



*The State Office of Rural Health*

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Colorado Rural Health Center Announces New Director of Health Information Technology**

*The Colorado Rural Health Center names Patrick Yount as the new Director of Health Information Technology.*

Denver, Colo – The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) – Colorado’s nonprofit State Office of Rural Health and member-based association for rural healthcare facilities – is pleased to welcome Patrick Yount to this key position on its growing health information technology (HIT) division.

Yount was previously the information technology (IT) director for critical access hospitals (CAHs) in Colorado and Kansas, and brings a unique perspective on the challenges facing rural Colorado from his experiences over the last eight years.

Yount will lead the development and implementation of CRHC’s HIT division, in partnership with CRHC’s senior HIT consultant David Ginsberg, to address the HIT needs of CRHC’s nearly 200 rural members.

“Patrick is an exciting addition to our leadership team,” says Michelle Mills, CRHC’s chief executive officer. “His skill set spans all aspects of HIT and his existing relationships with rural facilities in Colorado will ensure CRHC builds a full scope HIT service line that meets the needs of our members.”

With the knowledge and experience held by Yount, CRHC hopes to enhance its capabilities to build and grow new HIT solutions to ensure rural health facilities are up-to-date with the latest regulatory and compliance initiatives including Meaningful Use, HIPAA and more.

CRHC expanded its HIT services earlier this year in response to the growing demand expressed by rural hospitals and clinics concerning their lack of HIT resources. One of the greatest barriers cited by rural facilities was the inability to extract data from electronic medical records (EMRs) for reporting requirements.

In addition to Yount, CRHC hired two HIT data analysts to work directly with hospitals and clinics, providing IT remote and onsite support, in addition to report writing for business intelligence and data analytics.

With the addition of these new HIT services, CRHC hopes rural healthcare facilities will have the resources and tools needed to fully utilize their EMR data, and therefore more accurately address the healthcare needs of the communities they serve.

### **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 healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit [www.coruralhealth.org](http://www.coruralhealth.org), call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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