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CONTACT: Becky Wahl
701-712-8623
becky@communityhealthcare.net



GREAT PLAINS

HEALTH DATA NETWORK

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF THE DAKOTAS AND WYOMING PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION AWARDED GRANT TO FORM GREAT PLAINS HEALTH DATA NETWORK

SIOUX FALLS, SD – The Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) announces a partnership with the Wyoming Primary Care Association to form the Great Plains Health Data Network (GPHDN). The GPHDN is a collaboration that will harness the strength of the Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCN) program to support the technical capacity of some of the most remote and under-resourced health centers in the country. The GPHDN is made possible by a three-year grant awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), totaling \$1.56 million over 3 years.

The GPHDN will bring together 11 health centers and 70 sites, collectively serving over 111,000 total patients. Community health centers (CHCs) are non-profit, community-driven clinics that provide high-quality primary and preventive care to all individuals, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Health centers are located in underserved and low-income urban and rural areas across North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

“Our goal is to provide high quality, comprehensive, integrated primary care in every community we serve,” says Shelly Ten Napel, CEO of CHAD. “We know from experience that working together makes us stronger and this is certainly true in the area of technology. By forming a health data network, we aim to invest in shared technology and technical staff that will help us improve population health management, data analytics, data interoperability, and help patients more easily access to their own health information.”

The Great Plains Health Data Network will be governed by representatives from each of the member health centers who will ultimately set the direction of the network. The group has already collectively committed to: improve patient access to their health information; heighten data security; increase provider satisfaction; promote interoperability; and support value-based care and contracts. The network members believe we can achieve these goals more cost-effectively and with more sustainability by working together. “Wyoming Health Centers and their patients will greatly benefit from this grant opportunity that will not only support more and stronger data sharing and management but will increase access to quality health care in our rural states,” said Jan Cartwright, the Executive Director of the Wyoming Primary Care Association.

“The new funds will be used to promote better integration between our own electronic health records and a range of public health and health care databases. They will not duplicate existing resources, such as functional health information exchanges and registries,” continues Ms. Ten Napel. “This data investment will help us to continuously improve patient care, and in turn make the case to payers and other partners that we provide real, quantifiable value to the health care system by improving quality and reducing total costs.”

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About Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas

The Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) is a 501(c)3 membership organization serving as the Primary Care Association for North Dakota and South Dakota. Our mission is to foster healthy communities by promoting and supporting programs that increase access to affordable, high-quality health care for all Dakotans. CHAD supports nine community health centers in North Dakota and South Dakota through training, technical assistance and advocacy. CHAD has supported the efforts of community health centers, which offer a unique model of high-quality, cost-effective, patient-centered primary care, for nearly 30 years. To learn more, find CHAD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or visit www.communityhealthcare.net.