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## **Northwest Kansas Rural Health Alliance Forms to Meet Growing Health Care Needs**

In order to ensure quality and local health care in northwest Kansas, Citizens Medical Center, Inc., Sheridan County Health Complex and Gove County Medical Center have come together to form the Northwest Kansas Rural Health Alliance. The alliance members will collaborate towards shared goals in order to meet the growing demands of rural health care. The mission is, “To spark and invigorate rural health care accessibility, quality, efficiency, and sustainability in northwest Kansas.”

Four main goals have been established by the alliance: 1) To build relationships through cooperation and collaboration to ensure access to quality health care in Northwest Kansas, 2) To focus on strengths and share resources to increase efficiencies and reduce cost for our citizens, 3) To develop a dynamic system of quality health care and shared resources that are patient focused, and 4) To ensure the sustainability of independent, thriving and local patient care services.

Currently, the alliance is in the planning phase with the focus on establishing work groups, assessing needs and identifying available resources that can be shared among alliance members. Involvement in the Northwest Kansas Rural Health Alliance will allow the three organizations to build upon the strengths of one another and share in resources while maintaining independence. Citizens Medical Center, Inc. is proud to continue to strengthen partnerships within our region to ensure access to quality health care in Northwest Kansas.

“This is the direction health care should be moving towards; partnerships are imperative. We need to work together and collaborate so we can all succeed.”

*Greg Unruh, CEO, Citizens Medical Center, Inc.*

“We look forward to partnering with our neighbors by sharing resources to decrease costs and increase efficiencies.”

*Coleen Tummons, CEO, Gove County Medical Center*

“We are very excited about working with neighboring facilities in order to collaborate on providing healthcare services close to home.”

*Niceta Farber, CEO, Sheridan County Health Complex*

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