FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2010
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NOTE TO MEDIA: The panelists will be available immediately after the presentation for interviews.

Patient-Centered Health Care Comes Home to Roost – Three Young Adults To Share Their Stories

Larimer County, CO—Have you ever arrived for a pre-scheduled dental appointment only to be told the staff didn't have time for you that day? Have you had to fill out the same paperwork multiple times for each doctor and specialist you see? Do you feel like a number rather than a person when you go to the doctor?

If so, you have a lot in common with three members of the Colorado Medical Home Youth Council (CMHYC) who will make a special presentation Monday, November 22, 3-4:30pm, at the Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields Street, in Fort Collins. They will share how the care they receive through a patient-centered "medical home" is better than the care they have received through America's more traditional health care delivery system.

A medical home team includes patients as active participants in their own health and well-being, and all of their care providers (doctors, dentists, therapists, etc.) who collaborate with each other. One of the team's professionals takes the lead in coordinating the patient's care.

The panelists include:

- Twenty-three-year-old Sharday Collins who has cerebral palsy due to injuries she incurred from an accident when she was nine years old.
- Dylan Marcy, a junior at Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins, who was born with complicated medical issues.
- Terra Summers who has cared for people with complex health needs since she was 13 years old and now works as a certified nursing assistant, making advocating for her patients a full-time career.

"The Medical Home approach recognizes the importance of remembering to keep people first," says Emily Fiscus, CMHYC coordinator. "It makes health care personal, accessible, comfortable and efficient."

Dr. Donna Sullivan of the Fort Collins Family Medicine Center and Residency Program says, "Patient-centered medical home is the epitome of comprehensive health care. The intention is to make sure patient care is truly comprehensive, coordinated and easily accessible, and that patients have access to the services they need to meet their health care needs."

The presentation is hosted by the Larimer County Medical Home Coalition, Colorado Medical Home Initiative and Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County. For more information about medical home, visit www.healthylarimer.org/med_home.shtml.

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The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) is a coalition of nonprofit, government, business and citizen leaders focused on improving the health and well-being of our children and youth. HCC does this by serving as a relationship broker, networker, communicator, convener, facilitator, researcher and capacity builder for the family and youth service providers throughout Larimer County. HCC was established in 1994 and is located in Fort Collins, Colorado. The Poudre Valley Health System Foundation serves as HCC's fiscal agent.