

**MORGAN COUNTY**  
**RURAL HEALTH WORKS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**  
**An Overview**

The new Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council has invited the National Center for Rural Health Works to facilitate a series of community meetings to discuss healthcare in Morgan County. This invitation was made possible through our recent grant from The Colorado Health Foundation. Residents throughout the County will be asked to participate in this "community engagement process." Participants can include anyone involved in or interested in Morgan County's healthcare system.

Through this Rural Health Works (RHW) participants from throughout the county will work together to:

- identify Morgan County's healthcare needs;
- examine the social, economic, and political realities affecting the local delivery of health care; and
- discuss what they want and realistically can achieve in a healthcare system to meet the county's needs.

The information developed as a result of this process and the discussions throughout the process will provide valuable input to the members of the Horizon Council as they pursue their goal, which is ***"to create and implement a plan for an integrated healthcare system that better serves the people of Morgan County"***.

The RHWs process consists of a series of four community meetings over a 4-month period. The meetings are tentatively planned for noon to 1pm on Thursdays - December 10, 2009, January 14, 2010, February 18, 2010, and March 18, 2010. The location has yet to be determined. Staff from the National Center for Rural Health Works, will provide facilitation of these four meetings, and develop the information products.

During this process, the RHW staff will be collecting data about the healthcare and healthcare systems in Morgan County. During the four one-hour community meetings, the following information will be presented and discussed:

**Meeting 1 - Economic Impact of the Health Sector.** Based on information gathered from local health services and facilities, RHW staff will provide information regarding the impact our health sector has on the county's economy. Additionally, the meeting will involve the design of the upcoming county-wide survey and the publicity "blitz" before the community survey is taken

**Meeting 2 - Health Services Directory.** Based on information they have gathered, RHW staff will present the draft of a county health services directory, which lists all health services and resources in Morgan County. Participants will be asked to make sure the information is accurate and thorough.

**Meeting 3 – Health Data and Information.** RHW staff will present data including economic/demographic and health/behavioral data for Morgan County. Participants will be asked to verify and discuss the data and the implications.

**Meeting 4 - Community Health survey.** RHW staff will provide the results of the county-wide telephone survey. The information will provide insight on access to health care and local utilization of healthcare in Morgan County.

The Horizon Council will make all the information developed through this process available on the Morgan County website.

Participants in the community meetings will review all the documents presented and look for opportunities and/or challenges for the county that will ultimately provide the most efficient, effective health care services for the residents of Morgan County. This may involve: looking at duplication of services and/or integration of services; adding new services lacking in the community or determining the feasibility of additional health services; resolving a particular health issue/disease/behavior in the county; resolving workforce issues through recruitment and retention of health care professionals; etc. Participants at the community meetings will then determine the top 1-2 critical issues within the county and suggest an action plan to deal with the issue(s). The Horizon Council members, who plan to participate in the RHW meetings, will use all the information generated through this process as they develop their Implementation Plan.

For information about the Healthcare Horizon Council and updates on this project - [www.co.morgan.co.us](http://www.co.morgan.co.us)

