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Community Health Works announces first quarterly Peach County follow-up meeting to the Central Georgia Regional Health Summit

MACON, Ga (February 3, 2010)—Community Health Works, a non-profit organization devoted to improving healthcare in Central Georgia, announced plans this month to host Peach County’s first quarterly follow-up meeting to the Central Georgia Regional Health Summit. The meeting is open to the public and will be held from 10:00AM-noon on Friday, February 19, 2010 in the public meeting room of the Peach County Courthouse, which is located in the city of Fort Valley. The event will serve as an opportunity for local residents and leaders to build an action plan to tackle obesity and related chronic health conditions at the local, community-level. The quarterly meeting is part of the Central Georgia Regional Health Summit, a three-year campaign that kicked off last October with a leadership breakfast and annual conference, during which more than 100 community leaders from across the region came together to address regional health and healthcare issues.

Community Health Works President and CEO Gregory J. Dent said the purpose of the Summit “is to bring together healthcare providers, business leaders, local public officials and other stakeholders to begin a dialogue about the health problems that most impact Central Georgia.” Dent said the first year of the Health Summit campaign would focus especially on obesity and other health conditions commonly associated with obesity, including diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

“If we can make progress on those fronts,” Dent continued, “we will automatically be improving the health status of our citizens and reducing the region’s overall healthcare costs.”

The Health Summit kicked off in October with The Medical Center of Central Georgia as the Presenting Sponsor and Houston Healthcare as the Platinum Sponsor. The Leadership Breakfast, held on October 7, 2009, provided an opportunity for public officials and local leaders to give and receive

information about the state of health in central Georgia. On October 21, 2009, more than 100 community leaders from CHW's seven-county service region—Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs—convened to discuss ways to combat obesity and related chronic conditions.

Through quarterly public meetings held in each county, local residents and representatives of local businesses, farm bureaus, city and county government, charitable organizations, healthcare providers, education, faith-based organizations, and the like, will have the unique opportunity to work together to develop a concrete action plan to improve the health of local citizens. The three-year Regional Health Summit campaign will serve as an ongoing, community-responsive dialogue around health issues that matter the most to local communities and healthcare systems alike.

Community Health Works is a growing network of regional healthcare institutions, physicians, and community organizations working together to serve Central Georgia as a regional center for health innovation. The Regional Health Summit will allow CHW to achieve its larger vision to provide better health for all people through communities working together.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Central Georgia Regional Health Summit website:

www.cgrhs.org