

NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

Contact Information:
Barbara Bradshaw, CEO
Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center
Brush CO 80723
Ph: 970.842.2861 ext. 217
Bbradshaw@ebenezer-cares.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morgan County Wins Healthcare Grant

The Colorado Health Foundation has just awarded Morgan County with a grant of \$50,000. The funds from this grant will be used to give Morgan County residents the opportunity to learn more about their own healthcare needs and services, explore successful models of collaboration, and work together to create a plan for a stronger healthcare system that better serves the people of Morgan County.

The grant was written cooperatively by a group that included board members and staff from Colorado Plains Medical Center, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, East Morgan County Hospital, and North East Colorado Health Department. The group also received financial support from DOLA through the efforts of Kari Linker, Executive Director of the Morgan County Economic Development Corporation.

A primary activity of the grant will be the hosting of four county-wide meetings to provide residents with current information on Morgan County's healthcare services and systems. Through these meetings data will be gathered and shared describing the County's current healthcare services, and how those compare to other similar counties. Information will also be gathered and discussed regarding current Morgan County healthcare resources, the results of a county-wide telephone survey, and an economic impact report measuring the impact of the health sector on the local economy. Meetings will be held during lunch hours and will be held at central locations. All County residents are encouraged to attend. More information on these meetings will soon be available.

Thanks to the Morgan County Commissioners, information about this grant and the year-long healthcare project will soon be available on the County website.

One of the first steps of this grant project is to create the Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council. The members of this Council will oversee the project; learn more about Morgan County's healthcare through the community meetings and educational sessions that will be sponsored by this grant; then work together to develop an implementation plan for better coordinating healthcare services within the county. *"We called it the Horizon Council because we wanted members to keep their eye on the horizon; on Morgan County's future*

while serving on the Council,” said Barbara Bradshaw, a member of the Development Committee that wrote the grant application. Members of the Development Committee who wished to serve became members of the Horizon Council. They will invite additional members to try and make sure the Council is large and diverse enough to represent Morgan County, but small enough to actually get some work done.

“This grant provides a wonderful opportunity for Morgan County, not only to identify some of the healthcare challenges we are facing, but to plan ahead and take advantage of changes that might happen in the state and national healthcare arena,” said Dale Ingmire, who also served on the Development Committee and will be a member of the Horizon Council.

The grant was funded by The Colorado Health Foundation. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center will serve as the fiscal agent for the project. Additional information will be available soon through the news media and on the Morgan County website, www.CO.Morgan.CO.Us.

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