

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Health Center Staff Honored for Health Care Quality Improvements

DENVER— Colorado Community Health Center staff from Lamar to Dove Creek and from Sterling to Alamosa was honored last night for quality improvement achievements. Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) presented the awards at CCHN's annual quality improvement awards ceremony. In addition, scholarships were awarded to Colorado Health Center entry-level staff members who are in training to advance their health care careers while continuing to care for patients.

CCHN's annual clinical quality awards honor outstanding Community Health Center (CHC) staff members and partner safety-net providers who participate in CCHN's health care quality improvement efforts. Individuals and institutions were honored this year in the Health Professions Initiative Scholarship Program, the Women's Wellness Connection, the Colorado Oral Health Network Data for Clinical Quality Project, the Health Disparities Collaboratives, CCHN's Emergency Preparedness Program, the Healthy Woman Outreach Project, The Heart Smart Navigation Program, the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program, and CCHN's Immunization Initiative.

CCHN was joined by Senator Betty Boyd (D-Lakewood), who delivered the keynote address and announced the awards. Boyd is Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and a member of the Judiciary Committee. She has served in the Colorado General Assembly since 2000 and is a long-term advocate for low-income people.

[I will add a quote from Sen. Boyd's speech if appropriate.]

Below are descriptions of the scholarships and awards and recipient names.

Health Professions Initiative (HPI) Scholarship Program

The HPI Scholarships are given to high-achieving, entry-level CHC employees seeking to further their education in an allied health profession. Recipients are chosen based on their commitment to serving the underserved, strong support from their Community Health Center, and overall need for the scholarship award. The following Health Center staff are this year's recipients:

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.: Malia Howard
- Denver Health Family Health Centers: Nancy Lea, Elizabeth Sanchez
- High Plains Community Health Center: Scott Brown
- Metro Community Provider Network: Hilda Barazza, Olga Martinez
- Mountain Family Health Centers: Jackie Marshall
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers: Aspen Funk
- Pueblo Community Health Center: Paulina Adjei, Denise Dwight
- Salud Family Health Centers: Michelle Parras
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.: Jessica Gomez
- Uncompahgre Medical Center: Kathy Reed
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.: Kalee Chavez, David Gurule

Colorado Women's Wellness Connection

The Women's Wellness Connection program provides low-income, uninsured and underserved women access to timely, high-quality screening and diagnostic services to detect breast and cervical cancer at the earliest

stages. Health Centers are recognized for their dedication and countless hours of staff time devoted to improving access for their patients to these services.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Health Family Health Centers
- Dove Creek Community Health Clinic
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Metro Community Provider Network
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Plains Medical Center
- Pueblo Community Health Center
- Salud Family Health Centers
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

Colorado Oral Health Network (COHN) “Data for Clinical Quality” Project

The “Data for Clinical Quality” Project was created to develop a system to measure, analyze, and share oral health outcomes to improve the oral health of the patients served by COHN members. COHN is comprised of CHCs and other safety-net dental clinics from across the state. This project is focused on preventive services, completed treatment plans, the number of young children accessing dental care, and availability for emergency cases.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – Thornton
- Dental Aid – Boulder, Longmont, and Louisville
- Health District of Northern Larimer County
- Howard Dental Center
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Salud Family Health Centers – Ft. Lupton

Health Disparities Collaboratives

The Collaboratives were developed to eliminate health disparities by changing primary health care practices. This award honors CHCs for their outstanding contributions to the reduction of health disparities, including continued participation in this project, transforming clinical practice, and documenting improved patient outcomes.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Health Family Health Centers
- Dove Creek Community Health Clinic
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Metro Community Provider Network
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Plains Medical Center
- Pueblo Community Health Center
- Salud Family Health Centers
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

Emergency Preparedness Program

The goal of CCHN's Emergency Preparedness Program is to assist CHCs in disaster readiness for pandemic influenza and other emergencies. Objectives include helping CHCs develop emergency-planning relationships with local health departments, city/county governments and other emergency response agencies; and increasing CHC involvement in community-wide disaster exercises. Two individual awards were given.

- The Community Relations Award was given to Pueblo Community Health Center and Donald Moore, Chief Operations Officer, for involvement and leadership in pandemic influenza planning in Pueblo. Moore works with a group including fire, police and county officials; the local health department; and private business to ensure coordinated response to a pandemic in Pueblo.
- The Most Accomplished Award was given to Kathy Pachelli, Environment of Care Coordinator for Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. Pachelli built Valley-Wide's basic emergency preparedness plan into a complete all-hazards plan, a pandemic influenza plan, and arranged for Valley-Wide's participation in a full-scale disaster exercise with U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Healthy Woman Outreach Project

The Healthy Woman Outreach Project improves the health of participating CHC patients by increasing their access to breast screenings and appropriate follow-up services. CHCs are recognized for their outstanding commitment to women's health.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Health Family Health Centers
- Dove Creek Community Health Clinic
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Metro Community Provider Network
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Plains Medical Center
- Pueblo Community Health Center
- Salud Family Health Centers
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

Heart Smart Navigation Program

The Heart Smart Navigation Program is intended to increase the proportion of hypertensive adults whose blood pressure is under control. The program integrates patient navigators into the disease management team to more effectively help patients address barriers to care, and to tailor self-management plans for patients to control their high blood pressure. The program is being successfully piloted by:

- High Plains Community Health Center
- Uncompahgre Medical Center

Colorado Colorectal Screening Program

CCHN partners with this program to provide access to endoscopic colorectal screening services for medically underserved Coloradans. CCHN also provides training support to clinic staff and promotes programs to educate Coloradans about colorectal screening. Colorado Colorectal Screening Program is administered by the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center. All 14 Colorado CHCs participate in the program.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Denver Health Family Health Centers
- Dove Creek Community Health Clinic
- High Plains Community Health Center

- Metro Community Provider Network
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Plains Medical Center
- Pueblo Community Health Center
- Salud Family Health Center
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

CCHN Immunization Initiative

The CCHN Immunization Initiative has been in effect for 12 years. CHCs work to surpass standards for vaccination safety. All of Colorado's CHCs met the 2007 standards of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide safe vaccine practices.

In addition, the initiative promotes excellence in immunization delivery. Teams identify barriers and implement quality improvement activities through data collection, team feedback, technical assistance, and best practice exchange. The initiative measures the up-to-date immunization rates for 1- and 2-year-old children attending Colorado CHCs.

The following CHC sites were honored for exceeding the most recent National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) rates for 2-year-olds:

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – Lafayette, Pecos
- Denver Health Family Health Centers – Denver Health Family Plan, Eastside, LaCasa/Quigg Newton, Lowry, Montbello, Park Hill, Webb Pediatrics, Westside and Westwood
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Metro Community Provider Network – Jeffco and Stein Kids
- Pueblo Community Health Center
- Salud Family Health Centers – Longmont and Sterling
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. – Fremont and La Junta

The following CHC sites exceeded the NCQA rates and achieved a minimum of 85 percent immunization rates in one of the age groups measured and a minimum of 90 percent immunization rates in the other age group for the spring and fall assessments.

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – Pecos
- Denver Health Family Health Centers – Denver Health Family Plan
- Metro Community Provider Network – Jeffco
- Pueblo Community Health Center

The Immunization Innovation Award for Best Practices recognizes clinics that have used a quality process to improve immunization delivery services. Nominees are evaluated for their best practices and ideas to improve safety, training and accountability in the delivery of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. This is the first year this award has been given and it went to Pueblo Community Health Centers.

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For further information and digital photographs from the awards ceremony, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 14 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to one in 12 Coloradans from 54 of Colorado'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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