

MEMORANUM OF UNDERSTANDING Ozarks Rural Health Network

Statement of Purpose

The organizing purpose of the Ozarks Rural Health Network (ORHN) is to create a coordinated and integrated network that addresses social determinants of health in the Missouri Ozarks region.

The organizing members of ORHN founded the network in response to needs identified through previous collaborative activities, the results of individual organizational and collective community needs assessments, and joint planning activities that have demonstrated an evident need to address social determinants of health in our region.

The mission of the Network is to improve the overall health and wellness of the Ozarks region by addressing underlying social determinants of health.

Operating Principles

In order to maximize the individual and regional impact of its efforts, the operating principles of the Ozarks Rural Health Network are: **collaboration, integration, and quality**. ORHN focuses on:

Collaborative development of local resources and efforts to improve the health and well-being of the residents of the Ozarks region that minimize the duplication of services;

Integrated efforts that transcend existing systems to coordinate development and implementation of appropriate and effective services that are unavailable or insufficient in the region;

Quality outcomes that result from the use of data and best practices to inform planning, decision-making, and evaluation of Network programs and activities.

This memorandum formalizes the collaboration between the Network partners signing this agreement in support of the development of the Ozarks Rural Health Network. This agreement supports each organization's desire to collaboratively address social determinants of health in our region. The information contained herein describes the role of each entity in the collaboration and the scope of services offered.

Membership

The founding members of the Network include representation from primary health care, public health, hospitals and specialty health care providers, and social service agencies in the Ozarks region. Membership is open to organizations and agencies providing health care or social services in the nine-county region served by existing Network members. New members must be approved by the existing membership.

Each Network member organization shall designate an individual from the leadership team of that organization to represent the member organization on the Network Board of Directors, with authority to represent the member organization in decision-making.

Organizations that are not seeking network membership or are not yet network members may participate in network initiatives, programs, and activities with the approval of the membership.

Memorandum of Understanding
Ozarks Rural Health Network

Officers and Terms

Officers for the Network will include a Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary/Treasurer to be elected by the members. The term of network officers shall be two years, with officers named through a vote of the network membership. Each member organization or agency shall have one vote in network decision-making.

Committees

Committees shall be named as necessary to focus on specific areas of network activity or specific functions of the network. Committees shall serve in an advisory role to the full network membership, and shall not have decision-making authority.

Staff and Resources

Staff must consist at a minimum of a 1.0 FTE network director, who shall be the sole employee of the network board, with delegated responsibilities from the board. The network director may create additional positions supervised by the network director as necessary with board approval.

Frequency of Meetings

Network meetings will occur at least on a bimonthly basis (every other month), with more frequent meetings as necessary. Committee and full membership meetings will make use of available information technology, so that members who are not able to attend in person may attend through a tele-meeting format. Member organizations must be present in person at the annual meeting of the board, to be held in May of each year.

Acknowledgement of Responsibilities

My agency/organization understands the requirements and responsibilities of network membership. These include:

- Designating an organization representative with decision making authority for membership on the Ozarks Rural Health Network Board to provide leadership on network health priorities and practices.
- Collaborating with Network partners to implement the activities outlined in the Ozarks Rural Health Network Work Plan.
- Participating with Network members to create an independent nonprofit organization (Network) and governance structure that supports the mission of the Network.
- Distributing information about the Network and providing services, education and assistance to the target population.

Memorandum of Understanding
Ozarks Rural Health Network

Understanding

This agreement represents the complete understanding of the members. Any amendments to this agreement shall be in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement will take effect on November 28, 2016. Each party's participation in this agreement will continue unless terminated by that party. Any party may terminate their individual participation in this agreement by giving 30 days written notice to the Network Board.

By signing below, I affirm my organization's participation in the Ozarks Rural Health Network.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Organization Name | _____ Organization EIN |
| _____ Address | |
| _____ Signature | _____ Date |
| _____ Name of Signatory | _____ Title of Signatory |

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