



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ADPH/RMC in Roanoke awarded million dollar grant to address cardiovascular disease

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Development of the Alabama Department of Public Health and Randolph Medical Center, a critical access hospital in Roanoke, have been awarded a federal grant of \$1,167,384 to address cardiovascular disease in this rural area of East Alabama. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in Alabama and has remained so since 1928.

The Health Resources and Services Administration made this award to Alabama as a part of the Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Health Information Technology Network Program. Alabama is one of only 16 states that received an award.

Randolph Medical Center is a critical access hospital that serves Randolph, Clay and Chambers counties. According to Dr. Jim McVay, director of the health department's Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, "In each of these counties the mortality rate from cardiovascular disease exceeds the state average."

In the past six months the hospital has committed more than \$1.7 million of its own funds to purchase advanced cardiac technology, including 64 Slice Cat Scan, new echo/ultrasound and new wireless heart monitoring telemetry.

Plans for the hospital are as follows:

- Upgrade clinical information systems to reduce medical errors
- Improve data sharing capability
- Establish a reporting and trending system

Harold Brown, rural health program manager with the Alabama Department of Public Health, said, "With investments of this size and the committed involvement of their chief executive officer in the project we believe it has a great chance for success."

Proposed network partners include:

- * Alabama Department of Public Health
- * Randolph Medical Center
- * Southern Family Health Care, a provider-based rural health clinic owned by Randolph Medical Center
- * East Alabama Medical Center, a tertiary care center in Opelika

* Institute for Advanced Cardiology, a cardiologist physician group with offices in Randolph and Lee counties.

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