



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Date: June 9, 2010

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### **KANSAS FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL CARE, INC. SIGNS FIRST PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FOR NEW HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

Prairie Star Family Practice (Plainville, KS) and the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (Pittsburg, KS) are the first healthcare providers to sign provider agreements with the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care Inc. (KFMC) as it launches its new state-wide Health Information Technology (HIT) Regional Extension Center (REC) program.

KFMC was selected by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) as the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (HITREC) for Kansas. The REC is one of 60 such entities nationwide created to provide technical assistance in effectively implementing electronic health records (EHRs) and associated healthcare quality improvement.

Portions of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 are intended to improve the quality of healthcare and create jobs. Implementing HIT is very important to healthcare. ARRA includes financial incentives for healthcare providers that attain Meaningful Use (MU) with their EHR systems. KFMC will help more than 1,200 primary care providers adopt EHR systems and achieve MU in order to obtain Medicare or Medicaid incentive dollars. KFMC has invaluable previous experience working with Kansas providers on implementation of HIT and is well known, experienced and trusted in Kansas.

"I am delighted to be working with KFMC, the Kansas Regional Extension Center!" Dr. Jen Brull of Prairie Star Family Practice said. "I anticipate their team will assist me greatly in achieving Meaningful Use, and I look forward to their help."

The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas is proud to be one of the first to begin working with the REC. "I can't think of any two better organizations to take us from the past into the future. We're proud to be a part of this process and comforted to know that someone else will sort through the details leaving us to do what we do best...improving the health of Kansans," CEO Krista Postai said. The practice is a member of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU). All KAMU

members qualify to work with the REC and the organization has designated staff working on the REC project for KFMC.

“KAMU is excited to partner with KFMC in this statewide effort,” KAMU executive director, Cathy Harding, said. “Non-profit clinics in Kansas that are KAMU members are expected to report population-based data, and the easiest approach to this is through the implementation of electronic medical records.”

REC director, Michael Aldridge, encourages primary care providers to partner with KFMC. “This is a unique opportunity for providers to take advantage of resources available to them that will assist with implementing HIT in their practice,” Aldridge said. “We look forward to offering services to new providers while we continue building on our standing relationships with those offices we’ve assisted previously with HIT.”

The REC offers to providers:

- Education and Outreach
- EHR Vendor Selection & Group Purchasing
- Local Workforce Support and On-site Technical Assistance
- Implementation and Project Management
- Practice and Workflow Redesign
- Functional Interoperability and Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- Privacy and Security Best Practices
- Progress Toward MU

Providers signing with the REC will work directly with a local REC representative who provides hands-on assistance with planning and implementation. In return, providers are asked to:

- Provide staff time to support the EHR adoption process and workflow changes.
- Purchase EHR hardware, software and other resources (if needed).
- Meet agreed upon project assignments, tasks, timeframes and reporting.
- Pay fees based on numbers of providers and services required.

Aldridge said that practices partnering with the REC will receive as much as \$30,000 worth of services for about \$4,000. “Our pricing is extremely competitive, and our service and experience is unparalleled.”

KFMC is working in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, its eHealth Advisory Council, and the Council membership, comprised of representatives of major healthcare stakeholders in Kansas, KAMU, and additional healthcare partners to meet the REC’s goals.

KAMU receives funding for various initiatives, including this collaborative relationship with KFMC from the Kansas Health Foundation, which is a private philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit [www.kansashealth.com](http://www.kansashealth.com).

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the KFMC website, [www.kfmc.org](http://www.kfmc.org) or by calling 800-432-0770 ext. 312.

This material was prepared by Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. as part of our work as the Kansas Regional Extension Center, under grant #90RC00031/01 from the Office of the National Coordinator, Department of Health & Human Services. RC\_2010\_71