

NEWS RELEASE
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Three Coloradans Honored at CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference

DENVER— Community Health Association of the Mountains/Plains States (CHAMPS) honored three Coloradans for outstanding board leadership and advocacy last night at the annual CHAMPS Primary Care Conference. The award winners are:

Janet Fieldman, Chief Foundation Officer of the Pueblo Community Health Center Foundation, recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved Award

Wally Wesener and Frank Taylor, members of the Metro Community Provider Networks (MCPN) Board of Directors, co-recipients of the 2012 Exceptional Board Leadership Award

Each year, CHAMPS recognizes outstanding individuals in Region VIII, which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Janet Fieldman has been with Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) for 15 years. Her advocacy work on behalf of PCHC has contributed to PCHC increasing the number of patients they have been able to care for over the past 10 years by nearly 10,000. PCHC has a foundation, thanks to Janet's tenacity and ingenuity.

Janet is a certified fund raising executive and has helped PCHC complete a multi-million dollar capital campaign, enabling more than 2,000 additional individuals to access primary health care services between 2010 and 2011. She has also helped PCHC decrease reliance on federal funds. Janet serves on multiple boards, including, Newborn Hope, Inc., Southern Colorado Press Club, and Kiwanis Club of Pueblo.

Wally Wesener and Frank Taylor have been members of Metro Community Provider Network's (MCPN) Board of Directors for ten and seven years respectively. They have shown exceptional growth in their roles and are leaders in advocating for MCPN. Both Wally and Frank are MCPN patients and have served on the MCPN Board of Directors for ten and seven years respectively. Wally and Frank were nominated for this award by CCHN.

Frank Taylor has lived in Colorado all of his adult life and began his association with MCPN nearly 23 years ago with a visit to the original MCPN Helena Clinic. Frank's commitment to Health Centers extends beyond his work with MCPN and he currently sits on the NACHC Consumer Board Member Committee, the NACHC Program Planning Committee, and on the NACHC Healthcare for the Homeless Committee.

Wally Wesener has been on the MCPN Board of Directors for ten years and an MCPN patient for over 12 years. She served for many years as the treasurer on the MCPN Board of Directors and has actively participated in both the NACHC Policy and Issues Forum and Community Health Institute conferences over the years. She feels strongly that consumer board members have made a huge difference around healthcare reform and other CHC healthcare related issues both nationally and on a state level.

About CHAMPS

CHAMPS is a nonprofit membership association of community, migrant and homeless Community Health Centers (CHCs) in the six Region VIII states. CHAMPS was founded in 1985 to unite Region VIII CHC in an advocacy and mutual support network of these community-based providers of primary care and related services for underserved communities in the Mountain and Plains states.

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The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 17 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 600,000 of their community members – over one in 10 people in Colorado - from 57 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

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