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OHIO BH/HS PROVIDERS ALIGN TO FORM EHR COLLABORATIVE

KENT, Ohio – Coleman Professional Services and COVA - Center of Vocational Alternatives have formed a joint venture, the Ohio Provider EHR Collaborative, to aid Ohio's behavioral health and human service providers in the acquisition and implementation of vital electronic health record and billing systems.

"Providers know the successful adoption of an electronic health record is critical to their agency's ongoing viability -- yet many providers in Ohio lack the financial or IT resources to successfully implement comprehensive EHR system," said Nelson Burns, chief executive officer of Coleman Professional Services, a NE Ohio-based provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation services. "We felt that forming the Ohio EHR Collaborative was the best way for agencies of all sizes to adopt a more sophisticated system at a lower cost -- and with less risk than a center would face by acquiring systems individually."

Coleman partnered with COVA, a central Ohio based provider of vocational rehabilitation services, to launch the nonprofit venture. The new technology will interface with Ohio's multiple local and state reporting systems, as well as private insurance providers.

"Joining the Ohio collaborative is a good business decision for COVA," said Judy Braun, president and CEO of COVA. "By acquiring a system as part of a multi-provider group, COVA benefits from the experience of our partners and will have faster implementation of a system, which is crucial in these changing times in our industry."

The two agency leaders believe other Ohio providers will want to share in the technology efficiencies.

"The Ohio provider consortium will continue to grow by adding new behavioral health and human service agencies," said Burns, "Working together, our group's technology platform and implementation will provide better customer service and greater efficiencies for each participating agency. Coleman cannot be successful without electronic health records. Joining forces enables us to maintain our vision and focus to improve the lives of the people we serve."

An informational session will be held in Northeast Ohio on April 21st from 8:30 a.m. to noon for organizations wishing to learn more about the Ohio Provider EHR Collaborative. Ohio providers interested in more information about the Ohio EHR Collaborative please contact Nelson Burns, nelson.burns@coleman-professional.com or 330-676-6801 or Robin Hepler, rhepler@cova.org or 614-294-7117.

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About Coleman Professional Services

Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in Northeast Ohio. The company relies on an enterprise business model to diversify its funding. Coleman Foundation and three enterprise companies produce more than 25 percent of the company's funding for its award-winning programs. www.coleman-professional.com

About COVA

COVA is a national leader in providing rehabilitation services and career development for people with mental illness and related disabilities that pose barriers to employment. Founded in 1982, COVA is based in Columbus, with offices in Delaware and Lancaster. The agency serves 3,300 individuals and 250 employers each year. COVA's innovative programming has been recognized nationally with the Eli Lilly Reintegration Award and the U.S. Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award. For more information see www.cova.org.