



CCHN Newsletter

September 2015

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Community Health Centers Celebrate Across Colorado

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Community Health Center (CHC) program. Colorado CHCs celebrated this anniversary as well as National Health Center Week (NHCW) with energy and enthusiasm across the state.

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) kicked off the celebrations with their annual Celebrity Golf Classic, hosted by former Broncos player Ebenezer Ekuban, in Castle Pines, Colo.

CHCs hosted open houses as part of their NHCW celebrations. Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) showcased the newly renovated Academy Campus in Colorado Springs and a provider meet-and-greet at Limon. Sheridan Health Services (Sheridan) cut the ribbon and celebrated the expansion at their Fort Logan Campus in Denver with live music by Oscar Del Barrios. Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) introduced Fort Collins to their new pharmacy and new dental wing.



Mother and daughter select a backpack during the MCPN's Back-to-School Giveaway in Aurora on Aug. 11, 2015.



Sunrise Community Health (Sunrise) featured the newest clinic, Adelante Clinic in Greeley, and welcomed visitors to Sunrise Kids Care Clinic at Centennial's Elementary School's Back-To-School Night in Evans. MCPN hosted an open house with back-to-school giveaways and dental screenings at the Jeffco Family Health Services Center in Wheat Ridge. MCPN also held their annual back-to-school giveaway at North Aurora Family Services. Staff from Staples Office Supply stuffed 1,500 backpacks with school supplies that were given away to the MCPN community. Two members of Representative Perlmutter's (CD 7) staff helped hand out backpacks.

Sunrise and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) also incorporated back-to-school into their NHCW events. Sunrise joined the Greeley-Evans School District to celebrate the beginning of the school year at Island Grove Park in Greeley. CCH collected school supplies during NHCW for their back-to-school Healthy Kids Fair held later in August.

Health education was an important part of NHCW activities in Colorado CHCs. Sunrise had displays focusing on diabetes and other health issues in their Adelante Clinic in Greeley. They also held emergency dental days at the Family Dental clinic in Greeley and at the Loveland Community Health Center. Patient walk-ins were welcome all day for urgent dental needs. Several CHCs dedicated days to particular health topics including women's health, men's health, and back-to-school physicals.

Communities were invited to participate in NHCW and 50th Anniversary celebrations. High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains) hosted a community BBQ at their administrative site in Lamar with door prizes, awards, and appreciation for staff and community partners. High Plains, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, commemorated with a balloon release in Lamar. In addition, they held patient appreciation days at all High Plains sites, providing fruit and veggie trays and an opportunity to learn about their 20 year history. Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) held a community and staff BBQ in Norwood with fire truck rides, ambulance and helicopter tours, face painting, and giveaways. Northwest Colorado VNA CHC (NWCOVNA) hosted a mixer for chamber members to celebrate NHCW with food, drinks, and door prizes. Sunrise organized a family and educational activity fair at their Monfort Children's Clinic in Greeley. The fair included face painting, balloon animals, sidewalk chalk and bubbles. Salud partnered with local youth organization, Sproutin' Up, to host a farmer's market where they gave away 1,200 pounds of local produce to patients and staff for free.



Left: Lainie Conley, UMC (right), with Heather Unger, flight nurse (left) and Scott Greenwood, flight paramedic, on the helicopter landing pad at UMC, Aug. 12, 2015. Right: Children enjoy free produce at Salud's farmer's market in Fort Collins on Aug. 11, 2015.

CCHN's newest member, Marillac Clinic (Marillac) jumped right into NHCW by running ads in both the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel and the Grand Junction Free Press welcoming new medical providers to the clinic. They also hung NHCW banners at both their locations and gave all their staff members special 50th anniversary water bottles. The Daily Sentinel published an editorial calling the Marillac expansion a win for everyone, and the Mesa County Commissioners issued a proclamation in Marillac's honor. Twelve cities and towns served by Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (Valley-Wide) honored the CHC by issuing NHCW proclamations.

Colorado CHCs celebrated their employees with staff appreciation events during NHCW. High Plains started each day with staff appreciation breakfasts at each site. Both Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (Valley-Wide) and Sunrise hosted potlucks for staff, and Valley-Wide made their potluck into a picnic for their staff and their families in Alamosa. Salud held their annual staff picnic with a T-shirt contest, tug-o-war, and a performance by their very own band, Saludacris.



Salud staff members play tug-of-war at their annual staff picnic .



Above: Community members enjoy firetruck rides at UMC's NHCW community and staff BBQ on Aug.12, 2015.



Above: Salud staff perform for the T-shirt contest at their annual picnic.



Above: Salud Commerce City mural created during NHCW 2015.

2015 ACT Learning Forum

On Aug. 12 and 13, 2015, CCHN's Quality Initiatives Division held its annual Advanced Clinical Transformation Learning Forum highlighting topics ranging from care coordination to innovative technologies. The two-day event saw participation from 84 percent of Colorado Community Health Centers. It was held at the History Colorado Center in Denver and made possible by grants from the Colorado Health Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. Participants enjoyed presentations and panels from Health Center staff at both urban and rural clinics, as well as a workshop on quality improvement led by Alexia Eslan of John Snow, Inc. Feedback received at this year's event is being used in the planning of the 2016 Learning Forum, and a request for proposals will be released and distributed via e-mail next year. CCHN extends thanks to all of those that contributed to making the 2015 Learning Forum a tremendous success.



Learning Forum attendees stand on the location of their CHC at the History Colorado Center in Denver on Aug. 13, 2015.

Salud's Licona Recipient of National Award

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) presented the prestigious 2015 Samuel U. Rodgers Achievement Award to Virgilio Licona, MD, Salud Family Health Centers. The award was presented at NACHC's Community Health Institute in August in Orlando, Fla.

The award was established in 1977 in honor of the late Dr. Samuel U. Rodgers, a health care provider, community activist, and national leader in health and civil rights. It is presented to a distinguished primary care clinician who exemplifies excellence in clinical practice and leadership at the local, state, or national level. Examples of such leadership areas include advocacy, clinical management, recruitment and retention, and quality assurance.

Dr. Licona has been providing community-oriented primary care for more than 40 years. He is the vice president of medical services at Salud Family Health Centers, an extensive primary health care delivery system with nine community, migrant, children, and women's health clinics in northeastern and north-central Colorado. He began his health care career in 1973. Since then, he has dedicated himself to care for the underserved as a tireless advocate, administrator, family physician, and teacher.

Dr. Licona is a national leader in providing culturally appropriate, quality care to special populations. He has served as a health policy analyst and CHC advocate at the local, state, and national level. He testified before the state legislature for the first time in 1975 and many times since then. His advocacy efforts have helped advanced the CHC movement in Colorado. He led Colorado's advocacy efforts for a prenatal care bill for undocumented women from 1998-2000. For example he also served on the state advisory group analyzing a "Health Information For All" waiver to consolidate Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

As a board certified family physician, Dr. Licona has served on many health policy committees. He was elected to the board of directors of the AAFP in 2004, and served a three-year term on both the National Advisory Council of the NHSC and the National Rural Health Advisory Committee. He also served as president of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians and currently serves on the board of directors of the Colorado Health Foundation.

"It has become very clear to me 42 years later that what we accomplished and what we are accomplishing is not just moving the health care status of our patients forward. We're helping move the health care status of the country forward." - Dr. Licona in his award acceptance speech



Virgilio Licona, MD accepts his award at the NACHC CHI in Orlando, Fla. in August 2015.

Road Show Honors Safety Net Clinical Support Staff

Over the summer, staff from Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), ClinicNET, and Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) traveled to clinics all over Colorado to congratulate and recognize the awardees of the 2015 Kaiser Permanente Loan Repayment for Safety Net Clinical Support Staff Program (KPLRP). The KPLRP Program awards outstanding clinical support staff at safety net clinics by providing loan repayment assistance of up to \$10,000 in exchange for a one year continued service commitment to their safety net clinic.

Last winter, staff from CCHN, CRHC, and ClinicNET reviewed more than 120 applications, selecting 27 candidates to receive loan repayment awards. Of the 27 awardees chosen for their dedication to serving underserved populations, 20 work at federally qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs or CHCs) and seven work at other rural health centers or safety net clinics. In addition to monetary loan repayment, each awardee received a framed award certificate, journal, and pen from CCHN to further honor his or her accomplishments in front of clinic staff and peers. These "Road Show" presentations were personalized and were fun tributes to extraordinary health care workers!

The application cycle for the 2016 Kaiser Permanente Loan Repayment for Safety Net Clinical Support Staff Program will be open January 1-31, 2016. For additional information related to eligibility and application materials, please visit CCHN's website [here](#).



Top Left: Julie Chhea Arnoldy, RN and patient navigator and health educator at CCHN with her colleagues and Margaret Davis (CCHN). Bottom Left: Veronica Labra, head medical assistant at Clinica Colorado and her medical director, Dr. James Williams. Top Right: Marisela Campos, dental assistant at Denver Health's Community Health Services and her dental team after receiving her award from CCHN. Bottom Right: Danita De Petro, RN at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center is recognized by her coworkers.

Dr. Powell in our Hearts

Dr. Pat Powell, chief medical officer of Sunrise Community Health, passed away Aug. 18, 2015, but remains in our hearts.

Dr. Powell was the oldest of six children, born in Oklahoma and raised in Indiana. She earned a bachelor of science degree in math from Purdue University in 1968, and taught math, science, and English in Malaysia as a Peace Corps volunteer. When she returned to the U.S., she became a computer programmer, going on to become a vice president of information technology at American Express.



Powell

In 1986, in the middle of a very successful career, Dr. Powell decided to go to medical school to become a doctor – and to be a doctor who served those in need. She graduated from the University of Miami in 1991, received her residency training at Northern Colorado Family Medicine in Greeley.

After two years in Bethel, Alaska, she returned to Greeley in 1997, along with her parents. She joined Sunrise that same year, becoming chief medical officer in 2004.

Mitzi Moran, CEO of Sunrise, describes Dr. Powell's service this way: "Pat was a pillar at Sunrise. She began serving at our long-time home in north Greeley – a 20,000 square foot antiquated, 1915 schoolhouse with 25 medical exams rooms, five dental chairs, and a small pharmacy. Our team of 10 medical clinicians, two dentists, and two pharmacists served 11,000 people in the year 2000. Pat helped lead us to today: 10 clinics with 160,000 square feet, 160 medical exams rooms, 31 dental chairs, and two large pharmacies. Our team of 55 medical, dental, and pharmacy clinicians now serve over 34,000 people each year."

"Pat championed our transition to technology; she led our early-adopter efforts to transition from paper health records to electronic health records in 2004. She was a key team member during our quest for recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance for being a patient centered medical home. All five of our eligible clinics are recognized. She mentored, taught, and nurtured family medicine students and residents, many of whom now provide care in northern Colorado. She was a stalwart servant of Community Health Center patients as well as the business of medicine. Pat was awarded the 2014 Sunrise Shining Star; an award recognizing Sunrise team members who clearly demonstrate the mission, vision, and values of Sunrise."

Colorado to Kick-Off Open Enrollment

Colorado's CHC Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) staff will join other O&E professionals across the state to kick-off the upcoming health insurance open enrollment period at the Building Better Health conference. The event is hosted by the Colorado Health Foundation in partnership with Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Colorado Division of Insurance, PEAK Outreach, and Covering Kids and Families. The conference will be held Sept. 28-29, 2015, in Denver. CCHN's Covering Kids and Families staff is on the planning committee for the conference this year, and is working hard to ensure that the conference agenda and content meets the needs of O&E professionals at CHCs and other community-based organizations across the state.

The conference is sure to energize O&E professionals before the next open enrollment period with training and information on the health coverage application process, marketplace plan selection, the latest uninsured data, and coverage resources. The next open enrollment period is scheduled to run from Nov. 1, 2015, to Jan. 1, 2016. For more information, please visit Coloradohealth.org/buildingbetterhealth or contact Sitara Rashidova, CKF, at sitora@cchn.org.

Health Center News From Around Colorado

News Briefs

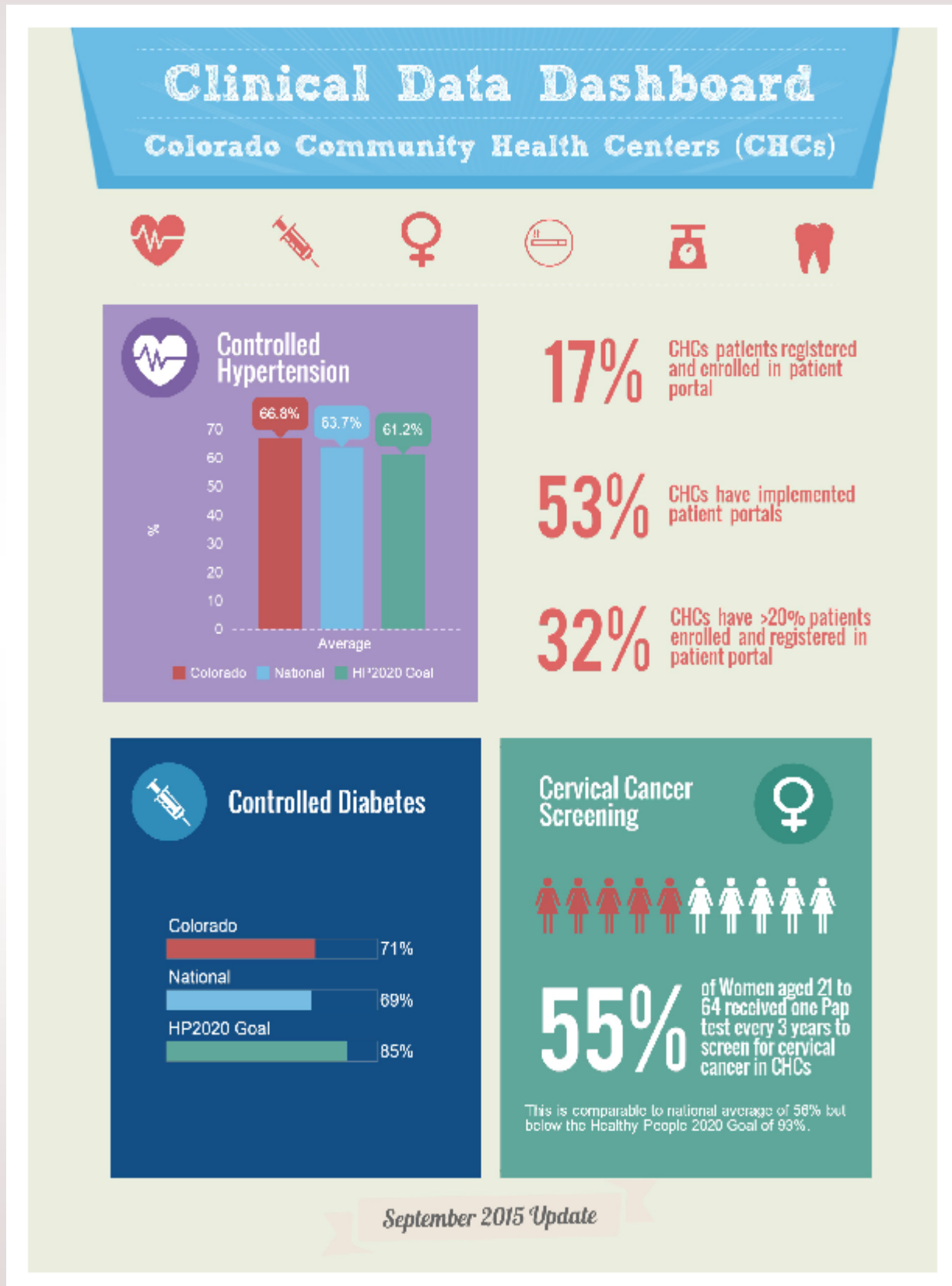
Mountain Family Health Centers Clinical and Executive Leaders blowing off steam after a July 29 summer retreat with national CHC leaders Dr. Carolyn Shepherd and Pete Leibig.



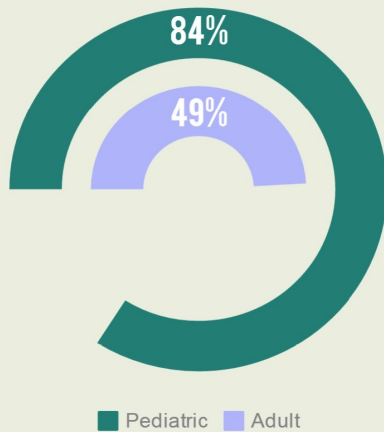
Coloradans Go on Camera about CHCs

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Community Health Center program, Colorado CHC employees, board members and patients have been recording videos about why they work for or go to a CHC for their health care, and why CHCs are important to Colorado's health. Take a look here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ColoradoCHC/videos>.

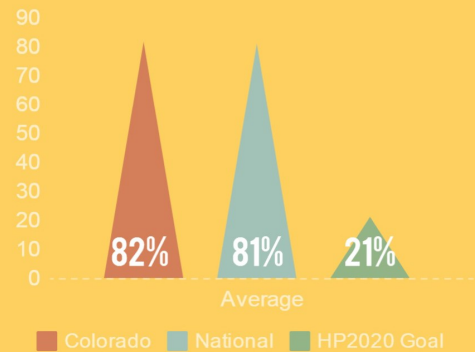
Updated infographic shows how CHCs are doing relating to patient outcomes as of September 2015



Patients who received preventive dental procedure during their visit



Tobacco Cessation Counseling



Pediatric weight Screening and Follow up

Colorado

National



56%



57%

Preventive Dental Procedures



57%

Pediatric dental procedures are preventive in CHCs

27%

Adult dental procedures are preventive in CHCs

DATA SOURCE: COLORADO COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK'S DATA FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERSTANDING QUALITY SEPTEMBER 2015 UPDATE
GOAL IS BASED ON HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 TARGET FROM US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL AVERAGE IS BASED ON 2014 UNIFORM DATA SYSTEM FROM BUREAU OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (BPHC)

Questions? Contact Joanna@cchn.org

CCHN UPDATE

CCHN New Addition

Sam Kauffman is CCHN's executive assistant, joining CCHN in August 2015. His primary responsibility is providing administrative support for meeting and event coordination, travel logistics, and special projects to Polly Anderson, Chief Operating Officer. In June 2014, Sam received a bachelor of arts degree in economics with a minor in sustainability from the University of Denver. Prior to joining CCHN, Sam worked at the Colorado Neurological Institute, conducting research studies primarily focused on stroke treatment and rehabilitation.

CHAMPS UPDATE

Introducing New CHAMPS Clinical Programs Director

CHAMPS welcomes **Jennifer Anderson**, the newest CHAMPS staff member. Ms. Jen's role is to support the Region VIII Community Health Centers with their continuous quality improvement efforts and work towards best practices by offering clinical educational programming. She has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Baylor University and a master of public health degree in community health sciences with a concentration in maternal and child health, from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Jen brings ten years' experience in non-profit management, including leading the grassroots development of a regional startup organization, Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes. Please feel free to contact Jen about CHAMPS' clinical programs at jen@champsonline.org or 303-867-9583.

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

CCHN Newsletter Editor: Maureen Maxwell; Managing Editor and Creative Director: Jessica Smith
Contributors: Joanna Leonard, Ryan Flach, Sitora Rashidova, Margaret Davis, Angela Rose, CCHN;
Chelsea Skovgaard, CHAMPS; Laurie Larrick, High Plains; Kristy Schmidt, Marillac; John Reid, MCPN;
Ross Brooks, Mountain Family; Karsyn Sprague, Jennifer Morse, Salud; Suzanne DeVore, Valley-Wide;
Mitzi Moran, Lori Hughes, Sunrise

About CCHN

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 19 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 60 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.

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