



Newsletter July 2011

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS



National Health Center Week Events

Aug. 7-13, 2011, is National Health Center Week (NHCW), dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless, and school-based Community Health Centers (CHCs). This year's theme, "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Serving Locally, Leading Nationally," highlights the record of CHCs in providing affordable, high quality, cost-effective health care to people across the country, regardless of their ability to pay. Listed below are NHCW events happening in Colorado, where the events span half the month!

Monday, Aug. 1, 9:00 a.m. registration and practice

MCPN Healthcare the Fairway: 7th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic

Lakewood Country Club, 6800 W. 10th Ave., Lakewood

Ebenezer Ekuban is hosting the Metro Community Provider Network's (MCPN) seventh annual Celebrity Golf Classic, benefiting MCPN, at the Lakewood Country Club. Go to www.mcpn.com or contact John Reid at (303) 761-1977, ext. 1124, (720) 338-1148, or jreid@mcpn.org for more information.



Monday, Aug. 1, 12:00 p.m.

High Plains 16th Anniversary Celebration

High Plains Community Health Center, 201 Kendall Dr., Lamar

Balloons will be released at noon, followed by refreshments and the presenting of awards to High Plains Heroes at the High Plains Main Medical Building. Contact Becky Olivas at (719) 336-0261 for more information. To learn more about High Plains, go to www.highplainschc.net.



Saturday, Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Healthy Kids Fair

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Stout Street Clinic, 2100 Broadway, Denver

Each year, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) helps children living in shelters or transitional housing get a healthy start at school. The day includes immunizations; dental, hearing and vision exams; health education; and backpacks full of new school supplies for each child. Contact Bette Iacino at biacino@coloradocoalition.org or (303) 285-5223 for more information. Click [here](#) to learn how to help with school supplies.

Monday, Aug. 8, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

High Plains Hot August Nights Live Radio Remote

High Plains Community Health Center, 201 Kendall Dr., Lamar

KVAY Radio will be broadcasting live from High Plains on a day that will include a blood donation drive, fresh roasted corn, and live music. Contact Becky Olivas at (719) 336-0261 for more information.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 9:00 a.m.

MCPN Back to School Supplies Giveaway

MCPN, North Aurora Family Health Services, 3292 Peoria St., Aurora

Community volunteers and Denver Bronco Alumni will join MCPN in supporting back-to-school efforts in the communities MCPN serves. Contact John Reid at (303) 761-1977, ext. 1124, (720) 338-1148, or jreid@mcpn.org for more information.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 9:00 a.m.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

MCPN, North Aurora Family Health Services, 3292 Peoria St., Aurora

Join Aurora City Council Member Molly Markert, public officials, and MCPN staff for the inaugural ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating MCPN's new "Extended Care Clinic." The new facility will extend clinic hours in the evenings and weekends to accommodate increased access to primary care and other related services to the public and working families. RSVP to Evie De Vries at Evie.DeVries@mcpn.org or (303) 360-6276, ext. 2097.



Wednesday, Aug. 10, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CCHN kick-off event for campaign promoting health care careers at CHCs

Salud Family Health Centers, Commerce City Salud Family Health Center, 6255 North Quebec Parkway, Commerce City

Kick-off event for a campaign to show people interested in health care careers the fulfillment of working at Community Health Centers. A website will be available soon with information about the campaign at www.missiondrivencareers.org. CCHN thanks The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) for its support of this effort. Contact Pushkin Public Relations at (303) 733-3441 for more information.

Wednesday, Aug. 10

Peak Vista Homeless Picnic

Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Colorado Springs

Contact Lynn Pelz at (719) 344-6606 or Lisa Rassenti at (719) 344-6683 for more information.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Valley-Wide Alamosa Youth Sports Physicals Night

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., Sierra Blanca Medical Center, 106 Blanca Ave., Ste. 300, Alamosa

Valley-Wide staff will be providing sports physicians for student athletes at the Sierra Blanca Medical Center. Contact Suzanne DeVore at DeVoreS@vwhs.org or (719) 587-1022 for more information.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 9:00 a.m.

Back to School Supplies Giveaway

MCPN, Jeffco Clinic, 8500 W. Colfax, Lakewood

Community volunteers and Denver Bronco Alumni will join MCPN in supporting back-to-school efforts in the communities MCPN serves. Contact John Reid at (303) 761-1977, ext. 1124, (720) 338-1148, or jreid@mcpn.org for more information.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

High Plains Get Lean Lamar

High Plains Community Health Center, Adult Health Center, 201 Kendall Dr., Lamar

Presentation about weight loss. Contact Becky Olivas at (719) 336-0261 for more information.

Friday, Aug. 12, 10:30 a.m.

5th Annual Block Party and Health Fair

Salud Family Health Centers, 1635 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins

Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) of Fort Collins will celebrate NHCW with its fifth Annual Block Party and Health Fair. The block party will start with a community family walk at 10:30 a.m. followed by various block party activities. The event provides health education to community members about the services Salud offers. Free health screenings and low-cost immunizations are also provided as part of the event. Many fun activities are planned for the day, including attendance by health and human service agencies in the community. In addition to providing health and dental check-ups, the clinic will provide food, drink, and entertainment during the event. Contact Jennifer Morse at jmorse@saludclinic.org or (720) 322-9402 for more information.

Friday, Aug. 12, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

High Plains Adult Health Center Grand Opening

High Plains Community Health Center, 2221 Wellness Way, Lamar

Contact Becky Olivas at (719) 336-0261 for more information.



Friday, Aug. 12, 4:00 p.m.

Mountain Family Grand Opening of Rifle Clinic

Mountain Family Health Centers, 195 W. 14th St., Rifle

Mountain Family is celebrating the grand opening of the new Rifle Clinic with a ribbon cutting, speeches, thank yous, a band, and barbecue. Please visit www.mountainfamily.org for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 10:00 a.m.

Prowers County Sand & Sage Fair Parade, Lamar

High Plains CHC staff will participate in the annual parade.

Monday, Aug. 15, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Valley-Wide Guadalupe Health Center Open House

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., Guadalupe Health Center, 10th St. and Dahlia, Antonito

Valley-Wide is hosting an open house at the newly-renovated Guadalupe Health Center. Contact Jackie Scheidegger at scheideggerj@vwhs.org or (719) 587-1010 for more information.

The following are events going on throughout NHCW:



Monday, Aug. 8 – Friday, Aug. 12

MCPN Free Immunizations

MCPN clinics

MCPN will be administering free immunizations in most of their clinics. A parent or legal guardian must be present; bring child's immunization records. For more information call MCPN's Customer Care Center at (303) 360-6272, or go to www.mcpn.com for clinic locations.

Monday, Aug. 8 – Friday, Aug. 12

Peak Vista Community Health Centers, all sites

Peak Vista will be distributing informational flyers in patient lobbies to highlight NHCW and generate patients who might be interested in advocacy involvement.

Monday, Aug. 8 – Saturday, Aug. 13

High Plains First Aid Tent, Sand & Sage County Fair, Prowers County Fair Grounds, Lamar

High Plains staff will host a First Aid Tent at the Prowers County Sand & Sage Fair and Rodeo.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 – Thursday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

High Plains Sports Physicals, various locations, Lamar

High Plains staff will be providing \$5 sports physicals at various High Plains locations. Call (719) 336-0261 or visit www.highplainschc.net for more information.

Study Shows that Colorado CHCs Reduce Medicaid Costs

A study published in the July 7, 2011, edition of [Health Affairs](#) found that Colorado Medicaid clients who use CHCs are one-third less likely than Medicaid clients of other providers to have an emergency room visit, an inpatient hospitalization, or a preventable hospital admission. The study conducted by staff of the [Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing](#) examined Colorado Medicaid claims data.

The study examined the claims data on 179,749 Colorado Medicaid enrollees ages 0 to 64 years old, who were not enrolled in managed care, and who had a usual source of care (called a medical home or health care home) with either a Community Health Center or a fee-for-service (FFS) health care provider. The researchers found the following:

- Hospital Admissions: The odds of a CHC Medicaid patient being admitted to the hospital were 32 percent less than a private-FFS provider patient.
- Hospital Readmissions: The odds of a CHC Medicaid patient being readmitted to the hospital 90 days after discharge were 35 percent less than a private-FFS provider patient.
- Preventable Hospital Admissions: The odds of a CHC Medicaid patient being admitted to the hospital for a primary-care preventable condition were 36 percent less than a private-FFS provider patient overall.
 - For acute preventable conditions including dehydration, bacterial pneumonia and urinary tract infections: CHC patients were 34 percent less likely to be admitted to the hospital.
 - For chronic preventable conditions including diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, congestive heart failure, angina and asthma: CHC patients were 38 percent less likely to be admitted to the hospital.

To read the full text of the study, click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the news release.

Health Center News From Around Colorado News Briefs

Salud Celebrates Grand Opening of New Fort Morgan Clinic

The Salud Fort Morgan clinic celebrated the opening of their new facility on Monday with a well-attended, spirited open house. The construction of the new clinic completes Salud's strategic plan to own all of their facilities. The new facility utilizes green technology, including geothermal heating and cooling, sustainable design using natural light cells throughout building, and sound-insulation practices.

Virgilio Licon, MD, Salud's associate medical director, served as master of ceremonies.



Jerry Brasher, executive director of Salud Family Health Centers, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Salud's Fort Morgan clinic.

Speakers included Elias Hernandez, MD, center director of the Fort Morgan Salud clinic; Mike Bennett, district director for U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner; James Thompson, regional director for U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet; Pam Shaddock, regional director for U.S. Sen. Mark Udall; Colorado Rep. Jon Becker; Terry McAlister, mayor of Fort Morgan; Patrick Gillies, Region VIII administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Dean Richard Krugman, M.D., vice chancellor of the University of Colorado School of Medicine; and Anne Warhover, CEO and president of TCHF.



The staff of Salud-Fort Morgan gather in front of their new building.

“High Functioning” Clinica Featured in New England Journal of Medicine

San Francisco physician and researcher Thomas Bodenheimer described the steps taken by the staff of Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., to make effective operational changes to make large facilities feel smaller and more friendly, and allow patients easy access to their clinician and a team of health care providers that they know. The article, “Lessons from the Trenches — A High-Functioning Primary Care Clinic,” was published in the July 7, 2011, [New England Journal of Medicine](http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1104942).

“I have visited many community health centers around the United States, and Clinica Family Health Services is one of the best I have ever seen,” Dr. Bodenheimer said. “The organization has come up with some good ideas and has made operational changes that could benefit health care organizations across the country. Most importantly, their patients are healthier because of these changes.”

The article is available free at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1104942>.

UMC Welcomes New Medical Director

The Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) welcomes David Homer, M.D., as the Norwood clinic’s new medical director. Dr. Homer is the longest practicing physician in San Miguel County history. He has been a doctor in Telluride for 25 years.

“It’s a great opportunity for this time in my career,” Dr. Homer said. “It’s going to allow me to move more into the realm of public health, enabling me to act local but think global, as they say.”



Dr. Homer with wife Laura, daughter Roz, and son Noah.

NCVNA – CHC Receives HealthTeamWorks Most Improved Clinic Award

The Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association – Community Health Center (NCVNA – CHC) received the Golden Galaxy Award for Most Improved Clinic on June 17, 2011, at the HealthTeamWorks Learning Collaborative.

In April 2010, NCVNA – CHC joined the HealthTeamWorks Foundation program in order to become a patient-centered medical home. NCVNA – CHC’s HealthTeamWorks coach, Stephanie Kirchner, recognizes the particular progress the clinic has made in treating patients with diabetes.

“Since June 2010, they have gotten 96 percent of their diabetes patients to set self-management goals. Ninety-five percent of their diabetes patients get foot exams. They ask 85 percent of diabetic patients about tobacco use. NCCHC is making excellent progress in meeting other goals for diabetes care,” Kirchner said in a HealthTeamWorks blog post on July 11, 2011.



Click [here](#) to read the HealthTeamWorks blog post about NCVNA – CHC and their award.

High Plains Celebrates National Men’s Health Week

In celebration of National Men’s Health Week, High Plains held several events in Lamar. To initiate the week-long campaign, the Prowers County Commissioners signed a proclamation recognizing June 13-19, 2011, as Men’s Health Week in Prowers County and stated that the week be celebrated annually.

Dr. Wayne Hudson, High Plains medical director, appeared as a guest on KVAJ’s “Talk of the Valley” morning radio talk show to raise awareness of preventive screenings and treatments for men.

“We’re pleased to take such an active role in emphasizing men’s health,” said Dr. Hudson. “Awareness of the need for men to make regular physician visits is key for us. We also have many free resources to help men make simple lifestyle changes to improve their health.”

Dr. Hudson and Dr. John Abbott, also with High Plains, held free walk-in clinic hours for male patients the entire week with additional evening hours on Monday and Tuesday. The free appointments for men included a prostate exam and a discussion on prevention measures customized for each patient. Lab tests were offered at a reduced cash price for men taking advantage of the free walk-in clinics.

As a bicycle and motocross enthusiast, Dr. Abbott dedicated his Saturday to a very special bicycle clinic held at Willow Creek Park. Dr. Abbott used his surgical talents to repair gears, brakes, and flat tires for area residents. The bicycle clinic was an opportunity for Dr. Abbott to talk with community members about the importance of active living and improving health through exercise. He also appeared as a guest on KLMR’s morning talk show “Anything Goes,” discussing the health benefits of bicycle riding.



Dr. John Abbott and Don Graves, Wal-Mart bicycle technician, repair gears, brakes and flat tires for area residents during High Plains’ Bicycle Clinic.

“The celebration of National Men’s Health Week was a huge success at High Plains. Several area organizations embraced the idea of promoting men’s health and held worksite wellness health fairs for their employees utilizing the services of High Plains and their health coaches,” explained Lisa Thomas, SBIRT health educator at High Plains. “It was an extraordinary week and exemplified the important role that Community Health Centers play in the health and well-being of the people they serve.”



Clinica-Pecos Medical Director Carolyn Chen, MD, checks her computer while Don Berwick holds one of Clinica's pediatric patients during a routine group visit.

National Quality Care Leader Visits Clinica

Dr. Donald Berwick, administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), visited the Lafayette site of Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., on June 21, 2011. While there, he witnessed a group visit, one of the health care innovations that Clinica has used to improve patient outcomes. He discussed Colorado Medicaid's Accountable Care Pilot and care management with Clinica's staff.

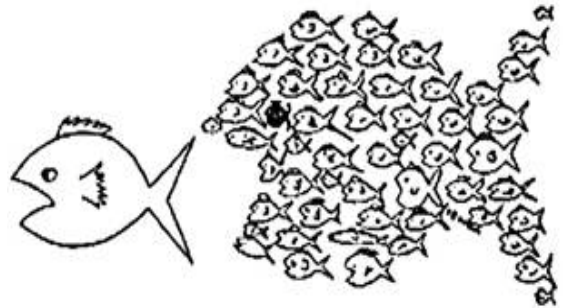
Dr. Berwick is a national leader in patient safety advocacy. He is founder and former president and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an organization dedicated to health care improvement internationally. Dr. Berwick is a champion of health care quality improvement and transparency within the health care system. He is clinical professor of pediatrics and health care policy at Harvard

Medical School, professor of health policy at Harvard School of Public Health, an associate in pediatrics at Boston's Children's Hospital, and a consultant in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

POLICY UPDATE

Get Active! and Influence Policy

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, 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 Suzanne Smith, policy analyst, at suzanne@cchn.org or (303) 867-9540.



CCHN UPDATE

CCHN Staff Member to Gain High Level Professional Certification

Nancy Gilbert recently passed the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) exam. Once she completes all the paperwork, Ms. Gilbert will be certified as having a working knowledge of emergency management and the required emergency management skills and ability to manage a comprehensive emergency management program. This professional credentialing is provided by the International Association of Emergency Managers to certify the knowledge, training, and expertise of emergency managers. Ms. Gilbert was CCHN's emergency manager from 2006 to 2011, before becoming CCHN's member technical assistance and training manager.

Ms. Gilbert spent 18 years with the American Red Cross (ARC) with progressive promotions. She has 15 years experience on the ARC National Disaster Team, working floods, tornados, and hurricanes throughout the United States. She also has experience in volunteer management.

Wellness Center Honors CCHN and National Health Center Week

CCHN has been chosen as the highlighted charity for August for The Wellness Center's "10 Years 10 Charities" anniversary celebration. The Wellness Center provides massage and wellness services and is located in Glendale, Colo. To celebrate its tenth year in business, The Center is donating 10 percent of its net massage profits each month to a client-selected, local, non-profit organization. In honor of National Health Center Week, CCHN is the non-profit featured by The Wellness Center for August. To learn more about The Wellness Center, please go to www.WellnessDenver.com.

CCHN Staff Visit Colleague at Salud



Patty Nelson, CCHN operations director, and Nadine Carr, CCHN administrative assistant, visited the Fort Lupton Salud Stanley J. Brasher Administration and Training Center on July 12, 2011, to visit Beth Dazey, a former CCHN employee, now employed by Salud.

Ms. Dazey was formerly CCHN's special project assistant responsible for the planning and coordination of CCHN's quarterly meetings. She joined the Salud team in March 2011 as a human resources (HR) generalist. She brought her HR background with her from CCHN and Bay Clinic, Inc., a network of CHCs on the big island in Hawaii, where she worked as executive assistant to the CEO, human resources coordinator, and board liaison.

From left to right: Beth Dazey, Patty Nelson, Jerry Brasher, executive director of Salud Family Health Centers, and Nadine Carr.

Ms. Dazey is missed at CCHN but staff is happy she remained in the CHC family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Now for CRHC's 20th Anniversary Annual Conference

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) will celebrate its 20th anniversary in conjunction with the annual CRHC conference Aug. 11-12, 2011, in Denver. This year's conference will focus on a wide range of educational topics including health care reform nationally and locally, innovative solutions to access to care, and networking and resource opportunities. Click here to register. Contact Nadine Gressett at ng@coruralhealth.org for more information.

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