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### **Colorado-based Western Healthcare Alliance's Community Care Alliance Receives Federal Grant**

*Preparing healthcare organizations for success in the future, where medical communities will be rewarded for achieving better health, better care, lower costs and more engaged providers.*

**Grand Junction, CO, August 10, 2017** – Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) is pleased to announce it has received another \$900,000, three-year grant from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) within the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These funds will be used to support WHA's Community Care Alliance (CCA), serving the Western Healthcare Alliance membership, which includes their hospitals, their physicians and community physician providers as well as other rural partner organizations who are making their way on the path to value.

The CCA was formed in 2015 and currently provides population health management resources to a variety of independent primary care and specialty providers throughout the WHA member geographical markets as well as the San Juan ACO and the Rocky Mountain ACO, both of which are part of the Medicare Shared Savings Program and recipients of the ACO Investment Model (AIM). The CCA's goal is to provide solutions for rural hospitals and healthcare organizations as they prepare for success in a value based environment, delivering cost efficient high-quality care while improving the overall health of the population it serves.

"This decision by HRSA to continue the funding for the CCA is both an important validation of the work that the CCA is doing to promote transformation in rural healthcare, as well as continue the CCA's development of tools and resources that our members can utilize in their efforts to provide enhanced healthcare value to the communities they serve," said CEO of Aspen Valley Hospital and CCA Board Chair, Dave Ressler.

"This is very exciting for CCA!" said CCA Executive Director, Connie Mack, "Our members are eager to take the next steps in aligning more closely with their communities through innovative healthcare delivery solutions. We are deliberate in supporting our members' needs and maximizing collaborative efforts to achieve population health solution goals, while preserving each member's independence in their quest for success in a value based world."

HRSA Rural Health Network Development grants are awarded through a competitive application and scoring process. CCA was awarded this grant as part of the HHS commitment to improving care in rural areas. "Special thanks to WHA member Valley View Hospital for serving as the home office for the grant on behalf of our organization," added Connie Mack. Funds were awarded to organizations who, *expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services, through integrated health networks by focusing on projects and/or network activities directly related to the evolving healthcare environment.*

This new funding from HRSA along with Member contributions will assist the CCA in continuing the journey to increase the quality and transparency of care; improve the quality and safety of health care provided through member coordination; improve health information technology capabilities and functionalities; and promote the continued growth and success of the ACOs.

"With this grant, we can continue to expand the collaboration between neighboring hospitals, and physician clinics to better increase communication and care access in a patient-centered approach," said Steve Hannah, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital and Chair of the San Juan ACO, "This approach has demonstrated to be very effective in rural communities which have unique challenges based on how and where we live. Our participation with our neighboring healthcare providers represents a commitment to greater communication between providers in the care continuum, especially for our patients with chronic illnesses."

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Contact Angelina Salazar, VP of Outreach and Communications for more information about the Community Care Alliance and HRSA grant award. [angelina.salazar@wha1.org](mailto:angelina.salazar@wha1.org) or 970-986-3653.

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### **About Western Healthcare Alliance**

Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) is a membership organization with 28 healthcare organization members in Colorado and Utah. WHA delivers more than 45 programs with volume-based discounting for healthcare services including laboratory testing, property insurance, transitional care consulting, supply chain purchasing, and operations analysis. WHA has affiliations with nine other health networks reaching a total membership of more than 483 facilities across the country. WHA is celebrating 28 years of providing programs, services and cost savings generating over 36 to 1 return on investment to members. With a staff of more than 90 employees and a combined annual budget of over \$17 million, WHA helps hospitals and healthcare providers achieve efficiencies, collaboration and sustainability of healthcare in rural communities.

### **About Community Care Alliance**

The Community Care Alliance (CCA) was formed in 2015 and is a wholly owned company of WHA. CCA prepares healthcare organizations for success in the future, where medical communities will be rewarded for achieving better health, better care, lower costs and more engaged providers. The CCA is dedicated to creating solutions that ensure the success of its member organizations. Members learn and work together to coordinate care and manage chronic conditions in order to maintain healthy populations through better care at lower costs.

The CCA provides strategies, services and educational resources that allow small, rural healthcare systems to create medical homes, implement preventative care and chronic care management programs to effectively manage their patients and keep healthcare local. In addition, the CCA assists rural providers with utilizing clinical and claims data to measure performance, quality and outcomes.

Rural hospitals and their providers are no longer alone in the transition towards value-based care, the CCA provides step-by-step support for maximizing reimbursement and meeting the Quadruple Aim, achieving better health, better care, lower costs and more engaged providers.

### **About Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA)**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building healthy communities and achieving health equity. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable.

This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers, and their families and those in need of high quality primary health care. HRSA also supports the training of health professionals, the distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most and improvements in health care delivery. HRSA oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation. It compensates individuals harmed by vaccination, and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

Since 1943 the agencies that were HRSA precursors have worked to improve the health of needy people. HRSA was created in 1982, when the Health Resources Administration and the Health Services Administration were merged. Tens of millions of Americans get affordable health care and other help through HRSA's 100-plus programs and more than 3,000 grantees.