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**All-Purpose Article**

Client: Bryan Health

Hospital: Saunders Medical Center

**Saunders Medical Center Featured in Compendium of Rural Health Community Partnerships**

*Case study highlights local partnerships for Health Coach program*

As today’s rural hospitals seek to improve community health in the face of ongoing provider shortages, limited access to specialty care and other challenges, many hospitals in Nebraska are finding effective solutions through community partnerships.

For example, Saunders Medical Center’s partnership with several local organizations offers health coaching services to help community members achieve their health and wellness goals. The Health Coaches at Saunders Medical Center partner internally with other hospital departments and externally with local organizations, including EDGE Wellness, Family Service Lincoln, Saunders County Prevention Coalition, Wahoo Civic Center, Wahoo Senior Center and Three Rivers Public Health Department. Health Coaches serve as an educational resource and a personal advocate for a patient’s overall health.

The program, which is available free of charge to everyone in Wahoo and surrounding communities, has produced positive results, particularly in its four primary areas of focus: mental health, breast health, diabetes and obesity.

More details about the partnerships and the program’s results are available in Bryan Health’s *2017 Compendium of Best Practices in Rural Health Hospital-Community Partnerships*, which is shared with hospital and health system leaders across the country.

“Hospital-community partnerships play a significant role in improving health and overcoming challenges unique to rural communities,” said Carol Friesen, vice president of health system services at Bryan Health. “With this compendium, we are providing knowledge and ideas others can use to inspire healthy lives to take root in their communities.”

The 2017 compendium features 12 case studies, each describing a rural hospital-community partnership and the specific objectives it is designed to address. These studies also outline key steps, results and lessons learned as reported by the hospitals themselves.

Publishing the case studies and promoting them nationally is one of many ways Bryan Health supports rural hospital leaders in identifying strategies and creating opportunities to improve access to quality health care locally. The stories told in the compendium underscore how Nebraska hospitals are becoming a guiding light for rural health care transformation, demonstrating what is possible when hospitals and community organizations come together to share resources, skills and services for a greater impact on population health. The 2017 compendium is available now at bryanhealth.org/compendium.