



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QHN Hosting Summit: Connecting for Healthier Communities

(Grand Junction, CO) – Quality Health Network (QHN) is hosting their 2018 Summit: Connecting for Healthier Communities on **September 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the **DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Junction**. The Summit will provide a full day of education and networking focusing on the social determinants of health. The Summit's goal this year is to facilitate better communication between medical, behavioral, and social service agencies to create an actionable whole-person picture of wellness. More than 200 medical, social, and behavioral health experts from across Colorado will be converging in Grand Junction to attend the Summit.

"We are looking forward to highlighting the efforts of several of our Summit presenters who are exploring ways to better coordinate the efforts of medical, behavioral, and social service agencies to improve the health of individuals and thus improve the health of our communities," says Dick Thompson, Executive Director of QHN.

In order to help establish more efficient lines of communication and data sharing between medical, social, and behavioral agencies, QHN is leveraging and enhancing its current knowledge and infrastructure to launch the Community Resource Network (CRN). Once established, CRN will provide social information exchange (SIE) services designed to help identify those most in need, facilitate referrals to entities who can help bridge the services gap, increase efficiency, and improve health outcomes.

"The Summit is bringing together many of the key players that will be able to utilize CRN for care coordination between agencies. This is a great way for them to network and see how they can work together and get easier access to programs to improve outcomes for the people they serve," says Cindy Wilbur, director of CRN.

Summit participants will have the opportunity to hear from 14 different industry leaders. The keynote speakers are Michele Lueck, the president and CEO of Colorado Health Institute, Kim Bimestefer, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, and John Ohanian and Bill York from San Diego 2-1-1. There will also be six Hot Topic sessions focusing on everything from the new Mesa County Co-Responder program to how Eagle County Paramedics play a role in caring for discharged hospital patients.

Throughout the Summit, participants will have the opportunity to visit a Resource Fair. There will be 17 booths representing organizations from across the state showcasing services and collaboration efforts that can be utilized interagency.

“This is going to be a day chock-full of education, collaboration, and reflection on how we can work together to operate differently and more efficiently for the success and betterment of the communities we all serve,” adds Thompson.

The media is encouraged and invited to attend the 2018 Summit. For media inquiries, please contact Charity Meinhart at (970) 248-0033 or cmeinhart@qualityhealthnetwork.org

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About Quality Health Network

Quality Health Network (QHN) is a not-for-profit community partnership established in 2004 to facilitate the availability of information to optimize the health of our communities. QHN supports the adoption of health information technology, provide information exchange services and promotes innovative uses of electronic information to improve health. QHN's unique technologies help our participants exchange information to enhance care coordination for individuals most at risk. www.qualityhealthnetwork.org

About Community Resource Network

Community Resource Network is a social information exchange (SIE) designed to help bridge the gap, increase efficiency, and improve outcomes when it come to social determinants of health. CRN is the SIE complement to Quality Health Network's health information exchange. www.communityresourcenet.org