



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UMRHN Provides Funds to Local Providers to Implement Electronic Health Records

Winnsboro, South Carolina, March 7, 2013 - The Upper Midlands Rural Health Network (UMRHN) has awarded more than \$180,000 to local providers.

“As a part of a three year Rural Health HIT (Health Information Technology) Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), UMRHN is happy to assist partners in Fairfield County to meet Meaningful Use standards by 2014,” said John R. Hart, the Chairman of the network.

Goals of the grant are to assist local partners in reaching a fully operational electronic health record system connected to SC Health Information Exchange (SCHIEX) which will result in a more cost effective system improving efficiency of communication, information sharing, staff time, use of supplies and reducing unnecessary duplication. Patient outcomes for chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease and diabetes will be better managed preventing re-admissions to the Emergency Departments and hospital.

Recipients of the funding are:

- Fairfield Memorial Hospital, to assist in purchasing equipment, IT supplies and software as a part of an initiative to update their entire system.
- The John A. Martin Primary Health Care Center, to update their current system through the purchase of IT supplies and software, as well as assist in the purchase of licensing and subscription fees.
- The Eau Claire Cooperative Health Care Center, to purchase licensing and subscription fees for its three sites in Fairfield County enabling them to move forward with plans to fully implement electronic health records in these locations.

“Funding recipients have made significant progress toward meeting standards for Meaningful Use,” Hart said. “Next steps include connecting with SCHIEX to allow for sharing of information which will result in improved management of chronic conditions for patients,” said Hart.

About Upper Midlands Rural Health Network

Established in 2004, Upper Midlands Rural Health Network (UMRHN) is a two county network of health, human service and education providers in the north central area of South Carolina. The Network’s mission is to improve health in Chester and Fairfield counties through collaboration of a diverse group focused on access to care, health promotion and education. Technical support for the network is provided by the South Carolina Office of Rural Health (SCORH).

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