

## Press Release

**Contact:** Morgan Rogers, The Community Foundation - Boulder County, 303-442-0436, [morgan@commfound.org](mailto:morgan@commfound.org)

### **Boulder County Health Providers Lay the Foundation for Regional Health Information Exchange with Grant from Colorado Health Foundation**

**Boulder, Colo. – July 30, 2009** – Boulder County health care providers have established the Boulder County Health Information Exchange (BCHIE) in an effort to improve health care for all residents of Boulder County. BCHIE will safely and securely mobilize electronic health records for all residents within the region, allowing for the safe exchange of relevant health data. After nine months of development, the collaborative has received a planning grant from the Colorado Health Foundation and is working in partnership with the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO), the statewide organization identified by Governor Ritter to facilitate health information exchange to improve the health of all Coloradans.

To introduce physicians, practitioners, practice managers and staff to the initiative, BCHIE will hold an event on **Thursday, August 13, 2009 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Spice of Life Event Center**. The evening will include a physician panel that will discuss *“What EMR/EHR has meant to the provider, the practice, the patients and lessons learned.”* Hors d’oeuvres will be served. Contact Boulder County Medical Society to RSVP: 303-527-3215.

The BCHIE effort aims to prevent medical errors, streamline care, improve quality, eliminate costly duplication of tests, and promote health care affordability through interoperability of health information. On a community level, an HIE can identify emerging trends in health outcomes and chronic disease, allowing for more strategic investments in treatment and prevention.

“BCHIE will provide a reliable and secure system wherein health care providers can exchange health information safely to maintain the patient’s privacy,” said Dr. Casey Gallagher, an Executive Committee member of both the Boulder Valley Individual Practice Association and the Boulder County Medical Society. “This network will be a resource to physicians as it works with CORHIO to assure appropriate standards, policies and technical processes for the exchange, as well as recommendations for physicians thinking about purchasing an EMR so that efforts in Boulder County will benefit patients most.”

“Like other regional HIEs around the country, BCHIE will increase opportunities for organizations to collaborate, which will enable the exchange of clinical data to improve patient outcomes and community health,” said Jeff Zayach, Boulder County Director of Public Health. “Ultimately, we are committed to the community in providing a platform of trust, security and service between patients and health

care providers. All Boulder County residents stand to gain from improved quality of care.”

Charter members of BCHIE include: Avista Hospital (Centura Health); Avista iPN (Centura Health); Boulder Community Hospital; Longmont United Hospital; Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center; Boulder Valley IPA; Boulder Medical Center; Clinica Family Health Services (including People's Clinic); The Community Foundation; Boulder County Commissioner's Office; Boulder County Community Services; Boulder County Public Health; Mental Health Center of Boulder and Broomfield Counties; Rocky Mountain Gastroenterology; Salud Family Health Centers; Women’s Health; and the Colorado Associated Community Health Information Exchange (CACHIE). The collaborative is one of several working to improve the health outcomes of all Boulder County residents, intersecting with a Children’s Health Plan (CHP+) outreach and enrollment effort and medical home initiative. All embody the mission of the countywide Human Services Strategic Plan: to develop a dynamic, accessible, coordinated, community-wide human service delivery system using an inclusive and broad collaborative process.

By providing a secure and reliable system for securely sharing health information, Boulder County residents will benefit from better information being provided to them and their health care providers at the right time in the right place to improve care.

For more information, go to: <http://bchie.org>, and sign up for BCHIE’s newsletter for upcoming announcements.

For more information about CORHIO, go to: <http://www.corhio.org>

Contact: Morgan Rogers, [morgan@commfound.org](mailto:morgan@commfound.org), 303-442-0436 ext. 115.