

# Community HEALTH Connection

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## **Cooperation, Commitment and Communication**

When Boni Carrell speaks of the Community Health Connection, words like 'partnership,' 'cooperation' and 'support' are sprinkled throughout her conversation. As the new interim director for the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network, Carrell sees results, not just talk, when referencing the Community Health Connection.

"It's important that people know what's going on behind the scenes of the Community Health Connection," explains Carrell. "Hospital CEOs meet monthly to discuss and put in place specific opportunities to provide quality, local health care for panhandle residents. They are committed to making sure that people don't need to leave western Nebraska to get quality health care."

One example is a common patient satisfaction survey. The surveys are an evaluation component of the electronic patient health records project that, when completed, can be accessed by a full spectrum of panhandle health care providers. Lab reports, prescription records and hospital discharge information are all items that will be included in the electronic record, leading to a quicker and more effective way of getting patient information from one facility to another when medically necessary.

As the Community Health Connection enters its fourth year, Carrell says that her role is to support the network's activities and ensure that projects progress as scheduled.

"It's extremely satisfying to see the amount of cooperation and support that is being poured into this endeavor," says Carrell. "It goes beyond the CEOs and encompasses the work and dedication of each hospital's employees - collaboration is the foundation of the Community Health Connection."