30 YEARS OF COLLABORATION | Western Healthcare Alliance | Community Care Alliance

Contact: Bobbie Orchard
Company: Western Healthcare Alliance
Telephone number: 970-683-5223
Email address: bobbie.orchard@wha1.org
Website: www.wha1.org

Community Care Alliance Forms New Accountable Care Organization

Grand Junction, CO, August 6, 2019 – Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Community Care Alliance (CCA) are pleased to announce the formation of the Western Accountable Care Organization (ACO) in July 2019. This new ACO brings hospitals, independent practices, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and a hospice organization across Colorado's Western Slope together to learn how to succeed in payment models that hold healthcare providers and organizations to both cost and quality performance standards.

The CCA was formed in 2015 for the purpose of creating a centralized infrastructure to support WHA members to perform effectively in a value-based environment. In 2016, the CCA launched two ACOs in nine (9) western Colorado and five (5) western Washington state communities. Since 2016 the ACOs have saved Medicare over $6 million, through the establishment of population health capabilities, and have assisted participating providers with excelling in the MIPS program. Participants in the ACOs have regularly ranked in the top percentile for quality across the nation.

After three and a half years of participating in this value-based model, participants decided combining into a single ACO was the most efficient and collaborative way to move forward. The new Western ACO enables members more time to practice, before they take on risk. Through the new ACO, providers will continue their work to decrease cost and improve quality.

"Delta County Memorial Hospital is honored to be a part of this regional partnership that is focused on collaboration across the Western Slope to improve our care delivery system and drive down costs," said Jason Cleckler, CEO of Delta County Memorial Hospital, Western ACO Board Chair, and CCA Board member. "The creation of the Western ACO will bring great value to patients across our service area and will continue to strengthen the healthcare delivery system with a focus on quality, access, and cost."

The ACO accomplishes savings and high-quality performance through collaboration across rural medical communities. Rural hospitals collaborate with other rural hospitals and with local independent practices to transform the healthcare provided in rural Colorado. Additionally, the ACO is a learning lab for future innovation. Providers and care coordinators are able to test out new workflows that allow all members of the team to operate at the top of their scope, and learn methods that improve the communication between a hospital and a primary care practice.

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Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) began in 1989 when a small group of rural Colorado hospitals decided that there was power in numbers. Today, WHA celebrates 30 years of collaboration with 30 healthcare members in Colorado and Utah. WHA provides members with a forum for collaboration

and access to money-saving programs that help them remain sustainable and viable in their communities.

A subset of WHA members own Healthcare Management (HCM), a sister company of WHA, that provides revenue cycle solutions to healthcare entities. In 2015, WHA formed the Community Care Alliance to provide a population health infrastructure for rural hospital and provider communities to learn and succeed in the new healthcare environment. Meeting members wherever they are on the value-based care delivery spectrum, the CCA offers services and educational resources that allow small, rural healthcare systems to create medical homes by implementing care coordination and chronic care management strategies to effectively manage their patients. For additional information on WHA, visit wha1.org and for the CCA/Western ACO, visit communitycarealliance.com.

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