



### *Opportunity Statement*

- **Severe Primary Care Shortage** currently exists and is on the rise
- **Vulnerable populations with new health insurance plans will not have access to a provider** because of the increase in demand
- **Cost of healthcare continues to rise** with Emergency Rooms being the most available alternative
- **Access to care problems are exacerbated in rural areas** due to higher healthcare provider shortages, a larger elderly population than urban, and transportation barriers

### *Community Paramedic Solution*

The Community Paramedic model is an innovative, proven solution to provide high quality primary care and preventative services by employing a currently available and often underutilized healthcare resource.

### *How Does it Work?*

A primary care partner refers a patient to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to provide services in the home that are within their current scope of practice including: hospital discharge follow-up, fall prevention in the home, blood draws, medication reconciliation or wound care. The Community Paramedic provides care and communicates health records back to the referring physician to ensure quality of care and appropriate oversight. In addition works with Public Health to provide preventative services throughout the community.

### *Advantages*

- Decreases workload and increases quality and efficiency of managing patients in a primary care and public health settings by utilizing EMS Personnel through non-traditional methods
- EMS personnel are integrated throughout the healthcare system, improving access and decreasing healthcare cost
- Community Paramedic certification provides a job opportunity where EMS volunteer work is often the only sustainable model in rural areas
- EMS personnel currently have the training, expertise and scope of practice to provide essential primary care services
- The program has a proven track record locally and internationally

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: Does a Community Paramedic replace current healthcare systems like home health care or primary care physicians?**

**A:** No. Community Paramedic is an extension of the primary care provider to provide care to patients without access, and does not replace the specialized services available in a home health care model or physician office.

**Q: Does a Community Paramedic have the right training to provide primary care?**

**A:** Additional training is provided to Community Paramedics specific to providing preventive care in the home within their current scope. However, services provided do not fall out of the currently defined scope of practice for EMS personnel.

**Q: Is the quality of care compromised by using a Community Paramedic vs. a primary care provider?**

**A:** No. A Community Paramedic provides care under the supervision of a physician, so the quality of care is consistent with care provided in a clinic setting.