

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release



Contact

Bobbie Orchard
Community Care Alliance
970-683-5223
bobbie.orchard@wha1.org

Zachary J. D'Argonne
Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium
303-981-1306
ZacharyDArgonne@easternplainshealth.org



STRONGER TOGETHER.

Western & Eastern Colorado Rural Hospitals Unite in Historic Statewide Partnership

Grand Junction, CO, January 6, 2026 – Community Care Alliance (CCA), a subsidiary of Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA), and the Eastern Plains Health Consortium (EPHC) announce their intent to form a groundbreaking joint venture partnership, uniting rural hospitals across Colorado from the Western Slope to the Eastern Plains in a shared, provider-led clinically integrated network. The collaboration brings together two regional rural healthcare organizations to create a landmark alignment that represents an important step forward for rural healthcare in Colorado.

This historic collaboration marks a new chapter for rural healthcare in Colorado. Building on the population health infrastructure of the CCA, this new joint venture will expand on work already underway. Through the agreement, EPHC will hold an equity stake in the joint venture, establishing a shared governance model that strengthens rural cooperation while preserving full local autonomy for both networks, as well as all participating hospitals and clinics.

The joint venture will expand rural contracting leverage, enhance data and analytics capabilities, support care coordination, and align population health strategies statewide, ensuring rural communities have the tools and collective strength to thrive in an evolving healthcare landscape.

“This partnership shows what happens when rural communities lead with abundance rather than scarcity, we build something stronger than any one of us could build alone,” said Angelina Salazar, CEO of the Western Healthcare Alliance.

Key priorities:

- Improving quality, access, and cost of care for rural patients
- Preserving rural independence and local decision-making authority
- Strengthening statewide leverage in commercial, Medicare, Medicaid, and employer contracting
- Expanding access to shared data and population health analytics
- Enhancing care coordination and quality improvement models
- Positioning rural Colorado for upcoming federal and state payment reforms

“This joint venture is an important moment for rural healthcare, bringing together two successful organizations to build on each other’s strengths. It is a meaningful step forward for our hospitals, and we are excited about what this partnership makes possible for rural communities across the state,” said Zachary D’Argonne, CEO of the Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium.

Additional details on governance structure, integration timelines, and statewide engagement opportunities will be shared following the formal execution of the joint venture in early 2026.

About Community Care Alliance

Community Care Alliance (CCA) is a Clinically and Financially Integrated Network (CFIN) established in 2015 by members of Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA) to provide a population health infrastructure for rural hospitals and provider communities, meeting members wherever they are on the value-based care delivery spectrum. The CCA CFIN has multiple value-based payment arrangements and single-signature authority to facilitate value-based reimbursement while aligning clinical processes and care coordination to improve patient outcomes and reduce the total cost of care. For more information visit wha1.org/cca.

About Western Healthcare Alliance

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 over 35 years of collaboration with healthcare members in Colorado, Utah, and Michigan. With a portfolio of member-owned and partner programs, WHA saves members money that helps them remain sustainable and viable in their communities. A subset of WHA members own Healthcare Management, a sister company of WHA, which provides revenue cycle solutions to healthcare entities. For more information visit wha1.org.

About Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium

The Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium (EPHC) is a nonprofit alliance of independent rural hospitals across Colorado's Eastern Plains that has supported rural healthcare in these communities for over a decade. Through collaboration, shared resources, and collective advocacy, EPHC helps member hospitals navigate financial, workforce, and policy challenges while remaining independent and community-focused. The consortium works to strengthen the sustainability and growth of rural hospitals and ensure patients across Eastern Colorado continue to receive high-quality care close to home. For more information visit easternplainshealth.org.

###