



Newsletter October 2010

CONTENTS

HEALTH CENTER NEWS: 2010 National Health Center Week, Volunteer Clinicians Honored during National Health Center Week, Uncompahgre Medical Center Expansion Increases Health Care Access in Western Colorado, Two Salud Leaders Praised at National Gathering, Health Center News From Around Colorado (news briefs).....Pages 2-7

POLICY UPDATE: CCHN Opposes the “Bad 3” Ballot Initiatives—Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101—and Amendment 63.....Pages 7-8

CLINICAL QUALITY UPDATE: Clinica Receives Key National Recognition for Medical Home Practice.....Pages 8-9

UPCOMING EVENTS: Save the Date.....Page 9

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

2010 National Health Center Week

Aug. 8-14, 2010, was 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 week marked the 45th anniversary of the creation of the Health Center program. Below are some of the festivities in Colorado.



Lup Garcia, a health care provider at Denver Health's La Casa-Quigg Newton, takes the blood pressure of Kristen Pieper, CCHN special projects assistant, at the La Casa-Quigg Newton Community Resource Fair on Aug. 6, 2010.

Denver Health Celebrates Tenth Anniversary in Sunny Side

Denver Health's La Casa-Quigg Newton Family Health Center in the Sunny Side neighborhood celebrated its tenth anniversary on Aug. 6, 2010. The resource fair was open to the public and included booths offering basic health screenings, a barbecue, live DJ, cooking demonstrations, activities for kids, and raffles. The fair featured Curanderos from Cuernavaca, Mexico, working with local healers, to educate the local population and offer sessions in ancient healing traditions such as "Curanderismo." Curanderos are part of a program through local universities that focuses on combining ancient traditions of the Southwest with modern sciences of integrative healing modalities. The celebration was part of the annual Community Resource Fair supported

by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH), Denver Health, The Denver Foundation, Xcel Energy, and the Denver Housing Authority.

Valley-Wide Celebrates Widely

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (Valley-Wide) serves communities across southern Colorado and the Valley-Wide staff was very busy during NHCW. In the Arkansas River Valley, a barbeque for staff and families was held in the La Junta City Park on Aug. 12, 2010. Valley-Wide employees decorated a float and participated in the Arkansas Valley Fair parade on Aug. 13. In the San Luis Valley, the Alamosa Family Medical Center, Sierra Blanca Medical Center, and Convenient Care facilities held a joint employee picnic. The employees of the Administrative Services Building, including Alamosa Dental and WIC staff, hosted a picnic potluck on Farmworker Health Day, Aug. 12. Marguerite Salazar, director of Region 8 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and former president and CEO of Valley-Wide, and Colorado State Sen. Gail Schwartz joined in the picnic. Employees at other Valley-Wide facilities throughout the San Luis Valley gathered at local restaurants to celebrate.



Other community services that Valley-Wide hosted or supported with volunteers included:

- The Coordinated Health Assessment and Management Program (CHAMP) was held during school registration, providing screenings for children in Alamosa Public Schools, Aug. 10-13, hosted by many community partners.
- Sports physicals for \$20 were provided, with \$10 returned to the students' schools, with all-volunteer Valley-Wide providers and staff, on Aug. 10, at the Sierra Blanca Medical Center in Alamosa. Restaurants pitched in by donating food.

- The Migrant Farmworker Eye Clinic was held Aug. 14 at Valley-Wide's Cesar Chavez Family Medical Center in Center.

Several mayors of cities where Valley-Wide cares for patients celebrated by signing National Health Center Week proclamations. They included Mayors Kathy Rogers of Alamosa, Theresa Medina of San Luis, Don Rizzuto of La Junta, Lawrence Sena of Las Animas, and Mac Holder of Rocky Ford.

Back to School at Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

CCH hosted its annual Back to School Health Fair at the Stout Street Clinic in Denver on Sept. 14, 2010. Each year, CCH helps children living in shelters or transitional housing get the right start at school. The day includes immunizations; dental, hearing and eye exams; health education; and free school supplies for each child. CCH provided care for 26 percent more children between the ages of 4 and 18 years old at this year's fair than last.



Health Celebrated on the High Plains

High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains) held a block party in Willow Creek Park in Lamar on Aug. 12. Booths were set up for cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, dental information, "give-aways" and registration for free drawings, health coaching, and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) fun for kids. In addition, High Plains scheduled a series of health care services and events during the week, including days devoted to women's health screening, sports physicals, and retinal eye exams. High Plains staff participated in the annual Sand & Sage Fair Parade.



Rep. John Kefalas (Dist. 52) addresses the crowd at the health fair and block party hosted by Salud-Fort Collins on Aug. 13, 2010, celebrating National Health Center Week. Standing to the right is Rep. Randy Fischer (Dist. 53).

Hundreds Gather at Salud Block Party

Salud Family Health Centers' (Salud) Fort Collins clinic hosted a block party on Aug. 13, 2010, with more than 900 people attending. Salud provided low-cost immunizations, free health screenings, information on bike and seatbelt safety, and free food and entertainment at the party. Safe Kids Larimer County was at the event and gave out 65 car safety seats. Joining the party were Colorado Reps. John Kefalas and Randy Fischer; Pamela Shaddock, regional director for U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, and Jake Swanton, legislative aide for Sen. Udall.

Around the State

Northwest Colorado Community Health Center (NCCHC) hosted a Walk for Wellness, a one-mile family-friendly employee walk at Loudy Simpson Park in Craig, with a barbecue afterwards for staff and their families.

Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc. (PCHC) hosted its annual community meeting thanking PCHC's supporters, providing an update on PCHC's progress and celebrating NHCW. Colorado Sen. Angela Giron, Colorado Rep. Sal Pace, Pueblo Councilmen Steve Nawrocki and Ray Aguilera, and Pueblo County Treasurer Del Olivas attended the meeting.

Metro Community Provider Network, Inc. (MCPN) hosted an open house at its Potomac Street Health Center in Aurora, celebrating the completion of a medical home expansion construction project, funded by

grants from the Recovery Act (ARRA) Capital Improvement Program and The Colorado Health Foundation. In addition, Fox Sports News Rocky Mountain sponsored the sixth annual "Healthcare the Fairway" Golf Classic at the Lakewood Country Club, benefiting MCPN. Participants golfed with celebrities including Ebenezer Ekuban, Tyrone Braxton, Chauncey Billups, and many others who gave generously of their time to support MCPN. MCPN was visited by Colorado Rep. Su Ryden, Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan, and Aurora City Council Member Bob Broom during the week.

Volunteer Clinicians Honored during National Health Center Week

Two CHC volunteer clinicians, David Rosenbaum, M.D., and Joseph Kay, M.D., received CCHN's annual awards for service. Each year during National Health Center Week, CCHN honors the contributions of volunteer clinicians to CHCs and their communities. In order to receive the award, the volunteer clinician must provide direct patient services in or on behalf of a CHC, lead advocacy activities on behalf of the medically underserved, and have provided volunteer services for a minimum of three years.

Dr. Rosenbaum is a cardiologist at Pikes Peak Cardiology in Colorado Springs and volunteers at Peak Vista Community Health Centers' (Peak Vista) Specialty Care Center. Dr. Rosenbaum was recognized for his great communication skills with his staff and patients as well as his dedication to the welfare of his patients. In writing his nomination statement, Lynn Pelz, Peak Vista's director of external relations, described him as the "living example of how a doctor-patient relationship should be."

"He never rushes to finish an appointment, but rather takes time to listen to every concern. This is an important attribute as many Peak Vista patients do not have access to affordable health care otherwise. Because of Dr. Rosenbaum's efforts, Peak Vista patients have received thousands of dollars worth of procedures that were unaffordable to them," Ms. Pelz wrote.

Dr. Kay is a cardiologist at the University of Colorado Hospital and volunteers at MCPN. He has provided cardiology services to hundreds of uninsured MCPN patients. He supported the establishment of a volunteer cardiology clinic at MCPN's Potomac Street Health Center (PSHC).

"With the establishment of a 'medical home' patient-centered care site at PSHC, Dr. Kay and his colleague Patrice Spurck have helped MCPN identify cardiologists (providers) who are willing to volunteer and provide related cardiovascular disease management and care to our patients," said John Reid, MCPN's vice president of fund development. "Dr. Kay provides a vital service for these patients, many of whom would not receive this type of care and treatment if not for the efforts of our volunteer physicians."

One of the volunteer clinicians recognized will be selected by the CCHN Public Affairs Committee to receive CCHN's annual Volunteer Clinician Community Health Champion Award at CCHN's Policy and Issues Forum in February 2011.

Uncompahgre Medical Center Expansion Increases Health Care Access in Western Colorado

Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) in Norwood hosted the grand opening of its expanded building on Sept. 1, 2010. UMC doubled the size of its dental facilities, increasing availability of oral health care services. In addition, a community conference room was added for staff meetings and trainings and is

CCHN October 2010

- 4 -

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Dr. Michael Welch, vice president of medical affairs for Peak Vista Community Health Centers in Colorado Springs, presents CCHN's 2011 Volunteer Clinician Award to Dr. David Rosenbaum at Peak Vista's annual company picnic on Aug. 7, 2010.

being used by community groups such as Health Watchers, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Substance Abuse Counseling. The Midwest Center for Mental Health is also onsite, making UMC a true health care home.



U.S. Rep. John Salazar, third from left in back row, joins Steve Siegel, executive director of Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC), center back row, and the UMC staff during the grand opening of the dental expansion of UMC in Norwood, Colo., Sept. 1, 2010.

“We’ve been able to expand from one dental chair to four in less than two years, helping us address generations of unmet oral health care needs for low-income people in our area of the state,” said Steve Siegel, executive director of UMC. “Local, state, federal and foundation support have all helped our dental program and we are deeply grateful.”

Construction of the UMC expansion was funded by a grant from the Construction Improvement Program for federally qualified health centers, a program created by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and a grant from The Colorado Health Foundation.

“The new and improved Uncompahgre Medical Center in Norwood serves as a shining example of all the great things that have been happening in our

area as a result of the stimulus package. The \$436,000 in federal stimulus funding helped create jobs during the construction phase; up to 45 people worked in various stages of this project. Now that it is completed, the clinic will be able to serve more members of the community than ever before – helping rural Coloradans meet their basic health care needs,” said U.S. Rep. John Salazar, who attended the grand opening.

Two Salud Leaders Praised at National Gathering

Two leaders from Salud Family Health Centers received 2010 Community Health Care Awards of Excellence at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Community Health Institute (CHI) in Dallas, Texas, in September.

John Santistevan, Salud’s director of finance, was chosen for the Jeffrey T. Latman Leadership in Healthcare Finance Award. Dedicated in memory of Jeffrey T. Latman’s outstanding leadership and service to CHCs nationwide in the area of finance, this award is presented to an individual who serves in a senior level finance position and whose work best exemplifies excellence, leadership, and integrity in strengthening health center fiscal operations.

Mr. Santistevan has overseen Salud’s financial management system since 1996. He has served on the CCHN Board of Directors for almost 10 years in various roles, including treasurer, chair of the finance committee, chair-elect, and now chair of CCHN’s board. Through John’s leadership, Colorado CHCs have saved more than \$20 million in costs for products such as reference laboratory services, medical/dental supplies, and pharmaceuticals. These cost savings have been reinvested into expanding access to health care for Colorado’s most vulnerable citizens.



Mr. Santistevan accepts the Jeffrey T. Latman Leadership in Healthcare Finance Award at the General Session of the NACHC CHI and Expo, on Sept. 13, 2010.

Upon accepting the award Mr. Santistevan said, "What makes an organization tick is the dedication and caring of the people who work there. I am just doing the job that they hired me to do. Thank you for allowing me to make a difference."



Anita Monoian, NACHC chair of the board, presents Dr. Tillman Farley with the Samuel R. Rodgers Achievement Award at the General Session of the NACHC Community Health Institute and Expo, on Sept. 14, 2010.

Tillman Farley, M.D., Salud's director of health services, received the Samuel U. Rodgers Achievement Award. The award was established in 1977 to honor outstanding primary clinicians. Samuel U. Rodgers was a provider, community activist, and a national leader in civil rights and health. The award is presented each year to an outstanding primary care clinician who exemplifies excellence in leadership.

Dr. Farley has been with Salud since 1996. In 1997 he was appointed to a full time faculty position at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Farley has practiced family medicine in a variety of venues. He is active in practice-based primary care research as a means to help quantify, design, and improve population approaches to health care. His research focuses on innovative ways to improve care to low-income populations.

Upon receiving the award Dr. Farley said, "My mom was a health center physician in Rochester, N.Y., and Denver, Colo. while I was growing up. She instilled in me the absolute conviction that good health care should be readily available to anyone, regardless of such random things as income, race, ethnicity, primary language, documentation status, education level, etc."

Health Center News From Around Colorado News Briefs

Community Health Center Leader Elected President of State Board

Dr. Paul Melinkovich, director of Community Health Services for Denver Health, was elected president of Colorado's Medical Services Board at the Sept. 10, 2010, meeting of the Board. Dr. Melinkovich, a board-certified pediatrician, directs the eight Health Center facilities located in Denver communities and the 12 school-based Health Center sites that are part of the Denver Health integrated system. He is also a professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The Medical Services Board (MSB) of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is responsible for promulgating the rules that govern department programs. The department administers the Medicaid and CHP+ programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Denver Health Hosts Representatives DeGette and Hoyer

Denver Health hosted a news conference with Reps. Dianna DeGette (Colo. District 1) and Steny Hoyer (Md.), majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, on Sept. 7, 2010. Speaking at Denver Health's Pavilion for Women and Children, Reps. DeGette and Hoyer spoke about the positive impact the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will have on the health and health care access of Coloradans.

Dr. Patricia Gabow, CEO and medical director of Denver Health, commented on the positive impact ACA will have on Denver Health. "For us it means fewer uninsured, many of whom will now become Medicaid-eligible or will get new subsidies so they can purchase health insurance," she said. "It means more Community Health Center sites to create access. It means needed expansion of the primary care workforce to staff those clinics."

In her remarks, Rep. DeGette recognized Denver Health as a leader in providing access to health care, especially for the uninsured, through Denver Health's Community Health Services and Emergency Room. She highlighted the benefits ACA will have for Colorado, including reducing the number of uninsured. Rep. Hoyer, noting the essential role Rep. DeGette had on the passage of ACA, spoke of the many benefits already being seen because of ACA, such as coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Dr. Paul Melinkovich, director of Denver Health's Community Health Services, spoke specifically about the positive impact ACA will have on CHCs nationwide. He noted that the effectiveness of CHCs in providing preventive primary health care in a less costly manner will mean that the money Congress has pledged towards CHCs will be well used toward increasing access to care.

During their visit to Denver Health, Reps. DeGette and Hoyer were given a private tour of the Emergency Department. Following the news conference and tour, the Nurse-Family Partnership and Invest in Kids recognized Rep. DeGette for her work on the home visitation program.



Rep. Dianna DeGette speaks at Denver Health about the benefits of health care reform on Sept. 7, 2010.

Denver Health Pharmacy Safety Project Awarded National Recognition

Denver Health was awarded "Best in Show" for its poster presentation at the 2010 NACHC Annual Conference in Dallas in September.

The poster summarized a project developed by one of Denver Health's Patient Safety and Pharmacy Collaborative teams as part of an initiative of the Health Resources and Services Administration. The initiative works toward goals of improved health outcomes and safer care for patients. The Denver Health project focused on integrating services provided by various types of health care providers. A Clinical Pharmacy Specialist model was introduced at Denver Health's Westside Clinic to help patients with diabetes. The Westside Pharmacy worked with patients on medication dose adjustments and laboratory monitoring during the time between visits with primary care providers. The introduction of the model resulted in more effective ways to care for patients. These changes have been incorporated into routine clinical care and are now being introduced into other Denver Health outpatient pharmacies.

Patte Lanius, Denver Health director of outpatient pharmacy; Jessica Sanchez, quality director at CCHN and also a nurse practitioner at Denver Health; and Jeanne Rozwadowski, MD, team leader at Denver Health's Westside Adult Clinic, led the project and developed the poster to show their work.

POLICY UPDATE

CCHN Opposes the "Bad 3" Ballot Initiatives—Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101—and Amendment 63

In the 2010 election season, there are nine statewide ballot initiatives. CCHN is in opposition of four of these: Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101 (the "Bad 3") and Amendment 63.



Amendment 60, Amendment 61, and Proposition 101 are collectively referred to as the “Bad 3.” If passed:

- Amendment 60 would overturn prior local funding votes and cut local support for schools, while also requiring new fees on many public services;
- Amendment 61 would restrict the State’s ability to take out loans, which would limit the State’s ability to invest in public structures such as schools, roads, and water treatment plants; and
- Proposition 101 would reduce local and state support for public services, including transportation, education, and health care, through cuts to income taxes and fees.

These three ballot initiatives would negatively impact our communities, including local CHCs. Based on estimates from the Legislative Council, if all three measures were fully implemented today, 99 percent of the state’s operating budget would be directed to public schools to maintain the current level of support. This means that other state-funded programs, including various health care programs, would face guaranteed cuts.

A video created by The Bell Policy Center and ProgressNow Colorado explaining the “Bad 3” in plain English can be found [here](#). **Watch this video and pass it on to others.** For more information, including ways to support the Don’t Hurt Colorado campaign, click [here](#).



In addition to the Bad 3, Amendment 63 is an anti-health care reform effort that asks voters to amend the state constitution to limit the state’s ability to implement health care reform.

Amendment 63 is meant to be a partisan political statement. CCHN is opposed to such partisanship in Colorado’s constitution or in health care. Amendment 63 would increase the costs of the already costly health care system for taxpayers by limiting the state’s ability to manage care and costs. It may overturn consumer protections already in law and make it impossible for the state to regulate the practice of and payment for medicine. This complicated constitutional amendment is expected to result in a tangle of expensive lawsuits and other unintended consequences. For more information on Amendment 63, including ways to support the Colorado Deserves Better campaign, click [here](#).

CLINICAL QUALITY UPDATE

Clinica Receives Key National Recognition for Medical Home Practice

Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., is the first CHC in Colorado to receive recognition as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) through the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). Clinica received a Level 3 designation, the highest level recognition awarded by the NCQA for PCMH. The PCMH model focuses on patients receiving coordinated services from a clinical team, establishing continuity of care with a primary health care provider. Elements of the model include access and communication, care management, patient self-management support, patient tracking and registry functions, and performance reporting and improvement.



Clinica staff dedicated time and resources to prepare the extensive application for recognition, documenting the elements through which they provide patients with a medical home. Ten years ago, when Clinica started revamping its practices, staff didn't have their sights set on becoming a "medical home." They just wanted to provide better health care to the community in a manner that made sense.

"We're not perfect," said Dr. Carolyn Shepherd, executive vice president of clinical affairs at Clinica. "We're not there yet. But we have been paying attention for a long time to what patients want, and we have been working continuously to get better. This recognition is giving us credit for the work that we have been doing."

Clinica is one of twenty CHCs in the U.S. and one of 14 health care organizations in Colorado to receive this designation. The CHC is in its second year of participation in the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative, a four-year national demonstration project to accelerate medical home transformation, and reach high levels of quality, efficiency, and patient satisfaction. Initiative partners include CCHN, The Colorado Health Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, Qualis Health, and the MacColl Institute for Healthcare Innovation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date

February 15-16, 2011

CCHN's 2011 Policy & Issues Forum

CCHN's Annual P&I will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Denver. For more information contact Kristen Pieper at kristen@cchn.org or (303) 861-5165, ext. 223.

March 23-27, 2011

NACHC's 2011 Policy & Issues Forum

NACHC's Annual P&I will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) for more information.

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