

For Immediate Release

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The HCC of Rural Missouri Partners with Saline County Health Department to Host an Electronic Health Record Lunch & Learn

(August 15, 2012 Lexington, MO) – When it comes to health information technology, Marshall, MO is making huge strides. The Health Care Collaborative (HCC) of Rural Missouri, in conjunction with the Saline County Health Department, is sponsoring an **Electronic Health Record Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, August 29th, 1825 S. Atchison Drive in Marshall, MO at 12:00 p.m. The free event is open to the public.**

The hour-long session will preview how area providers are changing the way they administer health care to meet guidelines set by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and how health technology is increasing access to health care in rural Missouri. Because health care providers are transitioning from paper charts to electronic health records (EHRs), the session will provide tips on how patients and health care consumers can take advantage of this migration.

“As health care consumers, it’s important that we understand what these changes mean to us personally,” said Julie Coram, HCC’s health information technology manager. “Our goal is to leverage these informational sessions to ease fears about the increasing role technology plays in health care.”

Last year, the HCC received \$900,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help its provider partners implement electronic health records and health information technology programs. The Rural Health Technology Network Development grant, awarded in conjunction with President Barack Obama’s Rural Health Initiative, will support HIT programs in Lafayette, Ray, Saline and Carroll counties over the next three years. This pilot program, the first of its kind, includes 40 grant recipients throughout the U.S. The HCC was only one of two rural health networks in Missouri to receive the grant award.

HCC’s provider partners include Fitzgibbon Hospital, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Pathways Community Health and Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center Lafayette Family Medicine – Dental & WIC Services, I-70 Community Hospital, Carroll County Memorial Hospital and Richmond Family Clinic. For more information, contact Julie Coram at 660.259.2440, or visit HCCNetwork.org/lunch-and-learn.

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.

