

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Western Colorado’s Community Resource Network Enters Go Live Phase Connecting Individuals in Need with Critical Resources**

**((Grand Junction, Colorado)) –** Quality Health Network (QHN) is excited to announce that after several months of testing by early adopters, the new Community Resource Network (CRN) is officially live. Since January of 2020, several local organizations have been testing the network infrastructure, which enables them to provide critical resources to individuals more efficiently.

“CRN is at the forefront of a really exciting community collaboration breakthrough that will transform how people in crisis or at risk get the care they need, whether those needs are of a medical, behavioral or social services nature – most likely it is a combination of the three,” said **Dick Thompson**, Executive Director and CEO of QHN. “CRN helps service providers of all types understand an individual’s needs from a whole person perspective, leverage the work and the relationships that are already in place, reduce duplication of services and data entry, and prioritize actions that make a real difference for those we all serve. Simply put, CRN helps get the right stuff done efficiently at the right time by the right people.”

As the CRN enters the live phase, QHN is working diligently to establish the network in dozens of organizations across western Colorado by the end of the year.

“Connecting people with the right care at the right time is critical, and that’s what CRN does,” added **Jackie Sievers**, CRN Director of Implementation. “We are working to get medical, behavioral and social agencies plugged into the network. The more organizations utilizing CRN, the better the outcomes will be.”

The ability to address an individual’s unmet social determinant needs, like housing and food insecurity, can contribute materially (+50%) to a person’s health and well-being. Helping those in need earlier and in a more coordinated way can improve healthcare outcomes and reduce the cost burden born by taxpayers and businesses. According to an analysis of the Accountable Health Communities Model project, 4 out of 10 individuals who completed the survey in western Colorado reported they are struggling with a major need.

“That’s where CRN can help. Our technology connects the dots. Helping to efficiently connect individuals to the right services makes a huge difference for all involved,” explains **Sievers**.

Last year, CRN won second place in the national [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Social Determinants of Health Innovation Challenge](https://www.sdohinnovation.com/) out of more than 110 teams. CRN’s development has been funded by QS Systems, which is a joint venture between QHN and Stella Technology. CRN leverages the extensive knowledge and assets of QHN’s award-winning health information exchange infrastructures and Stella’s strong technology platforms.

“We’re using CRN to better coordinate care for our clients at the Family Resource Center,” said **Christie Higgins**, Community Access Director at Hilltop Community Resources, one of western Colorado’s largest social service providers. “We can quickly make and send electronic referrals to find the help they need fast and with less paperwork. We find we have more time to spend working directly with clients when we can see all their info in one place. We love the visual way the CRN shows us where to focus our efforts first, and we’re so happy to finally have an easy way to message and connect with the other people and organizations helping care for our clients. We all get to succeed together!”

For more information about CRN please visit <https://communityresourcenet.org/> or to schedule an interview with Dick Thompson, please contact Charity Meinhart at (970) 248-0033.

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**About Community Resource Network**

Community Resource Network is a person-centric Community Information Exchange that is integrated with Quality Health Network’s secure Health Information Exchange infrastructure, and gives Medical, Social Service, and Behavioral Health providers an enriched and shareable data set focused on the ‘whole person’ view to better communicate, prioritize actions, collaborate, and improve client outcomes. [www.thecommunityresourcenetwork.org](http://www.thecommunityresourcenetwork.org)

**About Quality Health Network**

Quality Health Network (QHN) is an award winning, not-for-profit community partnership established in 2004 to facilitate the availability of information to optimize the health of our communities. QHN’s unique technologies help our network participants securely exchange information to enhance care coordination and identify those at risk, so that efforts can be focused where they’re needed most. [www.qualityhealthnetwork.org](http://www.qualityhealthnetwork.org)