



**PRESS RELEASE
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Rural Health Network Announces New Executive Director

The Grand County Rural Health Network has announced that Amanda Uehlein has been named the organization's new Executive Director. Uehlein takes the helm September 1, 2024 from current ED Jen Fanning, who plans to spend more time with family and explore fresh opportunities.

"We are happy to announce this transition. With her expertise in mental health and nonprofit management as well as a supportive and collaborative leadership style, Amanda is the right person to move forward the organization's current work and future initiatives," states Derek Ortner, board chair. "Amanda's deep understanding of community health and perspective as a mental health practitioner will provide necessary insight and drive as our community tackles the mental health crisis."

Uehlein has worked for the organization for 6 years and has held the Associate Director role since 2021. With a master's degree in somatic counseling psychology, Uehlein has a breadth of experience as a direct care provider, care coordinator, educator, community organizer, facilitator, crisis clinician, and outpatient therapist. She holds expertise in nonprofit management, health program implementation, advocacy, and collaborative cross-sector systems change. Uehlein enjoys providing reflective supervision for staff to support their work with community members as well as their professional development. She is a passionate advocate for equity, social justice, and the health and wellbeing of our rural community. In her time with the Network, she has supported the expansion and sustainability of the organization's staff and services, including operationalizing crucial changes to ensure vital services were provided to the community during the pandemic and East Troublesome Fire. "I'm ready to step into the executive director role and guide the organization as we lean into opportunities to cement access to care for our neighbors." Uehlein states.

Jen Fanning leaves the Network after 17 years of service, 16 of those as executive director. “Jen has expertly led the organization through many community and national crises, while ensuring we serve our neighbors in need. We would not be the organization we are today without her leadership and vision,” states Ortner. “Jen has created and supported programs and initiatives not only at the Network, but in many partner organizations as well. We are extremely grateful to Jen for her years of service that has greatly improved our community’s ability to access care.” The organization has multiplied its impact more than 6 times under Fanning’s leadership. In response to community need, Fanning has overseen growth from one employee to sixteen, one program to five, from one to three office locations and several programmatic expansions. Fanning created and led the collaborative group, Health and Human Resource Coalition, leading three iterations of a community-wide behavioral health plan. During her tenure, she has served on numerous local and regional boards, and has been appointed to three state boards or committees.

“We know that our community will continue to benefit from Jen’s expertise and vision in community health and healthcare delivery implementation” adds Ortner.

Fanning gave more than a year’s notice for this transition, allowing implementation of a well-thought-out succession plan. “A core value is that every employee is a leader,” says Fanning. “We have been intentionally building our organizational structure over the past year to clarify pathways to leadership, support the team during this transition, and set everyone up for success.”

“We honor everything Jen has accomplished for the Network and in service of this community. I have learned so much from her leadership and look forward to supporting our team to continue their important work.” says Uehlein. “I’m excited for this opportunity to continue to serve our community.”

The community is invited to bid Fanning farewell on August 22, 3-7 pm. Details and location coming soon. All are welcome.

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About Grand County Rural Health Network: Grand County Rural Health Network offers access, resources, and support for all our neighbors to lead their healthiest lives. We believe everyone has the right to health care and to understand how to access that care. We are a nonprofit serving Grand and Jackson counties in Colorado. Our office phone number is (970) 725-3477 and website is <https://www.gcruralhealth.org>. Our local health resource guide can be found at <https://www.healthygrandcounty.org>.