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## NEWS RELEASE

Karen Martsolf, MA  
Director, Marketing/Communications  
(970) 256-6205 (o)  
(970) 778-1249 (c)  
karen.martsolf@gjhosp.org

### Concussion Task Force to Host Town Hall Meeting

Mesa County, CO--- The Grand Junction Concussion Task Force will host *'The How and Why of Concussion Management: A Town Hall Meeting'* on **Saturday, January 16th, 2016 from 9 am - 11:30 am at the Double Tree Hotel, Grand Junction, CO**. The event is being sponsored by Community Hospital. Registration is free for all attendees and will begin at 8:30 am.

The town hall meeting is geared towards both non-medical and medical individuals including coaches, parents, students, teachers and health care providers. The focus of the town hall meeting is to provide information on the 'protocol for thorough and effective concussion treatment', describe the value of a 'team approach to concussion treatment for enduring recovery from concussion', define the importance of 'return-to-learn first', 'return-to-play second during recovery from concussion', articulate the 'established and hypothetical perils of inadequate concussion treatment', and to identify barriers to 'inadequate access to care and communication during concussion treatment'.

The town hall meeting will include two sessions. The first session will include four 15 minute presentations. The presentations will be followed by a second session for 90 minutes during which attendees will have time to share their thoughts and provide feedback related to their experiences with concussion treatment and to ask questions of a panel of individuals familiar with the various nuances for comprehensive treatment of concussions. The goal of the second session is to foster a dialogue between non-medical and medical individuals in order to enhance communication during and after concussion treatment and to potentially reduce long term problems in individuals who have sustained concussions.

Guest presenters will include:

- Kelli Jantz –mother of Jake Snakenberg, will speak on 'Safety Before Sport'. Jake's tragic demise following a head injury in 2010 was the impetus for enactment of the Colorado Senate Bill 11-040, "The Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act", which emphasizes the importance of annual education for coaches on concussion recognition and the steps for safe return to sport following concussion.
- Karen McAvoy, PsyD – Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Center for Concussion at Rocky Mountain Youth Sports Medicine Institute, will speak on 'Concussion Management –The Basics for Recovery and Safe Participation'.
- Two local high school students who had concussions will speak on the 'The Consequences of Concussion on Academics and Athletics'.
- Dr. Danny Mistry, MD, ATC – Sports Medicine Physician at Western Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Grand Junction, CO, Board of Directors Member for the Colorado Brain Injury Program, and Chair of the Concussion Task Force for USA Swimming, will speak on 'The Team that Helps Take Care of Our Teams'.

**To attend this event, please RSVP Heather Gray at [hgray@gjhosp.org](mailto:hgray@gjhosp.org) or call 970-256-6270.**

**Members of the media are invited and encouraged to attend this important event.**

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