



**Memorandum of Understanding
October 10, 2012**

Whereas rural and frontier health care providers today are faced with an array of new opportunities and growing challenges, while often lacking basic adaptive, collaborative and technical capacities, and while also lacking access to rural-appropriate capacity building opportunities;

Whereas the National Center for Frontier Communities, The Wellness Coalition and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health desire to combine their areas of expertise to build the capacity of rural health providers;

Whereas each of the organizations have complementary missions;

Whereas these nonprofit organizations are committed to ensuring a collaborative infrastructure that can be used as a means for efficiently and competently addressing the capacity needs of rural and frontier health care organizations nationwide.;

The undersigned organizations hereby agree to form the National Network for Rural and Frontier Capacity. Upon the receipt of a HRSA Network Development Planning award the network members agree to jointly plan a Network that will build the capacities of rural providers so that they in turn can improve community health, provide better care and reduce costs in rural communities.

The undersigned partners are committed to serve in the roles and responsibilities assigned below.

National Center for Frontier Communities - Applicant and lead agency responsible for network oversight and all aspects of fiduciary and programmatic management and support. NCFC will take the lead in the planning, conduct, convening and reporting of Network activities. With approval of its Network partners, NCFC will hire the network program director and provide administrative oversight. NCFC will be a member of the Network steering committee and the capacity work group.

The Wellness Coalition – Resource development partner responsible for the development of materials and curriculum for the Rural Capacity Building Framework (RCBF). TWC will take the lead on developing the planning year assessments, on gathering the tools and methods that form the framework, and on assembling the Capacity Builder Course that will be used to train capacity building organizations in year 2. TWC will be a member of the Network steering committee and the capacity work group.

National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health – Outreach partner responsible for outreach to frontier and rural health providers and capacity building consultants including participation in needs assessments, developing capacity building tools and engaging pilot SORH in the planning of the capacity building framework. NOSORH will be a member of the Network steering committee.

Executive Director, National Center for Frontier Communities

Executive Director, The Wellness Coalition

Serge Eisinger

Director, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health