**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics Announces Strategic Partnership**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (June 18, 2024**) – The Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics (MARHC) is proud to announce a new strategic partnership with the Missouri Rural Health Association (MRHA). This collaboration, effective May 2024, marks a significant step forward in our shared mission: to enhance the quality and accessibility of healthcare in rural communities throughout Missouri.

MARHC’s mission has always been to study, discuss, and exchange professional knowledge and expertise, promote high standards of quality patient care, stimulate continuing education, and improve access to quality healthcare through cooperative efforts with other professional healthcare organizations. MRHA, with its mission to provide leadership on rural priorities through advocacy, partnerships, and education, is an ideal partner to help us advance these goals. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to supporting our valued Rural Health Clinic (RHC) members more effectively.

As part of this strategic partnership, MRHA will be providing association management services for MARHC. This arrangement ensures that MARHC can leverage MRHA’s experience and resources to better serve our members and achieve our organizational objectives.

“We are confident that this partnership will significantly enhance our ability to support rural health clinics in delivering exceptional healthcare services to their communities,” said MARHC President Greg Weaver. “We are committed to keeping our members informed about new initiatives, resources, and opportunities that arise from this collaboration with MRHA.”

MARHC and MRHA have a proven track record of successful collaboration, exemplified by their recent joint effort cohosting the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) billing and coding certification training in Branson, MO, on May 22-23. This fully grant funded joint training provided training to 120 billers and coders from across 46 rural counties. This partnership will continue to effectively address critical training needs and enhance the capabilities of rural health providers across the state. Building on this success, MARHC and MRHA are now planning another collaborative event, the highly anticipated rural health conference, scheduled for this November.

Heidi Lucas, Executive Director at MRHA, expressed her enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "This collaboration underscores our shared dedication to improving rural healthcare in Missouri. By working together, we can amplify our impact and ensure that Rural Health Clinics have the support they need to thrive."

The MARHC and MRHA partnership is a pivotal step towards creating a more robust healthcare infrastructure in Missouri's rural areas. This alliance will greatly enhance both organization’s ability to support Rural Health Clinics in delivering high-quality healthcare services.

**About MARHC:** The Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics (MARHC) is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 2000 by health professionals committed to providing a forum to exchange information specific to Rural Health Clinics. MARHC promotes high standards for quality patient care, stimulates interest in continuing education for rural health clinic healthcare providers, and improves access to quality healthcare through cooperative efforts.

**About MRHA:** The Missouri Rural Health Association (MRHA) provides leadership on rural priorities through advocacy, partnerships, and education. MRHA is dedicated to addressing the unique healthcare challenges facing rural communities and enhancing the overall health and well-being of Missouri's rural population.

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For more information about the partnership please contact: info@MARHC.org

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