



The State Office of Rural Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Colorado Rural Health Center's CEO Michelle Mills Recently Appointed to the Technical Assistance and Services Center Advisory Committee

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), provides information, tools and education to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and individual state Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Programs.

Denver, CO – October 2013 – Michelle Mills, chief executive officer (CEO) of Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), has been appointed to the TASC Advisory Committee, a program of the National Rural Health Resource Center.

The appointment to the TASC Advisory Committee will run through August 31, 2015. Comprised of a diverse group of professionals - the Committee serves as a sounding board and advisement group of technical experts to ensure that the TASC program is staying ahead of the curve and keeping the pulse on the needs and issues in rural communities, CAHs and state FLEX programs.

The TASC program supports the forty- five states participating in the FLEX program and the 1,300 + CAHs they serve. TASC work aligns with the state FLEX grant to provide technical assistance, education, resources and awareness in the areas of: quality improvement; financial and operational improvement, and healthy system development. Other programs include Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant (SHIP) and Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Project (RHPI).

Mills is widely known as a leading authority for rural health care in Colorado, with over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector dedicated to quality improvement and patient safety. Prior to becoming CEO in August 2012, Mills was the Director of

Programs at CRHC and oversaw not only the FLEX program, but numerous technical support programs and services.

“It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to help address the significant healthcare challenges facing Critical Access Hospitals, said Mills. “I look forward to sharing Colorado’s best practices and working with the other Advisory Committee appointees to ensure healthcare programs are more accessible in rural.”

The TASC Advisory Committee is comprised of seventeen members from outside the National Rural Health Resource Center. Members meet quarterly. For the full list of the TASC Advisory Committee members visit <http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/advisory>.

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing health care issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable health care services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

About The National Rural Health Resource Center

The National Rural Health Resource Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving health care in rural communities. As the nation’s leading technical assistance and knowledge center in rural health, The Center enjoys solid and long-term relationships with the Health Resource and Service Administration’s Office of Rural Health Policy and many other federal organizations. The Center staff and board have extensive experience working in rural communities and are committed to maximizing the health of rural Americans. For more information visit <http://www.ruralcenter.org/>.