care.”

Prior to her new role at the HCC, Coram served as a contributing writer for the *Odessan* and *Focus on Oak Grove*. She also served as a patient accounts representative for Children’s Mercy Hospital where she was able to glean a wealth of insight on EMRs, billing and coding, health care insurance, among other duties.

Richard said that Coram brings with her strong communication skills, a collaborative spirit, and a unique insight into EMRs—all attributes that will help providers transition to a paperless, electronic medical records system.

“One key role I will play is helping HCC partners work collaboratively to get to the next level of performance,” Coram said. “By working together, we will obtain greater telehealth resources, know-how, and ultimately better patient outcomes.”

Among Coram’s duties:

- HIT program facilitation
- Transitional support for HCC partners
- Research and data collection
- Telehealth coalition building on the state, local and federal levels
- Media relations
- Community outreach

“Health information technology has the power to improve quality, safety and more efficient health care delivery,” Coram said. “I am excited to be a part of a ground-up approach that brings telehealth to rural communities. The impact it will have on quality patient outcomes is truly remarkable.”

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Coram is a native of Oak Grove, MO. Married for seven years to husband Robbie, they have four children. Coram is also a business administration student at Park University.

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 rural Missouri 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.

To learn more, visit HCCNetwork.org, WellnessWorks.HCCNetwork.org, 4everfit.HCCNetwork.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

