



CCHN Newsletter

May 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Health Center News.....Pages 1-8

Health Center News Briefs...Page 9

Policy Update.....Pages 10-11

CCHN/ CHAMPS Update.....Pages 11-12

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

CHCs Gather to Advocate *Community Health Champions Honored*

CCHN's 2016 Policy & Issues (P&I) Forum provided Colorado Community Health Center (CHC) staff and board members with an opportunity to learn about CCHN's top legislative priorities for the current legislative session, and to spend a day at the state capitol speaking with elected officials. This year's P&I focused on effective advocacy when working with legislators.

The Forum included a policy panel on health care reform and the Colorado political environment. Participants heard from Sue Birch, executive director at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF); Marguerite Salazar, commissioner of insurance at the Colorado Division of Insurance; and Jandel T. Allen-Davis, vice president, government and external relations, for Kaiser Permanente Colorado. The panelists discussed the progress of health care reform implementation in Colorado, navigating the changing world of health care, and how CHCs can continue to play an important role in ensuring Coloradans receive the health care they need.

CCHN recognized two leaders for their tireless advocacy efforts supporting the CHC movement. The 2016 Community Health Advocate Award was presented to John Reid, vice president of fund development for Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN). Mr. Reid has been with MCPN for over 12 years. During that time, he has been a passionate advocate with local, state, and federal officials on behalf of MCPN, their patients, and CHCs as a whole.



CCHN also presented the annual Stanley J. Brasher Community Health Gratitude Award, to Dr. John McFarland, recently retired executive vice president of dental services at Salud. The award is named in honor of Jerry Brasher, retired CEO of Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) and a leader in the CHC movement in Colorado and nationally. Dr. McFarland started at Salud in 1972, and has been instrumental in advocating for dental care as an essential part of primary health care at Salud, throughout the state and the country. For the last 44 years, Dr. McFarland has been a national leader in access to oral health care for all, regardless of their income.



John Reid, Sen. Jahn, and John McFarland with their awards.

CCHN and CHCs celebrated the 2016 Community Health Champions at the P&I Legislator Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

Senator Cheri Jahn (SD 20) received the Legislator Community Health Champion Award; Dr. Michael Burns, who volunteers for Sunrise Community Health, received the Volunteer Clinician Community Health Champion Award; and The Glenwood Springs *Post Independent* received the Media Community Health Champion Award.

Sen. Jahn has served as a member of the Colorado State Senate since 2010. Throughout her tenure in the Colorado State Legislature, she has been a champion of issues important to CHCs. In 2015, Sen. Jahn worked persistently to help pass Senate Bill (SB) 15-197, reducing the amount of time it takes for most advanced practice nurses to achieve full prescriptive authority. She assured a compromise could be reached among all stakeholders through her hard work and advocacy. When asked by the Governor's office where the bill signing should take place, Sen. Jahn insisted that the CHC in her district, Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) Jeffco Family Health Services in Wheatridge, be the ceremony site. As a result, MCPN received a visit from Governor John Hickenlooper, Sen. Jahn, and other dignitaries, providing even greater opportunity to highlight the work of MCPN and CHCs. Sen. Jahn has voted in favor of multiple CCHN and CHC priorities over the years, including the Medicaid expansion and dental benefits for adults on Medicaid.

Dr. Michael Burns has donated his time and expertise to Sunrise for the past five years, lending his expertise and years of experience in podiatric medicine to the Sunrise Monfort Family Clinic in Greeley, Colo. Dr. Burns has consistently supported Sunrise's patients by truly understanding their needs. He also supports patients Sunrise's Monfort Clinic by overseeing the podiatry residents, teaching proper gait analysis, and donating podiatry tools. Residents have expressed their appreciation for his teaching style, describing him as caring and patient. Dr. Burn's generosity extends beyond his time spent at the clinic, even offering a sliding fee discount to Sunrise patients who are in need of orthotics and making the orthotics at his lab.

In the past year, the *Post Independent (PI)* has published several stories, editorials and series focused on the local economy and how this impacts the community at large. Mountain Family Health Center (MFHC), located in the *PI*'s readership area, has clinics located in some of the highest-price resort areas in the nation, ranging from Vail to Aspen, and points west. The *PI* has often been a voice for the low-to-middle income bracket in the community, addressing barriers in housing, employment and health care. In a five-part series last summer entitled, "The Price of Paradise," the paper evaluated the mismatch between the region's resort prices (some of the highest in the country) and rural wages. The series put a face to the working poor, including those who are employed by the affluent vacationing community in the upper valley.

In an article printed in September 2015, “Isolation, Depression Add to Immigrant Challenges,” the *PI* discussed the lack of integrated primary and behavioral health care in the area, focusing on the obstacles to treatment, cultural differences including fear of deportation and finances, and a growing array of mental health resources available in the area, including MFHC. The *PI* includes coverage of statewide and national importance in regard to health care, including guest opinion pieces by MFHC CEO Ross Brooks and other CHC community partners.



MFHC board members and staff at the Colorado State Capitol. A special shout-out goes to the folks from MFHC who took the looong way around to drive to Denver for the CCHN P&I due to the rock fall on I70 in Glenwood Canyon. Thanks for your commitment to advocacy!

Safety-Net Clinical Support Staff Receive Kaiser Permanente Educational Loan Repayment Awards in Final Round of Incentive Program

Twenty-two clinical support staff at safety-net health care clinics have been selected for the 2016 cycle of the Kaiser Permanente Education Loan Repayment Program administered by CCHN. The awardees were selected based on their exceptional commitments to serving the underserved and to their clinics. Applications were reviewed by a committee of staff members from CCHN, Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), and ClinicNET. As in prior years, this year's application cycle was highly competitive, and all 96 applicants should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

CCHN was funded by the Kaiser Permanente Community Health Fund to administer an annual loan repayment program for clinical support staff as part of the Preparing the Safety Net for the Future of Health Care initiative. 2016 marks the third and final round of the Kaiser Permanente Educational Loan Repayment for Safety-Net Clinical Support Staff Program (Program). Clinical support staff usually are not eligible for the national and state-level loan repayment programs available to clinical providers at safety-net clinics in health professions shortage areas, and this program helps to close this gap.

Clinical support staff play an essential role in team-based care, as well as other models for health care reform, and safety-net clinics will continue to benefit immensely from retaining these employees. Since 2014, CCHN has given out approximately \$175,000 annually to clinical support staff; including nurses, medical assistants, dental hygienists, dental assistants, lab technicians, among others—who work at safety-net primary care clinics across Colorado. Loan repayment awards of up to \$10,000 are tiered based on awardees' years of employment with their organizations, and serve to ease the burden of prior educational debt for clinical support staff. In exchange for loan repayment these staff will fulfill a one-year service commitment to their current safety-net clinic.

Of the 22 applicants awarded loan repayment in 2016:

- 16 are employed at Community Health Centers,
- four are employed at community-funded safety-net clinics (ClinicNET members),
- two are employed at rural health centers (CRHC members)
- eight awardees work in rural areas (36 percent),
- 16 have been employed at their safety-net clinics for over three years (73 percent),
- and 100 percent hope to remain at their safety-net organizations beyond their one-year service commitments.

The impact of the Program on awardees' career paths, personal lives, future educational pursuits, and dedication to their clinics is significant. Awardee Laura Zubia shares, "I am already happy working at Caritas and it is like a dream that I am being awarded with my school loan repayment. I feel like I need to pay back what I am getting. I will do my best every day and will keep treating my patients like they are family members." Congratulations to the 2016 Program award recipients and their clinics!

Awardee Name		Organization Name
Aide	Alaniz	SCL Health - Seton Women's Center
Alexis	Martinez	Salud Family Health Centers
Amanda	Sharp	Denver Health Nurse Family Partnership
Amanda	Ferguson	Sunrise Community Health Center
Carolyn	Anello	Project Worthmore
Cheryl	Jimenez	Salud Family Health Centers
Christal	Barba	Metro Community Provider Network
Christina	Flores	Mountain Family Health Centers
Dayna	Roybal	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denise	Quintana	High Plains Community Health Center
Dyan	Anderson	Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
Laura	Zubia	Sisters of Charity Caritas Clinic
Lorena	Olivas	Denver Health
Maryann	Martinez	San Luis Valley Health
Megan	Jackson	Summit Community Care Clinic
Perla	Garfio	Denver Health
Raquel	Perez	Denver Health
Rosalba	Yescas	Salud Family Health Centers
Roxanna	Sanchez	Clinica Family Health Services
Shawna	Grosso	Mt. San Rafael Hospital Clinic
Tiffany	Madrid	Value Care Health Clinic
Sandra	Tellez	Clinica Family Health Services

The Program is one of several programs that CCHN administers to reward and support the service of those who work in medically underserved areas of the state. In addition to the Program, CCHN partnered with CHAMPS to develop six Lunchtime Learning Professional Skill Development Webinars. This year's webinars are taking place from April to September 2016 and include the following topics: Utilizing Mindfulness to Reduce Stress and Prevent Burnout; Teambuilding in the Workplace; Affecting Workplace Negativity; Professional Boundary Setting; Managing and Caring for Difficult Patients; and Interpersonal Considerations for Elderly Person Care.

Archived Webinars are available and learn more about CCHN's programs, events and training opportunities here: <http://cchn.org/training-and-events/> .

Colorado CHCs Visit U.S. Capitol, Meet with Congressional Delegation

Representatives from Colorado CHCs and CCHN traveled to Washington, D.C., in March to introduce representatives and senators to constituents who are also CHC patients and board members; and to discuss the value of investing in community health. The congressional meetings took place during the annual Policy and Issues Forum of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC).

The Coloradans shared information on the savings that CHCs bring to the health care system (an estimated \$24 billion nationally each year); integration of services including behavioral health, oral health, and pharmacy; and innovation at CHCs, which serve many different communities, each with their own health challenges and needs. They discussed several legislative items that can help with recruiting and retaining high quality health care professionals, and asked that Congress fully fund the National Health Service Corps, invest in Teaching Health Centers, include volunteer health care professionals within CHC medical liability coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), and reauthorize and fund the Nurse Practitioner Residency Training demonstration projects.

While on Capitol Hill in D.C., the Colorado group said thank you for past support for the CHC program by presenting Distinguished Community Health Advocate Awards to Reps. DeGette, Polis, Tipton, Lamborn, Coffman, and Perlmutter, and Sens. Bennet and Gardner. NACHC has raised the criteria in recent years, so to earn these recognitions, members of Congress must vote in support of key legislation supporting CHCs, take one or more other actions supporting CHCs, and cosign annual letters of support for the CHC program sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

In addition, John Santistevan, president and CEO of Salud Family Health Centers, was selected to receive the Betsey K. Cooke Grassroots MVP Award. This award is given annually by NACHC to a small number of CHC and Primary Care Association (PCA) staff who display outstanding effort and unflagging persistence as a grassroots advocate for CHCs and their patients.



John Santistevan accepts the 2016 Betsey K. Cooke Grassroots MVP Award from NACHC Board Chair Ricardo Guzman and National Advocacy Director Amanda Pears Kelly



Colorado CHC representatives present Sen. Bennett with a NACHC Community Health Advocate Award, March 17, 2016.

In Memory and Gratitude

The Colorado CHC community was saddened to hear of the passing of Carrie Reid, consumer board member of MCPN and an inspirational advocate for CHCs and the people and communities they serve. Ms. Reid was with us in Washington in March when we visited Congress. This was not Ms. Reid's first trip to DC to speak up for CHCs; she also participated in CCHN's recent annual Policy & Issues Forum at the State Capitol.

Carrie's energy, commitment to CHC consumers, and enjoyment of participating in the process of democracy were infectious. We will carry that with us as we continue our work.



Left: Carrie Reid on the east side of the U.S. Capitol, where the dome is undergoing repairs, March 17, 2016.

Stout Street Health Center Receives National Award of Excellence

The National Council for Behavioral Health recognized the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) for its innovative approach to integration and wellness at Stout Street Health Center with an Award of Excellence. The Coalition's CHC was selected from more than 1,000 nominated organizations that provide access to comprehensive, high-quality care. John Parvensky, president of the Coalition, accepted the award at the annual conference on March 8, 2016, which was attended by more than 4,000 leaders in mental health and addictions care.

Stout Street Health Center fully incorporates patient-centered, trauma-informed medical and behavioral health care, substance treatment services, dental and vision care, social services, and supportive housing to more fully address the spectrum of problems that homeless adults and children bring to their health care providers. In 2014, more than 13,000 patients received care at the Coalition's CHC, and 3,800 of those patients received behavioral health care.

"We started with a small primary care clinic, adapting and adding psychiatrists and counselors with the growing need. Once we recognized that the health or mental health conditions of patients still living on the streets were not improving, we began building housing," said Parvensky. "Stout Street Health Center represents the culmination of 30 years of work toward full integration of health care and housing for homeless individuals and families. We designed the space to have doctors and psychiatrists, behavioral health providers, peer mentors and case managers sitting side by side—coordinating the care of our most vulnerable neighbors—with dedicated supportive housing just upstairs. I am honored to receive this recognition on behalf of the hard-working and dedicated staff who offer hope, restore dignity, and improve the lives of those we serve every day."

Inspiration Awards Announced – School-Based Health Care

The Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care (CASBHC) announced the 2016 Inspiration Awards at its annual conference May 6, including Megan Jackson, who works for Summit Community Care Clinic (Summit), a CHC serving Summit and Lake counties.

Ms. Jackson was selected to receive the Outstanding Dental Provider Inspiration Award. In the first year of Summit's opening of the Lake County School-Based Health Center (SBHC), Ms. Jackson began providing preventive dental care to students and staff at Lake County High School, Lake County Intermediate School, and West Park Elementary School in Leadville. Ms. Jackson was lauded also for attending local meetings and events to promote Lake County SBHC and building strong relationships with community leaders.

Jordan Goto, Kids First Health Care, was selected for the Outstanding Educator Award. Ms. Goto was nominated by colleagues at Adams City High School's SBHC. She was praised for her initiative, innovative solutions, and dedication to the students. Her nominators highlighted her work with the high school's student health advisory committee, and her willingness to go above and beyond her job description in helping students and staff.

Catherine Schurger, Kids First Health Care, earned the Outstanding Individual School-Based Health Center Provider Award. Ms. Schurger was nominated for her dedication and caring, described as always going the extra mile to work with schools, counselors, and community organizations to meet the needs of students. In addition, she was recognized for evaluating clinic workflows and electronic medical records for potential improvements and efficiencies, and for training and support for staff.

Jeff Bontrager, Colorado Health Institute (CHI), was honored as the School-Based Health Center Champion. Mr. Bontrager was recognized for helping launch a new project at CHI in 2006, systematically collecting and analyzing data about SBHCs and others parts of the health safety net, and for his ongoing commitment to using data to help tell the story of how SBHCs care for Colorado's most vulnerable children.

Bruce Guernsey, co-founder of CASBHC, received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Guernsey was one of the founders of CASBHC in 1996, and has served on CASBHC's board of directors, as well as serving as president of the board for the School-Based Health Alliance (formerly National Association of School-Based Health Care). During his career, he has secured more than \$10 million from private and public sources to support school health initiatives. As a consultant, he continues to support school health services and plan for new SBHCs.



**summit community
CARE CLINIC**



In Memory: Virgilio Licona

The CHC movement and CCHN bid a sad farewell to Dr. Virgilio Licona, associate medical director of Salud Family Health Centers (Salud), who passed away on March 29, 2016.

Dr. Licona began his health career in 1973, spending the last 19 years at Salud. He dedicated himself to care for the underserved as a tireless advocate, administrator, family physician, and teacher. Prior to working at Salud, Dr. Licona was clinical director and later associate director of Southern Colorado Medicine, a family practice residency program in Pueblo in the early 1990s; and was migrant health clinic director of Pueblo Community Health Centers before that. In the 1970s, he founded and directed La Clínica del Valle in Rocky Ford, caring for migrant and seasonal farm workers. He also volunteered as an attending physician for the Stout Street Homeless Clinic 1997-2002 and 2004.

He served as a health policy analyst and CHC advocate at the local, state, and national level, tirelessly advancing the Community Health Center movement. He was a national leader in providing culturally-appropriate quality care to special populations. He served three-year terms on the National Advisory Council of the National Health Service Corps, the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health, and the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and served a term as president of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians. He was a long-time board member for the Colorado Health Foundation. Dr. Licona used his leadership positions as a bully pulpit to push for better access and better quality of care for those who need it most. Dr. Licona was also the recipient of the Colorado Minority Health Forum's "Outstanding Contributor to Minority Health Care in Colorado for 2000." That award is now called the "Dr. Virgilio Licona Award."

"Health care is for people and not for profit," Dr. Licona observed when he accepted the NACHC Samuel U. Rodgers Award in August 2015. "I am proud to share the stage with my fellow awardees because we are helping to move the health status of the country forward. We are an important part of the solution."

In recognition of his extraordinary service to the health of so many, Gov. Hickenlooper proclaimed March 29 as Virgilio Licona Day in the State of Colorado. A copy of the proclamation and tributes to Dr. Licona are posted at <http://www.saludclinic.org/#!licona/n5kji>. In addition, the Foundation established an annual [scholarship](#) in Dr. Licona's name at the University of Colorado Foundation.



Left:
Jerry Brasher and Dr.
Licona at the grand
opening of the Stanley
J. Brasher Administra-
tion Building, Fort
Lupton, Sept. 25, 2009

Health Center News From Around Colorado

News Briefs

Sunrise CEO, Mitzi Moran Honored



Sunrise Community Health CEO Mitzi Moran was named one of the 2016 Women of Distinction by *BizWest* Media along with nine other honorees that are committed to the Northern Colorado community and exemplify the best of success. The honorees were selected from more than 100 women who were nominated by their peers and business associates.

They were chosen for their leadership and contributions to the community and for their achievements in business, philanthropic, and government organizations. The women were honored at a breakfast ceremony where the City of Greeley assistant manager, Becky Safarik, spoke.



Coalition Opens New Renaissance Site

The Coalition celebrated the opening of their newest property, Renaissance at North Colorado Station in Denver on Feb. 16, 2016. The property provides 103 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless and low-income families and individuals. Special guests included Gov. Hickenlooper, Denver City Mayor Michael Hancock, and Denver City Councilman Albus Brooks. A future resident, Henry, shared the moving story of his journey and ended with a beautiful song.



CCH Renaissance at North Colorado Station building.

Denver Health Celebrates 50th Anniversary and New Site Opening

Denver Health's Community Health Services celebrated their 50th anniversary and the grand opening of the Southwest Family Health Center and Urgent Care with a celebratory and educational luncheon on April 5, 2016, and an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony in the evening. The luncheon included a discussion on the "History of Community Health Centers" and was joined by Ricardo Guzman, the board chair of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and Richard Bohrer, director of PCA and network relations at NACHC. Denver City Mayor Michael Hancock spoke at and participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Right: Denver Health's Community Health Services board members, CEO Simon Hambridge, M.D., NACHC representatives, and Denver City Mayor Hancock cut the ribbon to open the new Denver Health site.



POLICY UPDATE

2016 State Legislative Session Comes to a Close

CCHN staff, government affairs representative, and CHC staff worked throughout the Colorado 2016 legislative session to ensure that legislators were knowledgeable about the valuable role CHCs play in providing health care to Coloradans. The session ended May 11.

CCHN actively supported several items throughout the legislative session, including bills intended to reduce barriers to the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, reduce barriers to access to care, and bills focused on health care innovation. Specifically, CCHN actively supported House Bill (HB) 16-1047, sponsored by Rep. Perry Buck (HD49) and Sen. Linda Newell (SD26), enacting the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact authorizing the Governor to enter into the Compact for Colorado. Enacting this Compact will help to alleviate licensure wait times for licensed physicians who move to Colorado from another Compact state, an important step in physician recruitment efforts for CHCs. CCHN also actively supported Senate Bill (SB) 16-158, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Lundberg (SD15) and Rep. Dianne Primavera (HD33), which clarifies and expands the duties that a physician may delegate to a physician assistant (PA) within his or her scope of practice. PAs play important roles on the care team at many CHCs, and this bill is important in maintaining and growing a workforce that is able to practice at the top of their licensure.

In addition to the above workforce items, CCHN also actively supported HB16-1407, sponsored by Rep. Dave Young (HD50) and Sen. Pat Steadman (SD31). This bill extends the Medicaid Payment Reform and Innovation Pilot Program (known as Prime) in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) beyond the previous expiration date of June 30, 2016. This will allow current pilots to continue and additional pilots to be approved. The passage of this bill shows the legislature's commitment to continuing to explore viable options for payment reform, to which CCHN and CHCs are committed (see Payment Reform spotlight on page 8).

CCHN also supported items in the 2016 Long Bill (HB16-1405), as well as "orbital bills" that were passed in conjunction with the long bill. Of particular note, CCHN actively supported the addition of \$2.5 million in state General Fund dollars to expand the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Family Planning Program, helping to increase access to Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive devices for low-income women around the state and reduce unintended pregnancy. The state legislature also approved several funding increases through the passage of HB16-1408, including increases in funding to the Colorado Health Service Corps and the Dental Loan Repayment program (among others). These increases are a significant achievement for CHCs in terms of workforce recruitment efforts and increasing access to care.

For the state budget, the Colorado legislature agreed to a \$27 billion balanced budget for FY 2016-17. This budget reflects the legislature's work to pass a balanced budget during a challenging economic year and the anticipation of slowed growth. Health care remains a large portion of the state budget, with HCPF budget items accounting for \$9.1 billion, including \$2.7 billion in General Funds. CCHN will work in support of continued advances in health care during next year's legislative session.



CHCs Pursuing Payment Reform Options

Payment reform continues at the forefront in health care as states and providers seek ways to change reimbursement in order to drive improvements in health outcomes and decrease costs. Colorado's CHCs are among those prioritizing this shift as CCHN's Board of Directors made payment reform a top priority for 2016. Central to this issue for Colorado CHCs is changing CHC payment from a reimbursement which is triggered solely by face-to-face, one-on-one visits with specific providers, to reimbursement which supports comprehensive, patient-centric care.

To advance this work, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), CCHN applied for and received admission to the National Association of State Health Plans (NASHP) Payment Reform Academy. This year long academy creates a defined space for conversations between CHCs and the state on payment reform, and provides access to national resources and supports. NASHP staff will assist in identifying solutions to barriers and connect the Colorado state team with national experts who are further along in the CHC payment reform implementation process.

Work spurred by the academy has already begun as the state team, made up of representatives from HCPF and CCHN, are drafting a 12-month plan for the Academy and will be participating in a face-to-face meeting with the five other participating states in June. Throughout the year, CCHN staff will be updating CCHN's members on these efforts and seeking input from the CHC BOD and staff.

Calling All Advocates to Support Your CHC

NACHC launched a new initiative in March 2016 called the Advocacy Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program. The intention of the program is to build the advocacy skills and numbers of CHC supporters to act on issues impacting CHCs at local, state and federal levels. Was the first primary care association (state association of CHCs) in the country to become an ACE. To become an advocate for Colorado CHCs, please join the effort [here](http://saveourchcs.org/ace-listing.cfm). To learn more about the ACE program, visit <http://saveourchcs.org/ace-listing.cfm>

CCHN UPDATE

CCHN New Additions

Johanna (JoJo) Gelderman is CCHN's quality initiatives coordinator, joining CCHN in April 2016. JoJo's responsibility is to provide administrative and other programmatic support for Quality Improvement Division (QID) projects that help CHCs provide high quality health care to patients, as well as coordinate CCHN's group purchasing organization (GPO) project. JoJo earned a bachelor's degree in international studies with minors in business and global health from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining CCHN, she worked as the program and communications coordinator at ClinicNET, providing support and advocacy to Colorado's Community Safety Net Clinics. In her free time, JoJo enjoys traveling, the outdoors, volunteering, and spending time with friends.

Taylor Miranda is CCHN's quality improvement specialist joining CCHN in February 2016. Her primary responsibility is to provide coaching support for CHCs that participate in a variety of QI projects. Specifically, Taylor will be facilitating CHCs in discussion of QI measures and work plans related to team-based care initiatives. Taylor recently completed her master of public health (MPH) degree from the Colorado School of Public Health, with a focus on community and behavioral health. In 2013, she earned a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology and LGBT/Q studies from the University of Illinois. Prior to joining CCHN, Taylor spent two years as a clinical team member with a family planning practice in Denver, Colo. In her free time, Taylor enjoys running, crafting, volunteering, and cuddling with her cats.

CCHN Staff Run 2016 Colfax Marathon

CCHN staff, Taylor Miranda, Maria Casaverde, Sarah Macrander, Katie Pachan Jacobson, and Katie's husband, Eric Jacobson, ran the Colfax Marathon on May 15, 2016, in Denver. They finished the marathon in four hours! The staff members had a great time hanging out with each other in a different setting from the office and had fun doing a healthy activity. CCHN plans to keep this tradition up next year and for years to follow!



Taylor Miranda, Maria Casaverde Marin, Sarah Macrander, Katie Pachan Jacobson and Eric Jacobson pose after running the Colfax Marathon

CHAMPS UPDATE

Save the Date: NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), in partnership with Western Clinicians Network (WCN), will hold their combined Regions VIII and X Annual Primary Care Conference on **Saturday, Oct. 15-Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016**, in Denver, Colo. The conference will include clinical, operations, fiscal, workforce, dental health integration, behavioral health, outreach and enrollment, community health improvement, quality transformation/ patient centered medical home, policy, and governance tracks in addition to numerous networking opportunities. CHCs and other partners with innovative programs and best practices to share should consider submitting an abstract to present during the conference. The abstract portal is currently open, and submissions are due by **Friday, June 17, 2016**. For additional conference information and to submit an abstract, visit <http://champsonline.org/events-trainings/annual-primary-care-conference>

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7, 2016 and July 11, 2016—September 2016

CHAMPS ECHO Learning Communities

CHAMPS is excited to announce two ECHO Learning Communities, coming this summer, available to CHCs in Region VIII. CHAMPS has partnered with Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC) and ECHO Colorado to bring two QI- focused ECHO Learning Communities. This unique learning opportunity uses bi-directional video to connect participants together to hear a presentation from an expert and to share examples of CHC processes. The first learning community is focused on improving rates of colorectal cancer screening. The second will address behavioral health integration in primary care.

For more information and to register, visit: <http://champsonline.org/events-trainings/distance-learning/projectecho>.

August 7-13, 2016

National Health Center Week

The theme for this year's National Health Center Week (NHCW) is "Innovators in Community Health." Events will be held at CHCs across the state. Stay tuned for a calendar of events in CCHN's July newsletter.

CCHN Newsletter Editor: [Maureen Maxwell](#);
Managing Editor and Creative Director: [Jessica Smith](#)
Contributors: [Alice Gibbs](#), [Marija Weeden](#), [Katie Pachan Jacobson](#), [Angela Rose](#),
[Margaret Davidson](#), [Maria Casaverde Marin](#), [CCHN](#); [Chelsea Skovgaard](#), [CHAMPS](#);
[Cathy Alderman](#), [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#); [Lori Hughes](#), [Sunrise](#)
[Community Health](#); [Bridget Beatty](#), [CASBHC](#)

About CCHN

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 20 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to almost 650,000 of their community members - one in eight people in Colorado - from 61 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

If you would like to be added to the newsletter e-mail distribution list, or if you have comments about this newsletter, please contact Maureen Maxwell, CCHN federal policy and communications manager, at maureen@cchn.org or (303) 861-5165, ext. 259.

FOLLOW US!

