

## Newsletter May 2013

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### Coloradans Honored at Farmworker Health Conference



Coloradans were honored at the recent National Farmworker Health Conference in San Diego, May 8-9, 2013.

Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) was one of the two Community Health Centers (CHC) nationwide selected for the Outstanding Migrant Health Center Award. Salud is headquartered in Fort Lupton and has nine clinics and a mobile unit caring for communities in northeastern and north central Colorado.

Opening in the fall of 1970 in a small apartment in Fort Lupton, Colorado, Salud's origins are in providing health care services to the migrant and seasonal farmworker population. Salud later purchased a former onion warehouse and converted it into a small medical and dental facility, which remained Salud's home for more than a decade. For more than twenty years, Salud's Mobile Health Unit was run on a school bus that was refitted to act as a mobile clinic. In 2005, Salud purchased a state-of-the-art mobile unit that currently serves an area that spans over 6,000 square miles.

Salud and NACHC leadership at the National Farmworker Health Conference in San Diego, Calif. From left: Salud BOD Treasurer Jesus Tijerina, Salud VP of Medical Services Dr. Virgilio Licona, Salud President and CEO Stanley J. Brasher, NACHC Board Chair Kauila Clark, Salud Migrant Health Director Miriam Ceja de Diaz, Salud Environmental Health Director Ed Hendrikson, Salud VP of Dental Services Dr. John McFarland, and Salud VP of Finance and IT John Santistevan.

"As many farmers in Salud's service area face numerous pressures to continue their operations, including shortage of workers, scarcity of water, and escalating development encroaching from the Denver Metro area, Salud's mobile unit remains a symbol of access to health care for the migrant and seasonal population," pointed out Annette Kowal, CEO of CCHN, in her statement nominating Salud for this award.

"Under the benevolent and enlightened leadership of Jerry Brasher and Salud's dedicated board of directors, Salud Family Health Center's commitment to, and championing of, migrant and seasonal farmworkers has been and continues to be extraordinary. The steadfast determination of Salud to improve the health and lives of Farmworkers is truly inspiring," said Julie Hulstein, executive director of the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS).

In addition, an employee of another CHC was also honored at the conference. Bianca Muñoz, who works for Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (Valley-Wide), in Alamosa, was among the twelve people across the nation selected for the 2013 Migrant Health Scholarships. These scholarships are given by the National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc. (NCFH). Ms. Muñoz is pursuing a degree in nursing.



NCFH Scholarship recipient Bianca Muñoz.

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“As an individual I have had many down falls. I have taken each one as an experience and have taken the better of each one to become the person I still am,” said Ms. Muñoz. “I have a passion for nursing. My heart beats in excitement when I think that I am working towards my dream and that God willing, I will be a registered nurse in a few years. I want to become a very knowledgeable nurse. I am very grateful to have been one of the recipients chosen for the NCFH scholarship.”

The conference is hosted annually by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) (NACHC). Migrant Health Centers are the early pioneers of the Health Center Movement. They became the model for CHCs nationwide with their core components of outreach, patient education, bilingual services, culturally-sensitive care, and community action and empowerment. Migrant Health Centers continue to provide health care and vital support services to nearly one million migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

## **CHCs Discuss Advocacy, the Future of Health Care, and Honor Community Health Champions**

CCHN's annual Policy & Issues Forum (P&I) provides Colorado CHC staff and board members with an opportunity to learn about CCHN's top legislative priorities for the 2013 legislative session and to spend a day at the state capitol speaking with elected officials. This year's P&I focused on Colorado's changing health care environment, the value of advocacy when working with legislators, and the importance to patients and CHCs of expanding Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

This year's P&I training day included a policy panel about the future of health care in Colorado. Panelists included Carol Hedges, executive director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute; Lorez Meinhold, deputy executive director, community partnerships, at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF); and Patty Fontneau, chief executive officer of Connect for Health Colorado. The panelists discussed how the expansion of Medicaid and the opening of the health insurance marketplace will likely impact the future health care environment. Each panelist had a unique perspective to share, providing the audience a holistic view of how changes in health care policy could impact them and their CHCs.



Sunrise Board of Directors members Roberta Rehfeld, Gilbert Ramirez, and Miriam Mendez are presented with certificate of recognition from CCHN CEO Annette Kowal.

At this year's P&I, CCHN recognized the advocacy and leadership of Janet Fieldman, former chief foundation officer of the Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) Foundation, by awarding her with CCHN's Advocacy Award. Janet was recognized for her 16 years of commitment to advocacy on behalf of CHC patients and promotion of the good work of PCHC throughout the Pueblo community and the state as a whole.

In addition, CCHN recognized eight CHCs that participated in voter registration and engagement activities leading up to the 2012 General Election. Certificates of recognition were presented to Salud, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), Sunrise Community Health (Sunrise), PCHC, and Valley-Wide.



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After the training day, CCHN recognized the 2013 Community Health Champions at the P&I Legislator Reception and Awards Ceremony. Sen. Irene Aguilar (SD 32) received the Legislator Community Health Champion Award; Dr. Neal Jepson, who volunteers for Peak Vista, received the Volunteer Clinician Award, and Katie Kerwin McCrimmon, *Health Policy Solutions* journalist, received the Media Community Health Champion Award.

Sen. Aguilar has been a strong supporter of CHCs for many years. She was nominated for this award by Denver Health and has worked for Denver Health's Westside Family Health Center as a family physician for 21 years. Sen. Aguilar serves on the Minority Health Advisory Committee at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and has served on the Long-term Care Advisory Committee with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). During the 2013 legislative session, Sen. Aguilar was the lead sponsor of Senate Bill (SB) 13-200 to expand Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of FPL. This bill, effective January 1, 2014, was signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper on May 13, 2013.

Dr. Neal Jepson is an ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal disease and intraocular lenses. He has been donating his time and expertise to patients at Peak Vista's Volunteer Specialty Center since 2000. Peak Vista staff report that he never misses a clinic and states that his greatest satisfaction in life has been

to help all patients, regardless of their circumstances, and to "give back to a community that gave [him] so much."



Media Community Health Champion Award recipient Katie Kerwin McCrimmon stands by her thank-you card, surrounded by her mother and husband.

Katie Kerwin McCrimmon, a writer for *Health Policy Solutions*, was selected for the Media Community Health Champion Award for her careful, in-depth exploration of stories related to health care policy. Ms. Kerwin McCrimmon makes it possible for the people who experience the effects of health policy in their daily lives to tell others what the policies really mean. She has reported on the cost and policies for implementing Colorado's health insurance marketplaces; reasons for the declining access to dental care; insurance company practices; and the interplay of poverty, community, and cooperative problem solving.

## Colorado CHC Advocates Visit Congress

In March, CHC leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with their members of Congress. Representatives of CHCs across the nation advocated for access to health care for underserved communities and populations. Colorado's CHC representatives advocated for continued federal support for the Health Center program, which cares for more than 22 million people in 9,000 communities. Eighteen CHCs operate 152 sites across Colorado, caring for approximately one in ten Coloradans.

Colorado CHC staff and board members met with Colorado's U.S. representatives on the same day that the House of Representatives voted on the "continuing resolution" to fund the federal government through September. They discussed continued funding for the CHC program, which has a proven record of providing high quality comprehensive primary health care on a sliding fee scale to keep it affordable. The CHC program uses locally-owned-and-run health care centers designed to coordinate care, manage

chronic disease and save patients from having to visit more costly hospital emergency rooms. More than half the members of each CHC board of directors are patients.

Health Center program funding was reduced by \$600 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11), a reduction that was maintained in FY12 and reduced in FY13 under the sequestration cuts. Much of the funding set aside under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for expanding CHC services to communities still facing primary health



MCPN Vice President of Development John Reid (left) receives the Betsy K. Cooke Grassroots MVP Award from President and CEO of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Immediate Past Chair of NACHC Anita Monoian.

care shortages has had to be used to maintain CHC services in the face of these funding cuts to the program for patients and communities currently cared for by CHCs.

Two Coloradans were honored at the national meeting: Jennifer Morse with Salud and John Reid with MCPN. Both were selected for the Betsy K. Cooke Grassroots Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award for their work in advocating on behalf of Community Health Centers.



Salud Vice President of Development Jennifer Morse (left) receives the Betsy K. Cooke Grassroots MVP Award from President and CEO of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Immediate Past Chair of NACHC Anita Monoian.

## CCHN Hosts Final Safety Net Medical Home Initiative Learning Session

In April, CCHN hosted its third and final Safety Net Medical Home Initiative (SNMHI) Regional Learning Session at Coors Field in Denver, Colo. Staff members from Colorado's 13 participating CHCs, along with regional and national partners, were in attendance.

SNMHI is a five-year initiative, funded by The Commonwealth Fund and eight regional co-funders, and administered by Qualis Health in partnership with the MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation. The initiative is assisting 65 primary care sites in five states to become high-performing Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) and achieve PCMH recognition. CCHN works in tandem with the sites to guide, coordinate, and support them in their transformation endeavors.

At the close of the all-day event, participants took the opportunity to gather as a group and discuss lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ways to move forward and continue work on PCMH transformation. These Learning Sessions have uniquely positioned Health Center staff to forge strong relationships and connections with one another, evolving into an empowered and motivated network of health care professionals.



SNMHI Regional Learning Session participants gathered to work on PCMH transformation.

The medical home is composed of four tenants: a personal provider, patient engagement, team approach, and care coordination. The foundation of the PCMH model is for patients to maintain an ongoing relationship with one designated clinician who provides acute, chronic, and continuous care. The PCMH is also a model for providing integrated primary care – integrated in the sense that care is coordinated across all levels of providers, specialists, and outside entities, who maintain a consistent channel of communication. The end goal is to facilitate sustained positive outcomes for patients with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

Experts from NACHC and Qualis Health discussed the current PCMH landscape and the state of the initiative. Additional speakers included Joshua Freeman, MD, of the Kansas University School of Medicine, and Fritz Nordengren, MPH, of Des Moines University, who presented information on the topics of social determinants of health and strategic visioning for the future.



Learning Session participants shared cupcakes decorated especially for the initiative work.

Eight of the 13 Colorado SNMHI sites, 62 percent, have achieved National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) PCMH recognition. One additional site submitted their application in March, and by June 2013, two additional SNMHI sites will have submitted their applications, bringing the total to 85 percent.



## Valley-Wide Celebrates César Chávez Day with Local School

A very special community-oriented César Chávez celebration was held at Rocky Ford's Jefferson Intermediate School on March 28, 2013. Starting from the idea that education and health care are both basic human rights, Cindy Masias, outreach and special projects manager at Valley-Wide, worked with Rocky Ford's school district to plan the event.

Ms. Masias got the ball rolling in fall 2012 by meeting with Valley-Wide's executive leadership, the Rocky Ford School District superintendent, and the principal of Jefferson Intermediate School to determine how they could work together. Ms. Masias' vision was an event to meet the educational needs of the school district while providing a fun assembly for the students, and also offer free health screenings to those who needed them. When she presented her idea to the school, with the caveat that she estimated \$800 would be needed for the event, students banded together and raised the money themselves through an October 2012 chili dinner and fundraiser.

With the funding and community support taken care of, Ms. Masias brought on some special speakers. One was Kandy Ruiz, who is now finishing up a college degree. She was a migrant farmworker attending high school when Ms. Masias first met the young woman several years ago. She helped with Valley-Wide's outreach to farmworkers and Ms. Masias says Ms. Ruiz always worked extremely hard. Despite sometimes working in 110 degree temperatures, Ms. Masias says that she "never once heard her [Ruiz] complain."



Dr. Virgilio Licona, vice president of Medical Services at Salud, delivered the keynote address. In 1973, Dr. Licona was the first director of Rocky Ford Community Health Center, later called La Clinica del Valle, which became part of Valley-Wide in 1996. It was one of the state's first migrant farmworker health clinics Colorado.

Ms. Ruiz began the March 28 celebration by visiting the third-through-sixth grade classes at Jefferson Intermediate School. She talked to students about being a migrant farmworker and about the path she took to earn a college degree.

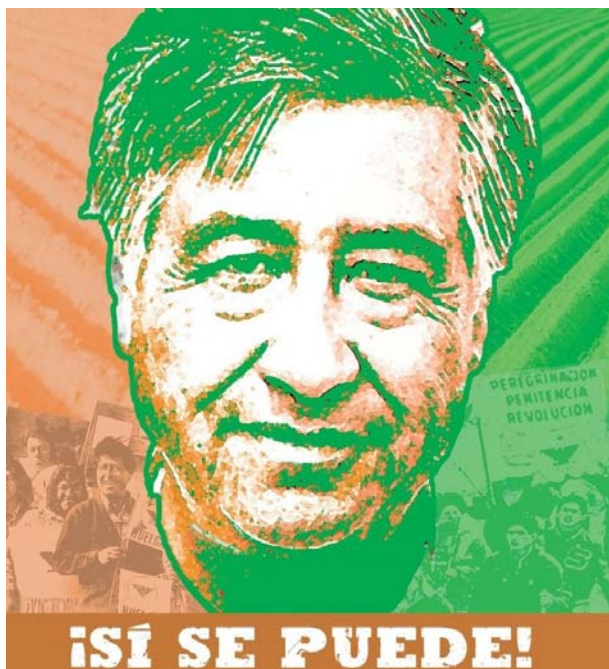
Next, the students gathered in the school auditorium for Dr. Licona's keynote address. He described the work he did with farmworkers in Colorado, and the movement for better farmworker rights and health care started by César Chávez. At the end of his talk, he led the auditorium in chanting Chávez' well-known phrase, "[¡sí, se puede!](#)"

Afterwards, the school enjoyed a *matachines* dance concert. According to Ms. Masias, this form of dance originated in Spain and traveled to the Americas with Spain's first missionaries. However, indigenous groups took up the dance form and it is now considered a way to celebrate Mexican cultural heritage. The dancers were age four to 20, and the students enjoyed seeing the rendition of cultural heritage shared by César Chávez and many farmworkers.

Next, the entire school headed to the outdoor track where each classroom aimed to make as many laps as possible. The younger students were encouraged to walk four laps (one mile), and many older students walked 12 laps (3 miles) or more. Each class counted how many laps they made to add to the school total. An estimated 300-to-400 people walked the track together, including students, teachers, aides, food service workers, community members, members of Valley-Wide executive staff and local Valley-Wide management team members. A total of 359 miles was completed in a tribute to the 1966 walk from Delano to Sacramento, Calif., that Chávez and other farmworker-supporters undertook as protest against poor working conditions for farmworkers.

Students with parental permission and all adults present were offered a free health screening to test blood sugar and blood pressure. Valley-Wide employees conducted the screenings and spoke to each student about eating healthy, drinking enough water, getting enough physical activity, and preventing skin cancer. To tie these messages together, each student received a goody bag with a piece of fruit, a bottle of water, and a small packet of sunscreen.

The event was a big success. "I wanted the community to appreciate our farmworkers. I wanted our children to appreciate our farmworkers and the work they do as honorable," said Ms. Masias. The school district and Valley-Wide staff worked together to make a meaningful celebration of César Chávez's work, and fit in some curriculum, too, including history and social studies, math, physical education and health.



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## La Junta Families Take Up Valley-Wide Fit Family Challenge

The Fit Family Challenge is helping families work and play together to improve their health. The Challenge, hosted by Valley-Wide at their La Junta facility, is showing results after just two meetings. The children and parents are engaged in moving towards a healthier lifestyle that could prevent chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

Valley-Wide staff work with children between the ages of 6 and 11 who have a Body Mass Index (BMI) at 85 percent or higher and their parents. Dr. Stella Ocampo, pediatrician, Michelle Valdez, nurse, Kathy Lopez, support staff, and Cindy Masias, clinic manager, plan and participate in the event with eight children and their parents or relatives. Valley-Wide staff never mention anything about losing weight to the children, and instead focus the discussion on healthy choices by following the “5-2-1-0” plan: five servings of fruit or vegetables each day, two hours or less of computer, phone, or TV screen time per day, one hour or more of movement of any kind every day, and zero servings of sweet drinks including juices every day.

At the first meeting in early April, the children were introduced to the curriculum and their health vital statistics measured. They met individually with Dr. Ocampo and developed their own goals for the month. Each week, Ms. Valdez communicates with each child by phone call or text to check on their progress and discuss their goals. At the second meeting, every child returned and seven of the eight lost weight by following their plan. Even those who originally did not seem to want to be involved were smiling and participating.

The Valley-Wide team makes a point of moving during the meetings and introduces different activities that promote movement. At the first meeting, the children blew up balloons and everyone did a “Balloon Toss” activity in which the children kept the balloons in the air with their heads, elbows, and knees. The group also dances several dances at the meetings, everything from the “Chicken Dance” to hip hop. The group is moving the entire time they are together, except when Valley-Wide staff provides a healthy snack to the children and discusses the focus of the curriculum. The discussion includes brainstorming different ways for the children to reach their goals, and Valley-Wide staff listens to the children’s ideas, making sure each child is heard.

Snacks for the children focus on fresh fruit and vegetables, with water and information about the importance of hydration. To date, they have snacked on carrots, strawberries, celery, apples, peanut butter, and oranges with no complaints. They will soon be introduced to snap peas, pineapple, jicama, grapes, blueberries, plums, peaches, and other fresh produce.

Children and parents are engaged and enjoying the challenge. Several children have asked if the group can meet weekly rather than monthly.

Valley-Wide is planning to evaluate the program after a few months and will continue to expand this service to other children. Staff is actively looking for donations and planning fund-raising projects in order to provide the initial group of children with a prize at the end of their 12-month participation. Staff hopes to give something that encourages the children to move, so their fund-raising goal is to provide a scooter and a helmet for each child, to be given to them next March.





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## Health Center News From Around Colorado

### News Briefs



### Rep. Coffman Visits MCPN

U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) visited the North Aurora Family Health Services, part of MCPN, on April 29, 2013. Rep. Coffman toured the facility, listened to health care providers describe their work, and discussed the federal budget with MCPN executive staff and consumer board members. Topics included the impact of the federal budget cuts on patient services and MCPN's plans to continue meeting the health care needs of Aurora residents.

U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman visited with MCPN staff and board members at MCPN North Aurora Family Health Services. From left: Director of Accountable Care Heather Logan, Director of Medical Operations Kris Gaw de Palacios, CEO/president Dave Myers, Rep. Coffman, Board Chair Marion Walls, Board Member Frank Taylor, Vice President of Fund Development John Reid, Board Member Wally Wesener.

### Three Gifts Help Fund Loveland Community Health Center Expansion

Sunrise received more than \$4 million in gifts from Banner Health, The Colorado Health Foundation, and Caring for Colorado to support the expansion of their Loveland Community Health Center (LCHC). These donations, coupled with Sunrise's \$1 million capital fund, bring the LCHC expansion fundraising effort near completion.

With plans of opening in November 2013, the expanded space will allow the hiring of additional clinicians to meet the growing medical and dental needs in the community. Behavioral health services, provided on-site in collaboration with Touchstone Health Partners, will also be expanded. Additionally, the new space will be shared with McKee Stepping Stones Adult Day Program, enabling the programs to share resources, reduce costs, integrate services, and improve the client experience.

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## Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Breaks Ground on New Affordable Housing and Integrated Health Care Center

On Jan. 30, 2013, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) broke ground on the highly anticipated Stout Street Health Center and Renaissance Stout Street Lofts. The new health center replaces the previous Stout Street Clinic, and will be a state-of-the-art facility serving more than 17,000 homeless men, women, and children each year when it opens its doors in April 2014. Additionally, it will provide fully integrated medical and mental health care, pediatric care, dental, vision, and substance treatment services to more fully address the spectrum of problems homeless patients bring to their medical providers.

“The new Stout Street Health Center will provide critical housing and healthcare services for low-income residents in the community,” said Eric Price, Chief Executive Officer of Building America CDE. “The project is a good example of how New Markets Tax Credits can be used to attract equity investment to projects that will bring necessary healthcare services to those most in need.”

The mixed-use development will also include the Renaissance Stout Street Lofts, providing 78 affordable rental apartments catering to families, individuals, and youth with a variety of incomes. In addition, on-site property managers and social workers will be available to residents for various services.



Photo credit: Jordan Loyd / Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
From left: Rod DuChemin, AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust and Building America CDE; Cris White, CHFA; Rep. Diana Degette (CD1); John Parvensky, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Patrick M. Gillies, HRSA; Pat Coyle, Colorado Division of Housing; Denver City Councilman Albus Brooks; and Hassan Salem, U.S. Bank, celebrated with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless at the groundbreaking for Stout Street Health Center and Renaissance Stout Street Lofts.



The waiting room at MCPN Helena Clinic is ready for patients.

## MCPN to Reopen Historic Helena Clinic in Aurora and New Health Care Campus in Wheat Ridge

MCPN completed renovation of the Helena Clinic in Aurora and will reopen the facility by the end of May 2013. The Helena Clinic was MCPN's first health care site and reopens this month providing health care services for the neighborhoods surrounding Colfax Avenue and Chambers Road in Aurora.

On the west side of the metro area, MCPN's new Jeffco Family Health Services Clinic (JFHSC) in Wheat Ridge will start seeing patients on June 4, 2013. Located at the corner of Wadsworth Boulevard and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, this new health care campus will allow MCPN to expand its primary care services in Jefferson County by an additional 10,000 patients. The project created more than 150 construction jobs during the building phase and will bring more than 50 permanent health care professional jobs to the area. MCPN is

one of just three CHCs in Colorado to receive funding under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for a project such as this, and MCPN's award was in the top percentile as one of the largest awards in the entire nation.

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“The Jeffco Family Health Services Clinic is MCPN’s largest health center to date, and our leadership, board, and staff are extremely proud of this achievement,” said John Reid, vice president of fund development. “With this new state-of-the-art facility, we look forward to providing services to thousands more individuals well into the future. We thank each and every one of you, from the bottom of our hearts, for supporting this effort.”

In recognition of the completion of these two important expansion projects, MCPN will be hosting ribbon cutting events for both facilities during National Health Center Week, August 11-17. In addition, MCPN will host its annual Bonfils blood drive on the day of the Jeffco ribbon cutting. For more details on all MCPN Events, please visit the Events Calendar at [www.mcpn.org](http://www.mcpn.org).

## **Salud’s Fit Family Challenge Program Highlighted by the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians**

In February 2013, Salud’s Fit Family Challenge program was featured in the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) quarterly magazine, *CAFP News*.

The Fit Family Challenge programs, in Fort Collins and Longmont, are ongoing initiatives that seek to improve quality of life and reduce childhood obesity through integrated obesity guidelines and family-based interventions. Participants of the challenge completed group classes led by patient health educators, sessions led by primary medical care providers, summer “boot camps” designed to facilitate physical activity, and recreation classes hosted by community partner organizations.

## **Jerry Brasher Receives Community Impact Award**

Salud President and CEO Stanley “Jerry” Brasher was recognized as a 2013 National Honoree by Community HealthCorps’ Community Impact Award. Since its inception, Mr. Brasher has supported the Community HealthCorps program at Salud with exemplary dedication, and has worked actively to integrate the program into Salud’s organizational culture.

“The Community Impact Award was launched in the 2012-2013 program year as a way for Community HealthCorps to nationally recognize individuals, groups, and organizations for their contributions of time, money or expertise in a way that has provided tremendous benefit to the local program and community,” according to a statement issued by NACHC.



From left: Salud’s HealthCorps Navigators Sidra Bonner, Elysa Polovin, Evan Nolander, Jemie Walrod, Rachel Wolf, Kelly Bruce, Salud President and CEO Stanley “Jerry” Brasher, Nick Johnson, Gabrielle Gee, Sarah Hahn, Monica Paulson, and Melissa Taylor.



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## Salud Participates in National AmeriCorps Week



Salud's 2012-2013 HealthCorps Navigator team at Longmont's Community Food Share.

Salud's HealthCorps navigator team Sarah Hahn, Nick Johnson, Monica Paulson, Kelly Bruce, Gabrielle Gee, Elysa Polovin, Sidra Bonner, and Melissa Taylor, along with Transitions of Care Program Manager Rachel Wolf participated in National AmeriCorps Week, a time to celebrate AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service.

National AmeriCorps week was March 9-17. During this week Salud's AmeriCorps members completed projects at the Food Bank of the Rockies, Shopneck Boys and Girls Club in Brighton, Habitat for Humanity, Colorado Horse Rescue Mission, Longmont's Community Food Share, and Groundwork Colorado.

## Salud Community HealthCorps Hosts Healthy Living Event

Salud Community HealthCorps hosted a healthy living event at Kearney Middle School in Commerce City, Colo. on May 3. After months of preparation, *5-2-1-0 Countdown to Health* was a great success. Students had the chance to try new fruits, vegetables, and carbonated flavored waters, play soccer with the Colorado Rapids, take Zumba classes, and win prizes such as bikes, sports equipment, and Rapids tickets. The event was made possible by incredible participation from Salud's patient health educators and community volunteers.



Students at Kearney Middle School learn Zumba with Patient Health Educator Miriam Camacho.

## Salud's Fort Lupton Clinic Wins Award for Excellence in Teaching

In March 2013, Salud's Fort Lupton Clinic was presented with a teaching award for Excellence and Dedication in Family Medicine by the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine.

## Strong Minds, Strong Kids!

On May 10, Salud's Brighton Clinic hosted "Strong Minds, Strong Kids!" a community event focused on reading, safety, healthy food, and fun for kids.

## POLICY UPDATE

### 2013 State Legislative Session Comes to a Close

Colorado's 2013 legislative session ended on May 8. CCHN staff and lobbyists and CHC staff worked hard throughout the session to ensure that legislators were aware of the valuable role CHCs play in providing health care to Coloradans and the importance of expanding Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of FPL. CCHN and Colorado CHCs are grateful to all of the legislators who worked to increase affordable access to health care for Coloradans during the 2013 legislative session.

CCHN supported SB 13-200, expanding Medicaid eligibility to 133 of FPL beginning Jan. 1, 2014. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Irene Aguilar (Senate District 32) and House Speaker Mark Ferrandino (House District 2), and signed by Gov. Hickenlooper on the west steps of the Capitol on May 13. Expanded eligibility will allow Colorado to provide health care coverage to an additional 160,000 adults, CCHN estimates that approximately 113,000 of these



From left: DOI Commissioner of Insurance Jim Riesberg, Rep. Beth McCann (HD 8), Denver Health and Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer Peg Burnette, Gov. Hickenlooper, and Sen. Irene Aguilar (SD 32) at the May SB 13-200 bill signing.



Photo credit: Matt Stensland, Steamboat Pilot & Today  
Gov. Hickenlooper, seated, signed SB13-242, legislation giving adults covered by Medicaid a limited dental benefit, at the NWWNA Heath Center in Steamboat Springs, May 11, 2013. From left: Steve Ivancie, Routt County Commissioner; Rep. Diane Mitsch Bush (DR 26), Quinn Dufurrena, Executive Director Colorado Dental Association; Sue Birch, Executive Director of HCPF; Janet Pearcey, Executive Director of the Northwest Colorado Dental Coalition; Lisa Brown, CEO of NWWNA, Ken Peters, President of the Colorado Dental Association, and Tim Corrigan, Routt County Commissioner.

individuals are already CHC patients.

The legislature also made important investments in oral health this session. This included the passage of two important bills that CCHN supported, SB13-242, "Adult Dental Medicaid Benefit," sponsored by Rep. Dianne Primavera (HD 33) and Sen. Jeanne Nicholson (SD 16); and SB13-261, "Oral Health Community Programs," sponsored by Rep. Beth McCann (HD 8) and Sen. Jeanne Nicholson.

SB13-242 creates a limited dental benefit for all adults covered by Medicaid, including pregnant women, parents, adults without dependent children, and adults with disabilities. The bill requires HCPF to convene a group of stakeholders to design the dental benefit to be implemented by April 1, 2014. This bill was signed by Gov. Hickenlooper at Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (NWWNA) CHC in Steamboat Springs on May 11. SB13-261 creates the Oral Health Community Prevention Grants Program to support local, evidence-based oral health prevention programs, such as programs to prevent tooth decay, support community water fluoridation, and increase access to dental sealants. This bill is expected to be signed by the Governor before June 7, 2013.



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CCHN also supported SB13-008, eliminating the waiting period for children to become eligible for the Child Health Program *Plus* (CHP+). It was sponsored by Rep. Beth McCann and Sen. Linda Newell (SD 26) and signed by Gov. Hickenlooper on March 29. Previously, children had to be uninsured for at least three months before they were eligible for CHP+ benefits. In addition, CCHN supported SB13-178 allowing Red Rocks Community College to confer a graduate degree to students in the physician assistant program, making it possible for this valuable program to continue. It was sponsored by Rep. Millie Hamner (HD 61) and Sen. Evie Hudak (SD 19).

For the state budget, the Colorado legislature agreed to a \$22 billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. This budget reflects the legislature's commitment to meet the needs of Colorado's vulnerable populations, as well as support the educational needs of Colorado's children and invest in economic development and critical infrastructure improvements. In addition to a much-needed \$27.3 million for enhancements to Colorado's mental health system, the legislature approved a two percent Medicaid provider reimbursement rate increase, which includes an increase for CHCs, as well as funding for needed additional HCPF staff.

## Get Active! and Influence Policy: Your Voice Needed Now

Interested in ensuring that health care bills benefit CHCs and their patients? Join CCHN's grassroots network and make your voice heard by your elected officials. Sign up for CCHN emails about legislation affecting health care and your CHC. You will receive action alerts that have specific, easy to understand ways to talk to your legislators. How do you get active? Go to [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org), click on Get Active!, respond to any action alerts, and your information will be added to CCHN's grassroots network. For more information please contact Alice Gibbs, policy analyst, at [agibbs@cchn.org](mailto:agibbs@cchn.org) or (303) 867-9531.



## CHAMPS UPDATE

### Mark Your Calendar and Submit an Abstract: CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) and Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), a partnership with Western Clinicians Network (WCN), will hold their combined Regions VIII and X Annual Primary Care Conference Oct. 19-22, 2013, in Seattle, Wash. The conference will include clinical, operations/IT, fiscal, human resources/workforce, policy, and governance tracks.

CHAMPS and NWRPCA are seeking innovative program, process change, and other best-practice abstracts to fill the conference with productive sessions for boards of directors, medical directors, clinicians, CEOs, CFOs, COOs, HR and IT personnel. Submit presentation ideas through the online abstract portal by June 7 at the conference [website](#). Conference organizers are particularly interested in abstracts related to health care reform, patient-centered medical home, outcome measures, recruitment and retention, community needs assessments, financial sustainability, meaningful use, telehealth, public health/primary care, clinical topics related to CHCs, health insurance exchanges, social determinants of health, accountable care organizations, and emergency preparedness.



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## **CHAMPS to Host Webcast on Care Delivery and PCMH**

On June 5, 2013, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. MST, CHAMPS is hosting the Patient Care Teams: Transforming the Primary Care Practice webcast. Topics include core components of the team, enhanced role of the medical assistant, engaged leadership, workflows, and strategies for sustainability. Participation is recommended for Health Center staff involved with care teams, including health care providers, nurses, medical assistants, other clinical staff, and any involved administrative staff. This webcast is free for all CHCs and PCAs in Region VIII. Visit the [website](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to register.

## **CCHN UPDATE**

### **CCHN Welcomes New Staff Members**

Beth Fiorello is CCHN's special projects assistant for the Policy Division, joining CCHN in March 2013. She is responsible for providing administrative support and working on various projects in the Policy Division. Ms. Fiorello holds a dual bachelor's degree in communications and psychology, with a concentration in public relations and mediation from the University of Colorado Denver. Prior to joining CCHN, Ms. Fiorello spent many years in the Salt Lake City area supporting underserved youth in achieving post-secondary education. Most recently, she volunteered extensively in the Denver area, assisting at-risk and homeless youth in becoming self-reliant.

Patrick Doherty is CCHN's accountant for the Finance and Operations Division, joining CCHN in February 2013. His primary responsibilities include payables, receivables, and payroll. Mr. Doherty is a student at Metropolitan State University of Denver, completing a bachelor's degree in accounting. He has experience working for both large corporations and small companies in the medical field.

Dana Corrough is CCHN's business development manager for the Finance and Operations Division. He joined CCHN in April 2013. He oversees the creation, management, and implementation of cost-containment initiatives and ensures the growth plans for all Colorado CHCs are realized through key strategic business partnerships. Additionally, he is tasked with the management and growth of CCHN group purchasing organization programs and relationships, as well as the management and growth of CCHN Ventures activities. Mr. Corrough is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in business administration.

### **CCHN Makes Staff Changes**

Over the past few months, some CCHN staff members have changed roles due to position openings and realignment of staff and programs to assure CCHN remains effective and agile moving forward.

Christy Trimmer Boland is now CCHN's project manager for Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF). She joined CCHN, the lead agency for CKF, in 2009. She oversees strategic direction, coalition maintenance, fundraising, and analysis of Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ policies and makes recommendations to reduce the barriers to enrollment and re-enrollment of eligible families. Mrs. Boland was formerly CKF's community liaison and policy analyst.

Stephanie Denzin has become CCHN's outreach coordinator for CKF. She joined CCHN, the lead agency for CKF, in 2012. She is responsible for providing outreach and communications support for the CKF project, which focuses on reducing enrollment barriers for eligible children and families in Medicaid and CHP+. Mrs. Denzin was formerly CKF's special projects assistant.

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Alice Gibbs is CCHN's policy analyst. She joined CCHN in 2012. She is responsible for monitoring, analyzing, and influencing health care legislation, rules, and other policy issues based on CCHN's public affairs agenda. Ms. Gibbs was formerly the Policy Division's special projects assistant.

Kay Roth is CCHN's senior executive assistant. She joined CCHN in 2001. She provides administrative support and coordination for various projects to Annette Kowal, CEO, including travel, special projects, meetings, and events. Ms. Roth is also involved in the planning and organization of CCHN Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. She was formerly the executive assistant.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Save the Date*

*Aug. 11-17, 2013*

#### **National Health Center Week**

The theme for this year's National Health Center Week is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Transforming Health Care in Our Local Communities" and events will be held at CHCs across the state. Stay tuned for a calendar of events in the July newsletter.



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