



CCHN Newsletter

September 2016

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Innovators in Community Health Celebrate National Health Center Week

The 2016 celebration of National Health Center Week (NHCW) in Colorado was filled with community health fairs, patient and staff appreciation events, back-to-school activities, visits by elected officials, and “giving back.” National Health Center Week is celebrated annually in recognition of the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless, and school-based Community Health Centers (CHCs). This year’s celebration focused on the theme of innovation in community health.

Patients and family members often “give back” to their CHCs by volunteering at NHCW events and at other times of the year. Sunrise Community Health was host of two special give-backs this year. Sunrise invited artist Armando Silva to share his talent and skills with an afternoon of painting classes at the Monfort Children’s Clinic in Greeley. The event helped children and families see that health involves more than visiting the doctor – when people are happy and doing things they enjoy, they are healthier. Watch the video of Mr. Silva and his Sunrise students [here](#). Furthermore, Elbert Hughley, in appreciation to Sunrise staff and others in the community who helped him, purchased and repaired two bikes he gave to Sunrise patients (see box on following page).

August is time to prepare to go back to school, for both children and their families, and to learn about health care and healthy living. Health fairs and back-to-school events featuring health screenings, information booths, and back-to-school preparation were held across the state.





Elbert Hughley's Story

On a cold snowy afternoon in 2014, Elbert Hughley walked into Sunrise Adelante Clinic seeking care for a cut on his hand caused by his bike that he uses for transportation. Elbert was homeless, disheveled, paranoid, and scared – and very loud, agitated, and upset. A medical clinician assessed his injury and gave him the care that he needed. Elbert was thankful and went on his way. However, he had many health care needs, his behavior was on a downward spiral, and he was struggling with no shelter, food, or resources.

Because of Elbert's unpredictable behavior, a *comprehensive integrated team* was formed to address his needs. *The team included the Adelante clinic manager, care manager, and medical provider; the North Range Behavioral Health counselor; the Regional Care Collaborative Organization care manager; and a Greeley police officer.* Elbert stabilized with appropriate medications and a care manager helped him reach his treatment objectives. He accessed the North Range Behavioral Health Clubhouse where he connected with other community members facing similar challenges.

Sunrise Adelante became his new medical home and he developed trust with the staff at the clinic. Today, Elbert's life has changed tremendously. He is sober and he takes his medications as prescribed. He now has a bank account and can buy food, clothes, and even a car. Elbert earns his living by providing lawn care services; he also buys, fixes and resells bicycles.

In August 2016, in celebration of *National Community Health Center Week*, Elbert fulfilled one of his wishes: *to give back to the community in need.* He purchased and fixed two bikes which he gave away to Sunrise patients. One bike was given to a 5-year-old girl; Elbert wants her "to ride in her neighborhood with her family and friends." Elbert trusts and appreciates what Sunrise and its partners do - not just for him, but also for the community. *"Sunrise never gave up on me. I was not treated like an out-cast like the rest of the community treated me. I want to help people because nobody deserves to be treated like I was treated. I would cry at night because I was homeless, hungry, and cold. My life has changed and I owe it to Sunrise. Thank you very much."*

High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains) in Lamar celebrated its 21st anniversary by providing well-child check-ups and sports physicals at a number of their clinic sites. This included a scavenger hunt and trivia game for the crowd at the main clinic. Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) hosted a health fair in Aurora and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless held its annual back-to-school supply drive and giveaway to help children living in motels, shelters, or transitional housing. The Coalition also held a fair to provide basic health screenings and immunizations for these children.

Sunrise organized a carnival at the Monfort Children's Clinic with balloon animals, bubbles, games, an educational booth about children's nutrition, and a Head Start representative to talk about preschool and family services for Weld County. Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) in Norwood celebrated NHCW with a community barbecue, fire truck rides, helicopter care flight rides, and opportunities to meet UMC's staff.

In addition, CHCs reached out beyond clinic grounds to help their communities. Sunrise conducted a donation drive for all kinds of needed supplies and donated the collected items to patients and families in need. Salud Family Health Centers partnered with multiple agencies in Fort Collins to provide free produce to patients and community. The Salud farmers market is sponsored by the local organization, Sproutin' Up, which supports community building through gardening and free farmers markets. Peak Vista Community Health Centers hosted an ice cream social in Strasburg.

Several Colorado CHCs scheduled events and activities specifically to express appreciation of their staff. High Plains held a farmers market at the Sand and Sage Fair in appreciation of High Plains employees. Sunrise, which sets a theme for each day of the week, gave employees shirts and took pictures. Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., celebrated its 40th anniversary by hosting a community barbecue, welcoming staff, patients and their families, and other community members. Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc., hosted an employee appreciation breakfast.

In addition, the Coalition honored Dr. Malcolm Tarkanian with a surprise presentation of CCHN's Volunteer Clinician Award at a Coalition staff meeting. Dr. Tarkanian co-founded the Coalition's Stout Street Eye Clinic 17 years ago. He serves as medical director for 18 volunteer ophthalmologists and optometrists and 35 support volunteers, many of whom he personally recruited. The Volunteer Clinician Award honors clinicians who have provided patient services in or on behalf of a CHC for at least three years and who have led advocacy activities on behalf of the medically underserved. Awardees are nominated by the CHCs for which they provide patient care.



Above: Dr. Tarkanian; Maureen Maxwell, CCHN; and the Coalition's President Jim Parvensky pose with Dr. Tarkanian's 2016 Volunteer Clinician Award

New doors were opened during NHCW: Axis Health System's Integrated Healthcare Clinics in Cortez and Durango announced their new Oral Health Clinic and handed out travel toothbrushes and brochures explaining the available services. Mountain Family Health Centers threw a barbecue and gave clinic tours at its new Avon School-Based Health Center at Avon Elementary. Dr. Jason Glass, Superintendent of Eagle County Schools, attended the event and said, "We are so proud to partner with a quality organization like Mountain Family Health Centers to ensure that our students and families have access to affordable high quality health care and support services."

The U.S. Congress was in district work mode in August, enabling representatives and senators and their staff to participate in NHCW events at CHCs. Elected and appointed officials from Colorado's General Assembly and several counties and municipalities also participated in the celebration.



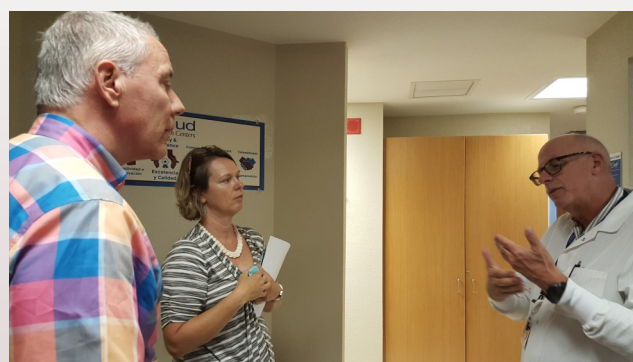
Above: Mesa County Commissioners presented a proclamation for NHCW to Marillac Aug 8, 2016. From left: Commissioner John Justman, Commissioner Rose Puglise, Kristy Schmidt of Marillac Clinic, and Commissioner Scott McGinnis.



Above: Rep. Jared Polis posed with Clinica Family Health staff after completing a site visit at the People's Clinic site in Boulder on Sept. 1.



Left: Rep. Coffman walked through MCPN's health fair in Aurora.



Above Rep. Ken Buck left, listens to Dr. Charlie Belting, DDS, as Jennifer Morse, Salud Family Health Centers, looks on at Salud's facility in Sterling on Aug. 2.

Donors supported CHCs while also having fun at NHCW events. Former Denver Bronco Ebenezer Ekuban hosted MCPN's annual Celebrity Golf Classic: Healthcare the Fairway golf tournament. Clínica Tepeyac held the ¡Adelante! 5K Run/Walk with community expo and kids half-mile fun run.

Mark your calendar for next year's National Health Center Week, August 13-19, 2017, and watch CCHN's website for event listings.



Above: Gabriel Tarin Jr.(left), associate director of medical operations, MCPN, discussed the FQHC model with Rep. Degette on a tour of the MCPN Englewood site as Laura Larson (right), MCPN, listens.

Below: Participants posed at the finish line of Clinica Tepeyac's ¡Adelante! 5K Run/Walk with community expo and kids half-mile fun run.



2016 ACT Learning Forum

On August 18-19, 2016, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) hosted the 2016 Advanced Clinical Transformation (ACT) Learning Forum at the ART Hotel in Denver. Ninety CHC staff and regional partners attended, with 16 Community Health Centers (CHCs) represented. This was the *last* CCHN annual ACT Learning Forum. CCHN will continue to bring CHC staff together for various trainings and learning opportunities, recognizing the need for dynamic learning communities.

The two-day learning forum enabled CHC staff to come together to share best practices and innovative approaches to providing care and meeting patient needs. Participants heard from CHC staff, content experts, and CCHN employees about a variety of topics including quality improvement, oral health integration, caring for special populations, care coordination, complementary treatments, and patient engagement. Experts shared tools, strategies, and real-world experiences that complement and enhance the work CHCs do every day.

Kaiser Permanente's Health Equity Project kicked off the learning forum with a performance and workshop around health equity and the importance of recognizing the unique circumstances each patient faces. The Health Equity Project highlighted assumptions made around poverty and how that impacts patient care. They also facilitated a discussion around biases against special populations. Attendees described this session as emotional, powerful, heartbreaking, educational, and thought-provoking.

A panel on improving care for LGBTQ patients featured Daniel Ramos, One Colorado; Sable Schultz, The GLBT Community Center of Colorado; Jane Lose, MPCN; and Kari Kuka, Denver Health's Community Health Services. The topic is especially timely, as CHCs are now required to collect and report sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data. Partners from One Colorado and The Center shared real-life experiences with accessing culturally competent health care and shared many resources CHC staff can utilize to improve care of LGBTQ patients. CHC panelists gave examples of how they're implementing different workflows, utilizing their EHRs, offering staff trainings, and even changing the internal structure of the clinic to improve care and patient experience in their CHCs.



Above: Kaiser Permanente facilitators and actors lead Health Equity Project presentation.

HHS Awards Almost \$1.6 Million to Colorado Community Health Centers for IT Enhancements

All 20 of Colorado's CHCs received grants last week when U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced more than \$87 million in funding for 1,310 health centers nationwide in the form of the Delivery System Health Infrastructure Improvement (DSHII) grant. Just under \$1.6 million will be shared among Colorado's CHCs. The funding will support health information technology enhancements to accelerate CHCs' transition to value-based models of care, improve efforts to share and use information to support better decisions, and increase engagement in delivery system transformation.

The DSHII grant is 12 months of funding to make enhancements to CHC information technology systems, data analytics, and data sharing. This funding comes from the Affordable Care Act's Community Health Center Fund, which was extended with bipartisan support in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015. The increased use of health information technology is part of the administration's efforts to build a health care system that delivers better care, smarter spending, and healthier people.

"These awards will allow health centers to deliver higher quality of care to patients and spend health care dollars in a smarter way," said Jim Macrae, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Acting Administrator.

Colorado Health Foundation Announces Award in Honor of Dr. Licona

The Colorado Health Foundation honored Dr. Virgilio Licona at its annual Colorado Health Symposium in July 2016 by announcing a new community health leadership program that embodies his spirit and lifelong work. The Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award program will recognize impassioned Coloradans who are designing and implementing effective solutions to community health barriers. The program will officially launch in March 2017.



Dr. Licona was a long-time board member for the Colorado Health Foundation. He practiced medicine for more than 40 years, spending the last 19 years at Salud Family Health Centers. He dedicated himself to care for the underserved as a tireless advocate, administrator, family physician, and teacher.

He served as a health policy analyst and CHC advocate at the local, state, and national level, serving on several state and national boards and advisory committees. He was a national leader in providing culturally-appropriate quality care to special populations. 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.

For additional details about the Foundation's new award program in Dr. Licona's honor, please click [here](#). For more details about Dr. Licona's lifelong work, please read "In Memory: Virgilio Licona" in CCHN's [May 2016 newsletter](#). In addition, the Virgilio Licona Scholarship Fund was established to provide scholarship support to medical students at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. To learn more, please visit [this website](#).

CCHN Celebrates Hendrikson and Myers

CCHN hosted a reception honoring Edward Hendrikson, director of environmental health for Salud Family Health Services, and Dave Myers, president and CEO of MCPN, on Aug. 27, 2016, at the National Association of Community Health Center (NACHC) Community Health Institute in Chicago. Both men have contributed to the Community Health Center movement in Colorado and nation-wide, and each were honored by colleagues from Colorado and around the country with warm remarks and toasts.

Dr. Hendrikson, Ph.D., PA-C, was selected for NACHC's 2016 Louis S. Garcia Community/Migrant Health Service Award. He joined Salud in 1986, after working in the Peace Corps in Swaziland and Lesotho. He has provided health care to more than 100,000 patients, the majority of whom are agricultural workers and their families. Dr. Hendrikson has served as a consultant or board member for multiple national agencies and organizations and international projects. He received the White House Champions of Change Award in 2011.

Mr. Myers joined MCPN in 1993 to implement the vision of a community group to solve the problem of health care access for the uninsured of suburban Denver. MCPN now serves clients from five counties, operating in 23 locations in east, west, and south suburban Denver. In addition, Mr. Myers is on a first-name basis with many municipal, state, and federal legislators due to his advocacy for CHCs. He works tirelessly with many organizations and the state, serving on and chairing many CCHN, NACHC, and state committees, working to create a better system of care for CHCs and the patients they serve.



Above: Annette Kowal, CCHN, celebrates with Dave Myers, MCPN (center) and Ed Hendrikson, Salud (right) at the CHI, Aug. 27, 2016

Vote Yes on Amendment 72!

Beginning the week of Oct. 24, Colorado voters will start receiving ballots in the mail. Voters will be asked to make several important choices, including voting on Amendment 72 to increase the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products in the state. CCHN and Colorado's CHCs are asking voters to vote YES on this important initiative.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in Colorado and adds significant financial burden to the health care system and taxpayer-funded health programs. Based on significant evidence, the most effective way to reduce smoking is by increasing the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. Amendment 72 raises the tax by \$1.73 per pack of cigarettes and will prevent more than 34,000 kids from becoming smokers, save more than 20,000 lives, and over \$1.4B in future health care costs. In short, Amendment 72 will stop tobacco companies from getting more children and adults addicted to cigarettes for the rest of their lives. This tax increase is expected to raise approximately \$315 million annually to provide care for veterans, fund important smoking-related illness research, increase access to care in rural and underserved areas of the state, amplify tobacco cessation efforts, and help increase access to early intervention and treatment programs for children and adolescents suffering from mental illness.

These are the reasons why CCHN is joining the Children's Hospital Colorado, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and more than 100 other organizations and individuals in support of Amendment 72.

Of the \$315 million mentioned above, approximately \$34 million will go towards a grants program for safety-net clinics (including CHCs) to modernize care through upgrading facilities and health information technology systems. In addition, approximately \$17 million will go towards the Colorado Health Service Corps, Dental Loan Repayment programs and provider training, which will help CHCs recruit and retain much-needed providers in rural and underserved areas of the state.

It has been 12 years since Colorado has raised the tax on tobacco products, and 2015 was the first year that youth smoking rates have increased since the last tobacco tax was passed in 2004. Voting Yes on Amendment 72 is an incredibly important step to reducing smoking rates and raising funds for important programs that help care for our state's most vulnerable populations. Vote YES on Amendment 72!



CCHN UPDATE

CCHN New Addition

Jake Rosse joined CCHN in September as executive assistant. His responsibilities are to coordinate CCHN's Triannual member meetings, support other events, handle special projects, and provide support to Polly Anderson, vice president of strategy and financing. Mr. Rosse earned an undergraduate degree in sociology from Christopher Newport University with a concentration in criminology and a double minor in philosophy and religious studies, and a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. Before joining CCHN, he worked as a coordinator for a major hospitality company where he provided administrative and analytic support. In his free time, Mr. Rosse enjoys hiking, meditation, snowboarding, and attending live music shows.

CCHN Staff Updates

Marija Weeden has a new title. Formerly policy analyst, she is now CCHN's alternative payment and care model manager. This title reflects the role Ms. Weeden has taken on related to payment reform work. Under her new title she'll be continuing to strategically plan, develop, and support the implementation, evaluation, and documentation of CCHN's Medicaid payment reform work.

Maria Casaverde Marin, quality improvement specialist at CCHN, passed the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) certification exam on Sept. 21, 2016. She is now an NCQA PCMH content expert.

CCHN and CCMCN Staff Volunteer at Project C.U.R.E.

For the annual summer volunteer opportunity, a group of CCHN and CCMCN staff volunteered at Project C.U.R.E. Project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) identifies, solicits, collects, sorts and distributes medical supplies and services according to the imperative needs of the world. Staff helped organize, stock, and sort medical supplies and donations. Thank you to these folks for their service!



From left: Angela Rose, Margaret Davidson, Alice Gibbs, Laura Dalton, and Peter Stevinson took a break from volunteering to snap a photo at Project C.U.R.E.

CHAMPS UPDATE

CHAMPS Welcomes New Staff Member

Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States ([CHAMPS](#)) welcomes [Liz Rice](#) as the new Programs and Communications Coordinator. Liz is the primary contact for CHAMPS' [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#), a free resource for Region VIII CHCs to post new job openings. Contact Liz at elizabeth@champsonline.org for more information.

2016 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Primary Care Conference

The [2016 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Primary Care Conference](#) will take place October 15-18, 2016, in downtown Denver. The conference theme is "Full Circle: Rooted in Our Future," reflecting on CHCs' shared foundation of providing valuable and comprehensive community-based care, and recognizing how the CHC mission to realize community health, wellness, and well-being influences the future of the movement. Please join Region 8 and 10 CHC colleagues. Visit the CHAMPS website to [register](#) for the conference, view the [agenda](#), or download the [conference flyer](#).

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8, 2016, Denver, Colo.

Clinica Tepeyac's 22nd Annual Fiesta on the Plaza

For sponsorships, tables & tickets contact Denise Santana, dsantana@clinatepeyac.org

Oct. 28, 2016, Stapleton, Colo.

2016 Uniform Data System (UDS) Training

Details and Registration coming soon.

Nov. 4, 2016, Golden, Colo.

Corps Community Day

Corps Community Day is a day of training and celebration of the positive impact the Colorado Health Service Corps and the National Health Service Corps have on improving access to health care. The importance of the primary care workforce will also be highlighted. New this year, a day of free training opportunities will be offered before the evening awards reception. Trainings are open to all regardless of participation in CHSC or NHSC. Be sure to reserve your spot early due to limited space. To see a list of trainings being offered and register for a training and or the evening awards ceremony please click [here](#).

Nov. 9, 2016, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Peak Vista's 12th Annual Breakfast of Champions

Breakfast, Program and Keynote Presentation by Three-Time Olympic Medalist, Mia Hamm. Click [here](#) to register.

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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 700,000 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.

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