

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2010

**Announcing the Qualies  
*Clinical Quality Achievements at Community Health Centers Honored***

DENVER— In a red-carpet ceremony on March 11, the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) announced the winners of the 2010 Qualies, awards recognizing clinical quality achievement at Colorado's federally qualified Community Health Centers (CHCs). CHC teams from across the state were recognized for their work to meet high clinical quality standards for emergency preparedness, blood pressure control, improvements in screenings and follow-up services in women's health, and increased immunization rates for children. In addition, physicians selected for loan repayment awards who showed exemplary commitment and service to underserved populations and communities were honored.

"It is not accidental that national health reform proposals recognize the important role of federally qualified Community Health Centers and other community clinics in our efforts to improve and reform the health care service delivery system," said guest speaker Joan Henneberry, executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. "You are vital to our plans and progress in Colorado and essential in our desire to ensure access to quality, cost effective services for all Coloradans," she told the gathering.

The awards, finalists, and winners:

**The Masters of Disaster Award:** The nominees were CHCs who are in compliance with HRSA Health Center Emergency Management Program Expectations, the Colorado Board of Health bioterrorism regulations, and the National Incident Management System objectives. CCHN's Emergency Preparedness Program began in November 2006 to provide support and resources to CHCs.

The finalists:

- Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc.
- Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

The 2010 Masters of Disaster: Sunrise Community Health, Inc.

**The Hypertension Hero Award:** The Heart Smart Navigation Program aims to increase the number of adult CHC patients who have controlled blood pressure. The Hypertension Hero Award was given to the CHC team with the greatest percentage increase in blood pressure control among adult patients with cardiovascular disease and/or hypertension between June 2009 and December 2009.

The finalists:

- Denver Health's Community Health Services
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center

The 2010 Hypertension Hero: High Plains Community Health Center

The **Pink Ribbon Award**: The Healthy Woman Outreach Project improves the health of participating CHC patients by increasing their access to breast screenings and appropriate follow-up services. This award honored CHCs for outstanding commitment to women's health.

The finalists:

- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Metro Community Provider Network
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Plains Medical Center, Inc.
- Salud Family Health Centers

The 2010 Pink Ribbon Award winner: Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.

The **Best Shot Awards**: CCHN's Immunization Initiative promotes excellence in immunization delivery at Community Health Center clinics. A primary goal is to increase immunization rates for 2-year-olds to 80 percent by the end of 2010. Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 CHC clinic sites received Best Shot Awards for achieving the most improved immunization rates for 2-year-olds in 2009 as compared to 2008.

The tier designation was based on the size of a clinic site's patient population as established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for the Vaccines for Children 2009 assessment criteria. Rates were based on the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommendations as reported in the Colorado Immunization Information System.

The Tier 1 finalists:

- Family Health Center at Union – Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Monfort Children's Clinic – Sunrise Community Health, Inc.
- Pediatric Health Center – Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- People's Clinic – Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Westwood Family Health Center – Denver Health's Community Health Services

In a tie, the Tier 1 Best Shots:

- Pediatric Health Center – Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Westwood Family Health Center – Denver Health's Community Health Services

The Tier 2 finalists:

- Arvada Clinic – Metro Community Provider Network
- Flagler Clinic – Plains Medical Center, Inc.
- Monfort Family Clinic – Sunrise Community Health, Inc.

The Tier 2 Best Shot: Arvada Clinic – Metro Community Provider Network

The Tier 3 finalists:

- Black Hawk Clinic – Mountain Family Health Centers
- Estes Street Community Clinic – Metro Community Provider Network
- Family Health Center at Divide – Peak Vista Community Health Centers

The Tier 3 winner: Estes Street Community Clinic – Metro Community Provider Network

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

The nominees were CHCs participating in the Women's Wellness Connection who met all seven core indicators for three of the past four quarters. Additionally, the winner also must have participated in the Connection's Advisory Committee meetings.

All Colorado CHCs were recognized for dedication and countless hours of staff time devoted to improving access for their patients by participation in the Women's Wellness Connection.

The finalists for the Women's Wellness Warrior:

- Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc.
- High Plains Community Health Center

The winner:

- Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc.

**The Colorado Foundation Physician Loan Repayment Program Awards:** The Physician Loan Repayment awards are given to physicians serving Colorado's CHCs and other safety net facilities who demonstrate exemplary commitment and service to the underserved populations and communities in Colorado.

The 16 CHC recipients of The Colorado Health Foundation Physician Loan Repayment program demonstrated eagerness, compassion and commitment to Colorado's underserved. The recipients:

- Jennifer Johnson, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Lafayette
- Elisa Melendez-Eisman, Salud Family Health Centers, Brighton
- Joshua Messer, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Pecos
- Karen Inger Fedde, Denver Health's Community Health Services, Denver
- Michele Zipp Pennington, Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc., Pueblo
- Peter Liehr, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Colorado Springs
- Roberto Silvo, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., Alamosa
- Sarah Hiam, Salud Family Health Centers, Fort Collins
- David Ginosar, Denver Health's Community Health Services, Denver
- Amy Alter-Pandya, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver
- Karen Funk, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Lafayette
- Aline Hansen-Guzman, Salud Family Health Centers, Fort Morgan
- Colleen Kepner, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Thornton
- Amber Koch-Laking, Denver Health's Community Health Services, Denver
- Anna Lundeen, Northwest Colorado Community Health Center, Craig
- Katherine Lorraine Rufner, Salud Family Health Centers, Fort Lupton

The Emergency Preparedness Program of the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#) (CDPHE) funded the CCHN Emergency Preparedness Program. The Heart Smart Navigation Program was funded by the CDPHE Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease Competitive Grants Program. The [Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Denver Metropolitan Affiliate](#), provided funding services for patients enrolled with all five finalists. The CCHN Immunization Initiative was supported by CDPHE and [The Colorado Trust](#). The Women's Wellness Connection program received funding and partnership development from the CDPHE Women's Wellness Connection. [The Colorado Health Foundation](#) supports the Physician Loan Repayment Program, working with CCHN and the [Colorado Rural Health Center](#).

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*For contact information and photos of the winners accepting their awards, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org).*

*The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 55 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](http://www.cchn.org).*

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