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## District 51 Partnership with Community Hospital Saves Taxpayer Dollars *Insurance premiums to remain steady in 2017 thanks to savings*

**Mesa County, CO** – At a time when annual insurance premium increases have become the norm for most companies, School District 51's self-insurance program is on track to hold medical insurance premiums steady for the 2017 benefit year. That is possible thanks in large part to savings from the district's first year with a Community Hospital-based plan.

Ninety-four percent of the 3,026 employees and family members covered by the district's health insurance chose the new Community Health Partnership Plan (CHP) in 2016, which steers patients toward Community Hospital's provider network for their health care. District 51/CHP insurance offers benefits such as:

- No-cost prescriptions through Canyon View Pharmacy for commonly prescribed generic medications.
- A deductible decrease for insured individuals who complete an annual health assessment and screening.
- Access to outpatient diabetes management, outpatient behavioral health, and lifestyle medicine programs.
- Office visits and basic lab tests at no cost through Grand Valley Primary Care or for a \$25 copay at Community Care of the Grand Valley (or Community Hospital Emergency Department when Community Care is closed).
  - This clinic-style concept debuted for District 51 employees in 2012.

An emphasis on preventative medicine for the past several years, combined with low-cost care through Community Hospital and the primary care offices, has helped District 51's gross medical insurance claims decrease from \$12,188,454 in 2014 to \$10,801,527 in 2015. The district is on track to see gross medical claims of \$10.5 million for the 2016 benefit year. The savings are going right back into the district's self-insurance program to help maintain premium levels without having to divert funds from the classroom.

"The efficiencies we are seeing in our partnership are allowing us to reinvest more into our health plan," said District 51 Superintendent Steve Schultz. "Our partnership with Community Hospital has provided us a way to maintain premiums at a time when others are increasing employee premiums or struggling to absorb increasing health care costs."

"It's one thing to say that the district has realized a significant savings for their health plan, but the beauty of this relationship is that all parties are truly invested in improving the health of their members," said Connie Mack, Vice President of Business Development for Community Hospital. "We've brought together a wide variety of analytical tools enabling us to identify gaps in care for the population as a whole and, more importantly, at the individual member level. With this level of detail, our targeted intervention strategies are carefully planned and perfectly aligned with the member's health plan benefits. This kind of success doesn't happen overnight. When organizations understand each other's needs and collectively create a vision of where they want to be, it takes trust, innovation, and a well-thought-out plan."

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