



HEALTH CARE COALITION
OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCC Will Hold a Town Hall Meeting to Address Lack of Funding for 911 Wireless Calls in Missouri

If there is an emergency, perhaps even a life or death situation, and you call 911 from your cell phone no one will be able to locate you if you can't articulate where you are. To address this issue, **the Health Care Coalition of Lafayette County is holding a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, July 23rd at the Margaret Gray Center, 6:00 p.m. at 811 S. 13 Hwy in Lexington, MO.**

"Cell phones are naturally considered as a safety net in emergency situations," said Toniann Richard, the HCC's executive director. "But in the case of a 911 emergency, Missouri is the only state that does not offer 911 wireless capabilities. What this means is, unless a person is able to articulate where they are, fire, police and ambulance won't be able to find him or her. Couple that with the dilemma social service providers face when their clients are in emergency situations and the gravity of this issue becomes even more apparent."

Mark Allen, Lafayette County's 911 director, provided the following facts about 911 wireless for area residents to consider:

- **Missouri is the only state in the union that has not passed a 911 funding solution for cell phones.**
- **If you dial 911 on your cell phone in Lafayette County, there is no guarantee that your call will reach the Lafayette County dispatch center or the Higginsville dispatch center.**

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Advocating for the health and well-being of Lafayette County residents.

- **If you call 911 on your cell phone, your call may go to a dispatch center in a surrounding county, to Blue Springs or even Kansas City, depending on what wireless service you have and where you are in Lafayette County at the time you make the call.**
- **When you call 911 on your cell phone and it does reach the Lafayette County dispatch center, your identity and your location in Lafayette County is unknown.**
- **Most Lafayette County residents think that a cell phone operates just like a LAN (local area network) line and that the enhanced 911 criteria that exists for LAN lines also exists for cell phones, which is not the case in Missouri.**
- **Sixty-five percent of all 911 calls into the Lafayette County Dispatch Center are from cell phones.**

“As a mom, I relied on the cell phone as a type of protection for my daughter,” said Lafayette County resident, Iva Eggert. “If she got into an accident or got a flat tire I had a false sense of security because I took for granted that she could call for help on her cell phone. Now that I know 911 wireless is not available, it upsets me immensely. Our tax dollars pay for this service.”

The Town Hall meeting to be held July 23rd at the Margaret Gray Center at 6:00 p.m. is intended to address this issue, funding, as well as develop an action plan to rally constituents to push local, state and federal legislatures to provide 911 wireless in Lafayette County.

For more information, contact Toniann Richard at 660.259.9019 or visit HCCNetwork.org.

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