



CCHN Newsletter

May 2017

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

CHCs Gather to Advocate *Community Health Champions Honored*

At CCHN's 2017 Policy & Issues (P&I) Forum, Colorado Community Health Center (CHC) staff and board members learned about CCHN's top legislative priorities and spent a day at the state capitol speaking with elected officials. This year's P&I focused on the potential impact of federal health care policy changes on Colorado patients and communities. This year saw record attendance with more than 100 CHC advocates there for the forum and 160 for the award ceremony.

The Forum included a policy panel on the outlook of health care in Colorado. 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; Dr. Tista Ghosh, deputy chief medical officer at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE); and Kate Harris, director of policy and research for Connect for Health 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 unending advocacy efforts supporting the Community Health Center movement. The 2017 Community Health Advocate Award was presented to David Pump, vice president of business development for Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista). Mr. Pump has been with Peak Vista since 2003. Throughout this time, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of Peak Vista patients and the CHC movement as a whole.



His accomplishments include launching the Collaborative Care Clinic, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, the Medicaid Application Site, and the Developmental Disabilities Health Center, which has been recognized internationally for its unique, innovative, approach to health care for adults who are developmentally disabled.

CCHN presented the annual Stanley J. Brasher Community Health Gratitude Award, to Dianne Smith, executive director of Dove Creek Community Health Clinic (Dove Creek). The award is named in honor of Jerry Brasher, retired chief executive officer (CEO) of Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) and a leader in the CHC movement in Colorado and nationally. Dianne has worked for Dove Creek for the past 28 years, leading it through many changes and fostering growth to meet community needs. Her actual job role has gone well beyond executive director during her 28 years, with duties including coder, biller, financial director, operations director, human resources director, janitor, maintenance person, and front desk receptionist. In the beginning, Dianne managed a four-person staff, which today has grown to thirty-two.



Salud staff and board members on the front steps of the Colorado Capitol Building

CCHN and CHCs celebrated the 2017 Community Health Champions at the P&I Legislator Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Representative Bob Rankin (HD 57) received the Legislator Community Health Champion Award and Dr. Malcolm Tarkanian, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition), received the Volunteer Clinician Community Health Champion Award.

Rep. Rankin has served as a member of the Colorado State Senate since 2013. Throughout his tenure in the Colorado State Legislature, he has been a champion of issues important to CHCs. He was instrumental in the launch of House Bill 1281, authorizing the first Medicaid payment reform pilot in the state of Colorado (PRIME: Payment Reform in Medicaid). The PRIME program sets the groundwork for a deepened delivery of improved health care quality, improved patient experience, and controlled health care spending in Western Colorado, showing real results in the first two years of operation. He strongly supported HB1281's reauthorization and worked to educate Joint Budget Committee members in both parties on the importance of permanently authorizing the pilot. Rep. Rankin works tirelessly with the Division of Insurance, Lieutenant Governor, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Western Slope county commissioners, Western Slope state legislators, and health care leaders to find pragmatic solutions to the prohibiting high health insurance costs in Colorado's mountain communities.



Mountain Family staff and board members pose with Rep. Bob Rankin and his award.

Dr. Malcolm Tarkanian co-founded the Stout Street Eye Clinic 17 years ago and remains committed to the mission of providing vision services to the homeless and underserved in the Denver community. He serves as the medical director for a staff of 18 volunteer ophthalmologists, optometrists, and approximately 35 support volunteers, many of whom he personally recruited. In 2015, the Stout Street Eye Clinic staff performed more than 1600 eye exams and dispensed 1200 pairs of glasses to patients. Thousands in the Denver area have received eye care, medication, glasses, testing, and necessary surgery because of the care provided at the Stout Street Eye Clinic.



John Parvensky, CEO of the Coalition, poses with Dr. Tarkanian and his Volunteer Clinician Award.



Peak Vista staff and board members pose at the P&I Forum.

Dave Myers “Graduates”

Dave Myers, CEO of Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) for over two decades, has graduated (rather than retired) on to other adventures. For 34 years, Mr. Myers has dedicated his life to affordable health care, Community Health Centers, and the patients they serve.

In the late 1980s, a community group came together to solve the problem of health care access for the uninsured of suburban Denver. Their vision was a system of care spanning the suburbs of Denver, and Mr. Myers was brought on in 1993 to make that vision – MCPN - a reality. He and the MCPN Board of Directors have been stewards of the vision, expanding it to include comprehensive services such as oral health, patient navigation, and outreach and enrollment; and to address the needs of special populations and communities of need. MCPN now serves clients from five counties, operating in 23 locations in east, west, and south suburban Denver. Additionally, under Mr. Myers’ tenure, MCPN has grown into an exemplary organization working towards fulfilling the goals of the Triple Aim – population health, cost efficiency, and patient engagement.

Mr. Myers is on a first-name basis with many municipal, state, and federal legislators. He worked 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. He was instrumental in bringing MCPN through the always-changing health care landscape, from the rise and fall of Medicaid Managed Care to the advent of the Medical Home Model, into the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the ongoing integration of behavioral, physical, and oral health. As a leader and a mentor, he encouraged MCPN staff to look at obstacles and see the new opportunities presented. Mr. Myers worked for Salud Family Health Centers prior to joining MCPN.

In his thank you to staff, Mr. Myers said, “If you keep doing what you’re doing and keep doing it as well as you’re doing, MCPN will continue to be strong and a leader in health care for those who need us the most.”

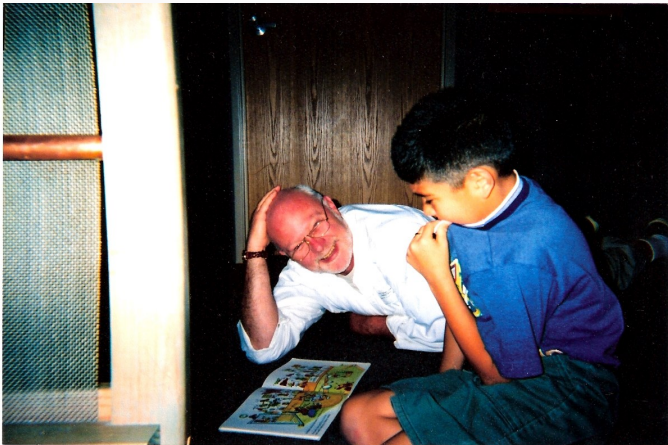
Of his successor, Ben Wiederholt, and the future of MCPN, he said, “Ben Wiederholt...will bring exactly what MCPN needs; vision, intelligence, compassion, integrity and boundless enthusiasm. I leave MCPN comforted that leadership is in good hands and, whatever the future may hold, the MCPN Mission and Values will never waiver going forward.”



Above: The original Board of Directors of MCPN gathered at Hoffman Heights Clinic in April 1999 to celebrate MCPN's 10th anniversary.



Above: Dave at the United States Capitol, 2000.



Above: An MCPN patient and Dave enjoy a book together in the MCPN reading program for young patients, 1995.



Above: Dave dances in his iconic kilt at MCPN's Green Tie Gala in 2016.



Above: U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman visited with MCPN staff and Board members at MCPN North Aurora Family Health Services, April 29, 2013.

New CEO Welcomed to MCPN

The MCPN Board of Directors officially appointed local health care leader Ben Wiederholt as their new CEO. He succeeds longtime CEO, David Myers, who retired in April after 24 years of service.

Mr. Wiederholt comes to MCPN with more than ten years of experience in care delivery and mission integration for economically-challenged communities. Prior to MCPN, he served as the director of ambulatory operations at Centura Health St. Anthony Hospital, where he oversaw the hospital's network of Neighborhood Health Centers. This position follows his previous roles as vice president of mission integration for both Centura Health and Catholic Health Initiatives, for whom he established multiple transitional care clinics and managed a vast array of community care programs in Colorado and Kentucky.

MCPN served 50,502 patients last year and that number is expected to grow in 2017. As a Community Health Center, the MCPN Board of Directors was committed to identifying a candidate with significant experience delivering high quality care and a passion for community-integrated health.

"Ben brings a wealth of knowledge from his work in the hospital system and as an advocate for underserved populations throughout Denver," said MCPN Board Chair Jean Sisneros. "He's proven to be a passionate, value-driven individual who's ready to lead MCPN into its next chapter."

Mr. Wiederholt is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and holds a master's degree in health care administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a master's degree from Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, and received his undergraduate degree at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin. He lives out his passion for community service through his role as a board member of The Action Center, The Seniors Resource Center, and YMCA Metropolitan Denver. He's also a board member for Youth Encouragement Services, a mission-based outreach program and non-governmental organization (NGO) in Uganda.

Mr. Wiederholt was formally introduced on March 11, 2017, at MCPN's annual Green Tie Gala.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the board to advance our mission on behalf of the people in our community that are counting on us," said Wiederholt. "David has certainly left big shoes to fill and I will dedicate myself to honoring his legacy."

Colorado CHC Staff and Board Members Trek the Hill in D.C.

The annual meeting of the national CHC movement in March in Washington, D.C., was a busy one for Coloradans. Fifty-four CHC staff and board members visited all nine offices of Colorado's Congressional delegation, discussing health care reform, Medicaid, CHC funding, and workforce programs. In addition, all nine members of Congress were honored with awards recognizing their support of CHCs in 2016.

Representatives Diana DeGette, Jared Polis, Scott Tipton, Ken Buck, Doug Lamborn, Mike Coffman, and Ed Perlmutter; and Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner all reprised one of the actions showing support by cosigned letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of continued funding for the CHC program. The program faces an estimated 70 percent reduction in October under current law. However, CHCs care for more than 25 million patients nationally; in Colorado, CHCs provide a health care home to more than 700,000 Coloradans. In addition to providing high-quality, patient-centered primary and preventive health care, CHCs save the national health care system billions of dollars each year through reductions to inpatient hospitalizations and emergency room use. Furthermore, CHC patients covered by Medicaid have 24 percent lower total Medicaid costs than patients served in other settings.



Colorado CHC advocates present Rep. Tipton with a NACHC award.

Colorado CHC representatives discussed the future of Medicaid with members of Congress, pointing out that nearly one in four Coloradans is covered by Medicaid. Colorado CHCs care for more than 37 percent of patients linked to a Medicaid primary care provider, while accounting for only three percent of the Medicaid budget. CHC staff and board members explained that CHCs can help figure out how different changes to Medicaid could impact patients, communities, employment, and local businesses.

The four-day conference ended with a ceremony honoring emerging leaders in the Community Health Center movement, and three of the fifteen honorees were Coloradans. Kristen Pieper, CCHN; Matt Percy, Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC); and Miranda Cvitkovich, Denver Health's Community Health Services (Denver Health), were presented with the Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award on April 1, 2017. Each year, the [Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy](#) at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, honors young professionals currently working in CHCs or Primary Care Associations, and who exemplify the mission and vision of Drs. H. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson, pioneers for community health and human rights.



Kristen Pieper accepts her Emerging Leader Award.

Kristin Pieper worked for CCHN for seven years, most recently leading CCHN's Covering Kids and Families (CKF) project. CKF is a statewide, coalition-based project focused on increasing access to affordable health coverage. Under her leadership, CKF has ensured eligible Coloradans are enrolled in Medicaid, Children's Health Plan Plus, and subsidized private insurance through Colorado's marketplace by coordinating and improving outreach efforts; identifying successes and challenges faced in enrolling and retaining coverage; and proposing solutions to simplify, streamline, and coordinate coverage programs.

Matt Percy, MD, is medical director of MFHC Rifle Clinic, and is a well-respected, efficient, effective leader. Under his leadership, the clinic is fully-staffed, highly collaborative, and is providing high-quality, comprehensive, integrated patient-centered medical, dental and behavioral health care to more than 3,000 patients each year. Born and raised in Colorado, Dr. Percy's medical training included a rotation at Mountain Family, introducing him to the CHC model.

Miranda Cvitkovich, CNM, is a midwife at Denver Health. She developed and implemented a policy enabling midwives, nurse-practitioners, and family practice providers to perform limited obstetrical ultrasounds at Denver Health's Community Health Services. Previous to this change, women had no option but to go to the hospital for first trimester ultrasounds to ensure fetal wellbeing, often leaving them waiting for days or weeks for the service. Ms. Cvitkovich has spearheaded other initiatives, including integration of Pregnancy and Parenting Partners group prenatal care into the Westside clinic.

"We are very proud, although not surprised, to have such diverse and talented emerging health care leadership in Colorado," said Annette Kowal, CCHN's CEO and president. "We are very happy they are in community health."



Left: Carol Lewis, Denver Health, presents Rep. Diana Degette with her NACHC award.

Three CHC Employees Honored with Inspiration Awards

Three CHC employees were honored at the conference award ceremony at the 2017 annual conference of the Colorado Association for School Based Health Centers (CASBHC). During the conference award ceremony, Jennifer Koch, LCSW, and Erin Girardi, MPH, CLC, both of Denver Health's Community Health Services, and Margarita "Mackey" Wong, PA, of Summit Community Care Clinic, received inspiration awards at the ceremony May 5, 2017, in Aurora, Colorado

Jennifer Koch is a clinical social worker at Denver Health's School Based Health Centers. She has been providing direct supervision for the team of School Based Mental Health therapists employed through Denver Health SBHC for over nine years. Jennifer was awarded the Outstanding Administrator Award.

Erin Girardi is a health education specialist at Denver Health's School Based Health Centers. She conducts one-on-one counseling and education sessions regarding family planning, healthy relationships, STI prevention, preconception health, and pre-natal health. Erin was awarded the Outstanding Education Award.

Margarita Wong is a physician assistant at Summit Middle School and Silverthorne Elementary School. She created the Pediatric Overweight Protocol for Summit Youth Services Centers, a School-Based Health Center run by Summit Community Care Clinic. Ms. Wong was awarded the Outstanding Medical Provider Award.

Mountain Family Health Centers' Innovative Expansion for Dental Care Access

MFHC opened three new dental sites in February and March, with one more to come in August 2017, which will enable more than 1,000 additional patients to have access to affordable dental care.

The MFHC Dental Van, purchased with HRSA Oral Health Service Expansion funds, provides preventive and basic treatment services in the Roaring Fork Valley area where access to dental care for Medicaid and uninsured persons is very limited.

In partnership with Caring for Colorado, MFHC is piloting the new SMILES (Spanning Miles in Linking Everyone to Services) Dental Project, which is a virtual dental home program using teledentistry. MFHC is offering SMILES at high-needs schools including Bea Underwood Elementary School and the Grand Valley Family Learning Center in Parachute, and Avon Elementary School in Avon (both opened March 16). The fourth SMILES site at Coal Ridge High School will open in August.

In the SMILES program, a registered dental hygienist provides a dental exam, including x-rays if needed, a cleaning, and fluoride application. An MFHC dentist then reviews the patient's x-rays and the exam via telehealth and creates a dental treatment plan. At the next visit, the dental hygienist can place sealants and Interim Restorative Therapy (ITR) for small fillings. ITR was recently approved by the Colorado legislature and MFHC hygienists have received training and are certified in ITR.

MFHC is also planning expansions for its Basalt (2018) and Edwards (2019) clinics, and later Glenwood Springs, which will allow for full-service dentistry to be provided at all MFHC clinics, enabling patients to receive fully-integrated medical, behavioral and mental health care.

Health Center News From Around Colorado

News Briefs

Pueblo Annual Meeting and Luncheon Celebration

Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) hosted their 33rd annual luncheon and meeting at the Pueblo Country Club on April 18, 2017. Invited guests included employees, community partners, and donors, and attracted approximately 140 individuals.

PCHC Board President Rebecca Goodman spoke about the simple but impactful mission statement of the organization, “to provide primary care to those in need,” and addressed how PCHC is successfully achieving its mission. She noted the value of the consumer board members and their representation at the leadership level, the entire staff who provide care and access with compassion, and the vision of PCHC’s CEO, Donald Moore.



PCHC CEO Donald Moore and board chair Rebecca Goodman

Mr. Moore spoke and specifically called out a group of fourteen employees who have been identified as “All-Stars” in the organization. These employees, through their participation on a customer service excellence work group, were instrumental in PCHC’s commitment to improve service organization-wide. This included the addition of a “Service Culture” key strategic area in PCHC’s board-approved strategic plan. In 2017, all employees of PCHC will be trained via a Cleveland Clinic program specifically designed to improve empathy and service in the health care setting.

Senator Bennet Visits Clinic

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet visited Clinica Family Health’s (Clinica) People’s Clinic in Boulder on April 13, 2017. He and his staff spent nearly an hour talking with Clinica staff and learning about Clinica’s model of care. During his visit, Sen. Bennet reaffirmed his support for CHCs and made time to sign Dr. Jennifer Johnson’s cast.



Sunrise Chosen for NCMC Foundation Legacy Award

Each year, the North Colorado Medical Center (NCMC) Foundation honors an outstanding individual or organization for distinguished service and leadership in health care in the community. Sunrise Community Health (Sunrise) was the recipient for the 2017 NCMC Foundation Legacy Award at the Annual NCMC Gala in January.

Sunrise was awarded for playing a vital role in providing comprehensive medical care to individuals and families in the region who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and for providing high quality affordable health care in both Weld and Larimer counties.

Mitzi Moran, Sunrise CEO, feels strongly that just as an individual needs several partners to achieve success, so does Sunrise. She is incredibly grateful for the long list of organizations and agencies that partner with Sunrise to help them achieve their mission, including the NCMC Foundation.

“We’re honored to be named the Gala Honoree. We’ve partnered with the Foundation since 2001 when we started managing the Monfort Children’s Clinic. They have been a key player in helping us expand our services over the years. By improving the health of individuals, together we improve the health of the community,” Ms. Moran concluded.

Northwest Colorado Health Performs Well in Health Initiative

Northwest Colorado Health was recently recognized as a top performer in reducing high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, tobacco use and unintended pregnancy in patients of their clinics in Steamboat Springs and Craig. The recognition was given to only 29 of 277 CHCs in the country through the [6|18 Initiative](#) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing high health care costs. Read more about how Northwest Colorado Health did it in [Steamboat Today](#).

Northwest Colorado Health provides primary care, dental, behavioral health and wellness care. Services are available to all patient regardless of income or insurance status. A sliding fee scale is available for individuals who have limited or no insurance. For more information, call 970-879-1632 in Steamboat Springs and 970-824-8233 in Craig.

Long-time CHC Advocate Rasmussen Promoted at Clinica Family Health

Long-time CHC advocate Janet Rasmussen has been promoted to Vice President of Integrated Services for Clinica. The goal of this position is to continue to break down program silos at Clinica and further integrate the work staff does for patients inside and outside of Clinica's walls into the daily service delivery processes.

"This is important in a time of significant health system change and payment reform," said Simon Smith, Clinica's president and CEO.

Ms. Rasmussen will continue to oversee Clinica's Behavioral Health and Accountable Care programs. She also will oversee the Process Improvement team to ensure alignment and integration of priority programs within Clinica's evolving service delivery model. She will work closely with community partners and policy makers to continuously improve and refine integrated programs and social determinants of health services within care teams and across the continuum of care in the communities served by Clinica.

Ms. Rasmussen has worked to support Clinica and CHCs in Colorado for more than 27 years. She started out at CCHN in 1990, where she was acting executive director and worked on CHC policy issues at the state level. She joined Clinica in 1994 as assistant director to Pete Leibig, former CEO. At various times she oversaw human resources, operations, and even led the purchase of the very first computers at Clinica. Ms. Rasmussen left Clinica to support her young family in 1998, and returned in 2008. She has most recently served as Director of Behavioral Health and Accountable Care.

"Anyone who has worked with Janet over the years knows she is a never-ending source of wisdom, friendship, fun, and a steadfast advocate for Clinica and community health," added Mr. Smith.



Clinica Breaks Ground for New Lafayette Facility

After more than a year of planning, Clinica broke ground for its new facility in Lafayette on April 11, 2017. More than 100 elected officials, community partners, patients, and staff turned out to officially kick-off construction of the 65,000-square-foot health care and administration facility.

The new clinic, which is slated to open in 2018, will be able to provide care to more than 10,500 patients living in Broomfield, Erie, Lafayette, Louisville, and Superior. The new facility will feature:

- Three integrated medical pods with 36 patient exam rooms
- A 12-chair dental clinic to serve 4,500 patients
- On-site pharmacy
- Offices for Boulder County Public Health
- Training rooms
- An outdoor walking path
- Space that can be utilized by the community



Clinica staff and board members break ground for new Lafayette facility .

POLICY UPDATE

2017 State Legislative Session Comes to a Close

CCHN staff, lobbyist, and CHC staff worked throughout the Colorado 2017 legislative session to ensure that legislators were knowledgeable of the valuable role CHCs play in providing health care to Coloradans. The session ended May 10.



CCHN supported several items throughout the legislative session, including bills related to payment reform and the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), state budget reform, and cost transparency. Specifically, CCHN actively supported House Bill (HB) 17-1353 sponsored by Rep. Dave Young (HD50) and Sen. Kevin Lundberg (SD15). This bill provides a statutory framework and sets forth requirements for the existing Medicaid ACC in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and authorizes performance payments to Medicaid providers. CHCs are valuable partners in the ACC and have been working closely with HCPF on ACC version 2.0, as well as payment reform initiatives for CHCs. CCHN also supported SB17-267, which passed on the last day of the session and enables the state to avoid proposed cuts to hospitals by moving the Hospital Provider Fee (HPF) to an enterprise, removing those payments from hospitals from the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) revenue cap calculations. This is the third straight session that lawmakers and stakeholders have worked to move the HPF to an enterprise fund and is very important for several programs that rely on state funds.

CCHN also actively supported Senate Bill (SB) 17-137, sponsored by Sens. Nancy Todd (SD28) and Michael Merrifield (SD11), and Rep. Dominique Jackson (HD42), which extends the Colorado Health Service Corps (CHSC) Advisory Council (the council that selects CHSC loan repayment recipients) indefinitely. This was an important bill for ensuring this program remains in place for CHC providers. Colorado loan repayment programs such as CHSC and the National Health Service Corps assist Colorado CHCs in recruiting 20 percent of their providers.

In addition to these wins for health care and the state budget, there were bills that CCHN supported that did not make it through the legislative process this year. SB17-064, sponsored by Sen. John Kefalas (SD14) and Rep. Susan Lontine (HD1), would have created a licensing structure for free-standing emergency centers and would have required various reporting and transparency provisions, in an effort to collect data and protect and educate consumers about their options for care. CCHN also supported HB17-1236, sponsored by Rep. Chris Kennedy (HD23) and Sens. Don Coram (SD6) and Jim Smallwood (SD4), which would have required HCPF to prepare an annual report detailing the cost of uncompensated care provided by general hospitals in Colorado. Although these bills around data collection and transparency did not pass this session, CCHN looks forward to continuing to work with legislators and stakeholders on these issues in the coming months and throughout the next legislative session.

For the state budget, the Colorado legislature agreed to a \$28 billion balanced budget for FY 2017-18. 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 and CCHN will work in support of continued advances in health care during next year's legislative session.

CCHN UPDATE

CCHN Staff Updates

Margaret Williford joined CCHN as quality initiatives coordinator in March 2017. Ms. Williford is providing program support and data analysis for Quality Initiative projects that enable CHCs to provide high quality health care to patients. In addition, she coordinates CCHN's group purchasing organization (GPO) project. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Virginia. Before joining CCHN, she spent three years working in financial analysis while also volunteering at the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. In her free time, Ms. Williford enjoys hiking, biking, and exploring all that Colorado has to offer.

Valerie Nielsen joined CCHN as quality initiatives coordinator in March 2017. Ms. Nielsen is providing support for Quality Initiatives projects that help CHCs provide high quality health care to patients. She earned her bachelor's degree in health care administration and management from Colorado State University. Before joining CCHN, she worked in health care for more than ten years, including operations and as a member of clinical care teams. In her free time, she enjoys watching hockey, spending time with her family, watching zombie movies, and spending time outdoors.

Stephanie Brooks has become the project manager for Covering Kids and Families (CKF). Her primary responsibilities are to monitor, analyze and report on state and federal policies that affect Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus, and to provide recommendations to reduce enrollment barriers for Colorado's kids and families. She has been with CCHN in various roles since 2012, and has prior experience in health outreach, health communication research, and health writing. She attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and later a master's degree in communication.

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. 21-Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017**, in Seattle, Washington. The theme for this year's conference is *Together Toward Tomorrow: Celebrating 20 Years of Region 18*; in addition to numerous networking opportunities, the conference will include behavioral health, clinical, community health, fiscal, governance, operations/IT, policy/environment, quality/PCMH/transformation, and workforce/HR tracks. Community Health centers 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 **Monday, June 26, 2017**. For additional conference information and to submit an abstract, visit <http://champsonline.org/events-trainings/annual-primary-care-conference>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 26, 2017, Durango, Colorado

Axis Health System Oral Health Clinic Open House

Join Axis to tour the new Oral Health Clinic and meet the new team. Refreshments, prizes, and give aways will be provided. No RSVP needed. Call (970) 335-2442 for more information.

June 8, 2017, Denver, Colorado

SipCity 2017: A Food and Wine Tasting Event for Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Join Colorado Coalition for the Homeless for an evening of fun with food, wine and microbrew tastings, mixing and mingling, live entertainment, silent auction, and more. SipCity 2017 will be held on **June 8, 2017**, at 5:30 p.m. in Denver, Colorado. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

July 24, 2017, Castle Pines, Colorado

MCPN 13th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic

Golf tournament, awards ceremony, and a cocktail reception make up this event. For more information and to participate, [click here](#).

August 13-19, 2017

National Health Center Week

The theme for this year's National Health Center Week (NHCW) is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: The Key to Healthier Communities." Events will be held at CHCs across the state. Stay tuned for a calendar of events in CCHN's July newsletter.

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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 more than 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.

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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