



July 2015 Newsletter

HEALTH CENTER NEWS



National Health Center Week Events

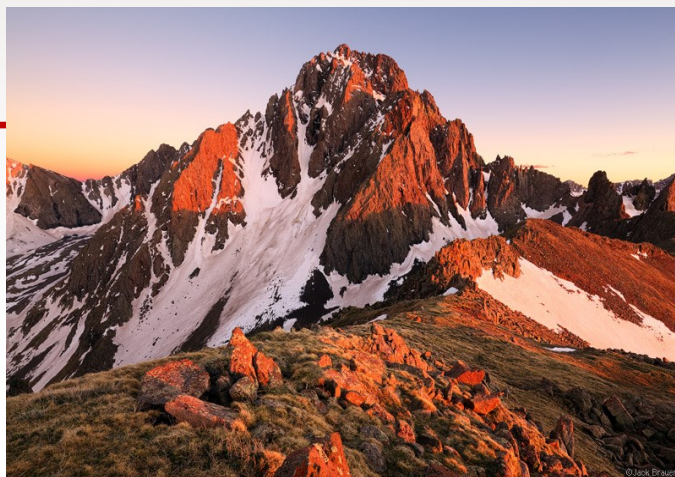
Aug. 9-15, 2015, is National Health Center Week (NHCW), dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless, and school-based Community Health Centers (CHCs). This year's theme is "America's Health Centers: Celebrating Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future." CHCs serve over 23 million Americans through more than 9,200 delivery sites in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories. In addition to their long history as health care homes to millions, CHCs are proud to celebrate 50 years of service and continue to be ranked among the highest quality and most cost-effective care providers in the nation. Listed here are NHCW events happening in Colorado.

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Monday, Aug. 3

MCPN Healthcare the Fairway: 11th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic

The Ridge at Castle Pines, 1414 Castle Pines Parkway, Castle Pines.

Ebenezer Ekuban, former Denver Broncos player, is hosting the Metro Community Provider Network's (MCPN) 11th annual Celebrity Golf Classic, benefiting MCPN, at The Ridge at Castle Pines. Go to www.mcpn.org or contact [John Reid](#) for more information.

You are invited
ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE 2015

Please join us for the Peak Vista Academy Campus Open House to see how Peak Vista has renovated the Penrose Community Hospital facility.

Campus Tours | Hors d'oeuvres

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

5:30pm - 7:00pm



Administrative Services
3205 N Academy Blvd, Suite 130*
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Enter on the north side of the building

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Peak Vista Academy Open House

Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista)

3205 N. Academy Blvd., Suite 130, Colorado Springs

Campus tours and hors d'oeuvres

Contact Kelly Utermoehlen at kelly.uteramoehlen@peakvista.org for more

Saturday, Aug. 8, 8:00 a.m.

Sunrise Booth at Evans Safety & Awareness Fair

Sam's Club Parking Lot, 3247 23rd Ave., Evans

Sunrise Community Health (Sunrise) will join the City of Evans to promote safety in the community and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CHC program. Contact [Debra Scott](#) for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 8, 8:00 a.m.

Back to School Fair

Island Grove, 501 N. 14th Ave., Greeley

Sunrise will join the Greeley-Evans School District to celebrate the beginning of the school year and the 50th anniversary of the CHC program. Contact [Debra Scott](#) for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 8, 10:00 a.m.

Prowers County Sand & Sage Fair Parade

Main Street, Lamar

High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains) will have a float in the parade. Contact [Laurie Larrick](#) for more information.

Monday, Aug. 10, 8:00 a.m.

High Plains Community Health Center Staff Appreciation Breakfast

All High Plains sites

Staff will be provided breakfast casseroles as a "Thank You" during NHCW. Contact [Laurie Larrick](#).

Monday, Aug. 10, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Health Educational Booths

Sunrise Adelante Clinic, 1010 A Street, Greeley

Displays focusing on diabetes and other health issues. Contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

Monday, Aug. 10, 9:00 a.m.-noon
Family & Educational Activity Fair

Monfort Children's Clinic, 100 N. 11th Ave, Greeley

Sunrise will celebrate NHCW with the community with face painting, balloon animals, sidewalk chalk, and bubbles. Contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601 for more information.

Monday, Aug. 10
Sunrise Theme Day

All Sunrise sites

All Sunrise employees will wear Sunrise attire for the day.

Tuesday, Aug. 11
Sunrise Sports Theme Day

All Sunrise sites

All Sunrise employees wear attire from their favorite sports team and donate at least one clothing item for Sunrise Garage Sale at the end of NHCW. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

Tuesday, Aug. 11
High Plains Community BBQ & Staff Awards

High Plains Main Medical Site & Administration, 201 Kendall Dr., Lamar

Free BBQ that is open to the public. Event will include door prizes and staff awards ceremony. Also, awards and appreciation will be shown to community partners during this event. For additional information please contact Laurie Larrick at Laurie.Larrick@highplainschc.net or (719) 336- 0261.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunrise Adelante Clinic Open House

Sunrise Adelante Clinic, 1010 A Street, Greeley

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

MCPN Back To School Giveaway

North Aurora Family Services, 3292 Peoria St., Aurora

For more information contact [John Reid](#).



Tuesday, Aug. 11, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Peak Vista at Limon Open House

Peak Vista Health Center at Limon, 820 1st Street, Limon

Open House and Provider Meet and Greet. Contact Kelly Utermoehlen at kelly.utermaehlen@peakvista.org for more information. Or RSVP [here](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 11
Sunrise Emergency Dental Day

Sunrise Family Dental, 1006 A Street, Greeley; and

Loveland Community Health Center, 302 3rd Street, Loveland

Patient walk-ins welcome all day for urgent dental needs such as tooth aches. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601

Wednesday, Aug. 12

Crazy Hair Day

All Sunrise sites

All Sunrise employees wear crazy hair styles and donate at least one hygiene item for Sunrise Garage Sale at the end of NHCW. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.



Wednesday, Aug. 12, 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sheridan Health Services Ribbon Cutting

Sheridan Health Services, 3525 Oxford Ave., Denver

Sheridan will recognize community partners and celebrate NHCW and the expansion on the Fort Logan Campus. Oscar Del Barrios will provide live entertainment on the main stage before and after the ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:00 p.m.

Contact Erica Schwartz.

Wednesday, Aug. 12

High Plains Patient Appreciation Day

All High Plains sites

Fruit and veggie trays will be available and patients will be able to learn about our 20-year history and sign up for giveaway prizes. Contact Laurie Larrick.

Thursday, Aug. 13

Uncompahgre Medical Center Community and Staff BBQ

Uncompahgre Medical Center, 1350 Aspen Street, Norwood

Community and staff BBQ celebration with fire truck rides, ambulance and helicopter tours, face painting, and giveaways. For more information contact Amanda Pierce at (970) 327-4233.

Thursday, Aug. 13

Sunrise Geek/Nerd Theme Day

All Sunrise sites

All Sunrise employees wear nerd attire and donate school supply items for Sunrise Garage Sale at the end of NHCW. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

A flyer for a community barbecue event. The title "Come join our FREE Community BARBEQUE" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, the date "Wednesday, August 12, 2015" and time "4:00 pm—7:00 pm" are listed. The location is "At the Uncompahgre Medical Center, 1350 Aspen Street, Norwood, CO 81423". A sun with sunglasses and thumbs up is next to the time. The text "Please come and help us celebrate National Health Center Week with firetruck rides, food, drinks, care flight tours, meet our staff and much more." is in the center. At the bottom, there are two clouds: one with a blue card that says "CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY SHAPING OUR FUTURE" and another with the Uncompahgre Medical Center logo and the text "Brought to you by: UMC UNCOMPAHGRE MEDICAL CENTER". There are also red, white, and blue balloons on either side of the clouds.



Thursday, Aug. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (Valley-Wide) Picnic

Cole Park, Alamosa.

Family potluck and picnic. For more information contact Suzanne DeVore at (719) 589-5161.

Thursday, Aug. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Northwest Colorado VNACHamber Mixer

745 Russell Street, Craig

Mixer for Chamber Members to celebrate NHCW with free food, drinks, and door prizes. For more information contact Suzi Mariano at (970) 879-1632 or smariano@nwcovna.org.



Thursday, Aug. 13, noon

High Plains 20th Anniversary Balloon Release

High Plains Main Medical Site, 201 Kendall Drive, Lamar

Event to commemorate the past 20 years and look forward to serving our communities for many years to come. Contact [Laurie Larrick](#) for more information.

Friday, Aug. 14 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

MCPN Open House

Jeffco Family Health Services Center, 7495 W. 29th Ave., Wheat Ridge

Open House, back-to-school giveaways, and dental screenings. Contact [John Reid](#) for more information.

Friday, Aug. 14

Sunrise Employee Potluck

All Sunrise sites

All Sunrise employees bring a favorite dish and donate at least one non-perishable food item for Sunrise Garage Sale at the end of NHCW. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

Friday, Aug. 14, 8:00 a.m.

Sunrise Garage Sale

Monfort Family Clinic, 2930 11th Avenue, Greeley; and Loveland Community Health Center, 302 3rd Street, Loveland

All items collected by Sunrise employees during NHCW theme days will be out on tables for patients to walk around and choose what they want/need. All items are donated to patients at no charge. For more information, contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

Friday, Aug. 14

NHCW Shirt Day

Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista planning committee will wear shirts they designed honoring the 50th anniversary of the Community Health Center movement.



Monday, Aug. 17

Sunrise Kids Care Clinic (KCC) Open House

Centennial Elementary School, 1400 37th Street, Evans

Sunrise KCC will showcase what they do at Centennial's Back-to-School Night. For more information contact Fatima Groom at (970) 350-4601.

CHCs Use Creative Strategies to Inform and Enroll Uninsured Patients

Last April, Sitora Rashidova, CCHN's CHC outreach and enrollment (O&E) coordinator with the Covering Kids and Families project, visited many CHCs across Colorado. The purpose of her visits was to learn more about CHCs' efforts to enroll community members in new health coverage options made possible by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including expanded Medicaid and subsidized private insurance through the state's marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado.

She visited Axis Health System/La Plata Integrated Healthcare, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Dove Creek Community Health Clinic, River Valley Family Health Center, Salud Family Health Centers, Sheridan Health Services, Uncompahgre Medical Center, and Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

Here are highlights of what she learned from her tour:

Although Axis Health System only recently received O&E funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the CHC already has a strong O&E program in place. In fact, many frontline staff are trained as Certified Application Counselors (CACs) through Connect for Health Colorado to help the O&E team identify patients eligible for health coverage. The O&E staff also partner with nearby libraries, soup kitchens, and their local Medical Coverage Collaborative.

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless excels at making patients feel welcome at their sun-drenched Stout Street Health Center with soaring ceilings and bright artwork. However, it is truly the staff's recognition that homelessness can often be a full-time job, and their ability to offer comprehensive services when patients really need them, that contributes to this welcoming atmosphere. The same concept is applied to O&E services as patients can see O&E staff at any time, and staff work hard to enroll patients right then and there.

Even though the O&E team at Dove Creek Community Health Clinic is small, people drive long distances just to seek enrollment help from Dove Creek's knowledgeable CACs. They have worked hard to build trust with their community members and help them and the clinic patients with a wide range of services. They often making house calls to help patients with paperwork or simply making sure that they have something to eat.



Dove Creek Community Health Clinic, Dove Creek, Colo.

River Valley Family Health Center has already seen 800 new patients since opening the doors to its new facility last December. The waiting rooms at the new facility have posters and brochures about Connect for Health Colorado and a booklet created by River Valley on other health coverage options.

O&E staff at Salud Family Health Centers also are creative in their outreach strategies. They set up an informational table during the free day at the Denver Zoo and have worked with trade schools, recreational centers, parks, and community colleges. Salud also has an Insurance Committee, where key staff from different departments come together to discuss O&E.

Sheridan Health Services is one of the most active CHCs in terms of outreach. Sheridan's O&E team has held outreach events at the Mexican consulate, has established strong relationships with their local schools, and often participates at school resource nights and other school events. During open enrollment, one of the O&E staff spoke on a Spanish language radio station, which was a successful strategy to promote enrollment services at Sheridan.



Uncompahgre Medical Center, Norwood, Colo.

Uncompahgre Medical Center is integrating O&E with their work on the Women's Wellness Connection program. The team is busy not only helping women access important preventive services, but also assisting them and their families with eligibility. Since the ACA can still be a contentious topic for some patients, Uncompahgre offers its Patient Advisory Council as a safe space for constructive discussion about patient concerns.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. participated in a unique pilot project funded by the Colorado Health Foundation. Special marketing materials and a marketing campaign about Valley-Wide's comprehensive O&E services was created for them by a marketing firm just for them. Due in part to Valley-Wide's tracking and data collection efforts, they were one of the most successful participants of the project. Results from that project can be found on the Foundation's [website](#).

Overall, it was inspiring to see the level of passion and knowledge that exists at each CHC in reaching and enrolling the uninsured in health coverage. Although each CHC has creatively tailored outreach strategies to their unique communities, they all share one thing in common: word-of-mouth is by far the best and most effective way to reach the uninsured. This is true for large and urban CHCs, as well small and rural ones.

News Report Analyzes Cancer and Poverty: Colorado 2001-2012

Poverty continues to play a significant role in the impact of cancer on Coloradans, according to a report released by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The report, "[Cancer and Poverty: Colorado 2001-12](#)," shows low-income Coloradans were less likely to get screened for cancer or be diagnosed at an early stage, when most cancers are treatable.

According to the report, 70 percent of Coloradans living in low-poverty areas survived cancer for at least five years. However, for those living in areas of high poverty, the five-year survival rate was only 55 percent. Cancer is the leading cause of death in Colorado, killing more than 7,000 people each year.

For many of those living in high-poverty areas, lack of health insurance is a barrier to early diagnosis, treatment, and survival. The Affordable Care Act requires health insurers to provide preventive care such as cancer screenings at no cost to those who are eligible. The health department is working with health plans, community clinics, and health care providers to ensure access and quality of care for underserved and newly covered Coloradans.

"We know early screening saves lives," said Dr. Larry Wolk, CDPHE executive director and chief medical officer. "This report shows the importance of ensuring health care access to all Coloradans, regardless of income."

News Briefs

Three High Plains CHC Employees Honored with People's Choice Awards

For more than 20 years, Lamar's local newspaper, The Lamar Ledger, has announced its own annual People's Choice Awards. These awards are voted on by community members of Lamar and the surrounding areas. They vote for their favorite physician, barber, car dealership, grocery store, and any other trade in the area they wish to honor. Three employees of High Plains Community Health Center were among the 2015 honorees. They are: Wayne Hudson, DO, for People's Choice Physician; Time Bewley, PA-C, for People's Choice Physician Assistant; and Brittney Lewis, Pharm D., R.Ph., for People's Choice Pharmacist.



Peak Vista CEO Pam McManus Honored

Pam McManus, CEO of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, was among the four honorees this year at the Hats Off Luncheon of the Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Every year, the sorority honors women from the local community who are committed to public service. The sorority members wear hats in tribute to the late national sorority leader Dorothy Height, an American administrator, educator, and leader in the African-American and women's rights movements. The sorority is an organization of college-educated women committed to constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.



Peak Vista CEO Pam McManus

Secretary of HHS Visits Stout Street Health Center

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless' (the Coalition) Stout Street Health Center hosted U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell for a tour of the new facility on July 16. The Community Health Center increases integrated health care access for up to 18,000 homeless individuals each year, and Secretary Burwell was pleased to see the Coalition's integrated health model in action.

The new Stout Street facility was made possible by the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in Colorado under the Affordable Care Act. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, only 15 percent of homeless individuals served by the Coalition were eligible for Medicaid. Today, nearly 70 percent of the Coalition's patients have been enrolled in Medicaid. The increased payments through Medicaid helped fund the new facility and expand the number of health care providers needed to care for the community. Secretary Burwell serves as vice chair of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, and she wrote about her recent visit and federal efforts to end homelessness [on her blog](#).



Coalition Staff and Sec. Burwell
outside the Stout Street Clinic



Sec. Burwell on a tour of the
Stout Street Clinic

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date: NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference

Oct. 17-20, 2015, 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 in Seattle, Wash. For additional conference information and to register, click [here](#).

Save the Date: Annual Rural Health Conference

Oct. 14-16, 2015 the Colorado Rural Health Center's Annual Rural Health Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Colorado Springs. Click [here](#) for more information.

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About CCHN

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 18 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 650,000 of their community members - more than 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 senior manager for federal policy and communications, at maureen@cchn.org or (303) 861-5165, ext. 259.

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