



COLORADO
COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK
Access for All Colorado
35 YEARS OF SERVICE

July 2017 Newsletter

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

National Health Center Week Events

Aug. 13-19, 2016, 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 "Celebrating America's Health Centers: The Key to Healthier Communities." One in every 15 people living in the United States depends on CHC services. In addition to their long history as health care homes to millions, CHCs are proud to celebrate more than 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, where CHCs provide a health care home for more than one in eight people in the state.

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Sunday, Aug. 6

Clínica Tepeyac Adelante 5K Walk and Run and Community Festival

Run, walk, donate, and inspire those around you to do the same. Join Clínica Tepeyac for their annual ¡Adelante! 5K Run/Walk, Community Festival and Kids 1/2 mile Fun Run. For more details and to sign up, [click here](#).

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Pueblo Community Health Center (Pueblo) Employee Appreciation Breakfast

Staff Only

4th Annual breakfast during NHCW where employees share breakfast and fellowship prior to the clinic openings.

Thursday, Aug. 10, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Salud Family Health Centers (Salud) Farmer's Market

Fort Collins Clinic, 1635 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins

Fort Collins West Clinic, 1830 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins

Salud partners with multiple Fort Collins organizations to provide a Free Farmers Market, with free produce for patients and the community. For more information contact [Karsyn Sprague](#).

Thursday, Aug. 10, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Axis Health System (Axis) Open House

52 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs



Friday, Aug. 11

Salud's Staff Appreciation Picnic

Staff Only

Includes: Employee awards, obstacle course, tug-of-war, and a dance-off.

Monday, Aug. 14, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mountain Family Health Centers (Mountain Family)

Lunch with the Community

Rifle Clinic, 195 West 14th Street, Rifle

Mountain Family breakfast with local elected officials, police and fire departments, public health, partners, and media. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Monday, Aug. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Sunrise Community Health's (Sunrise) Highway to Health

Guadalupe Community Center, 1442 N. 11th Avenue, Greeley

Sunrise will host this fun and interactive event where health messages and health education will be presented. For more information contact [Fatima Groom](#).

Monday, Aug. 14, all-day
Mountain Family Free Health Screening Day

All Mountain Family Sites

Free blood pressure, heart, lungs, and HIV screenings all day at all Mountain Family sites. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Monday, Aug. 14, all-day
High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains) Trivia Contest

All High Plains Sites

Trivia contest and prizes for staff and patients all day at all High Plains sites. For more information contact [Laurie Dimitt](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Mountain Family Lunch with the Community

Basalt Clinic, 234 Cody Lane, Basalt

Mountain Family breakfast with local elected officials, police and fire departments, public health, partners, and media. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10:00 a.m.
Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) Coloring Contest

Pediatric Health Center, 2828 International Circle, Suite 140, Colorado Springs

Peak Vista will host a coloring contest with bikes, helmets, and bike locks as prizes. For more information contact [Kelly Utermoehlen](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 12:00 p.m.
Mountain Family BBQ at Dental Van

Basalt Clinic, 234 Cody Lane, Basalt

Lunchtime BBQ at Mountain Family's new Dental Van.

Tuesday, Aug. 15
High Plains Tour

Main Clinic, 201 Kendall Drive, Lamar

High Plains will lead a tour of their Main Clinic site with Prowers County Commissioners and Lamar City Council. For more information contact [Laurie Dimitt](#).

Tuesday, Aug. 15, all-day
Mountain Family's "An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away"

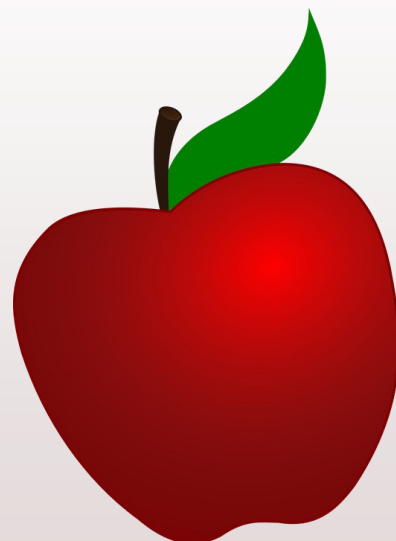
All Mountain Family Sites

A tribute to healthy, affordable food. Free apples handed out in front of all Mountain Family sites. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10:00 a.m.
Peak Vista Coloring Contest

Peak Vista at Fountain, 350 Lyckman Drive, Fountain

Peak Vista will host a coloring contest with bikes, helmets, and bike locks as prizes. For more information contact [Kelly Utermoehlen](#).



Wednesday, Aug. 16, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mountain Family Lunch with the Community

Glenwood Springs Clinic, 1905 Blake Avenue, Suite 101, Glenwood Springs

Mountain Family breakfast with local elected officials, police and fire



Wednesday, Aug. 16, 11:00 a.m.

Valley-Wide Health Centers (Valley-Wide) BBQ and Health Screening Event

La Puente Shelter, Alamosa

For more information contact [Suzanne DeVore](#).

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 3:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Uncompahgre Medical Center's (Uncompahgre) Patient Appreciation BBQ

1350 Aspen Street, Norwood

BBQ with booths set up by local partners and local radio station broadcasting from the event. For more information contact [Amanda Pierce](#).

Wednesday, Aug. 16, all-day

Mountain Family Regional Struggle for Housing Education Day

All Mountain Family sites

Habitat for Humanity will have tables set up at each site.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, all-day

High Plains Staff Appreciation Day

All High Plains sites

For more information contact [Laurie Dimitt](#).

Thursday, Aug. 17, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mountain Family Lunch with the Community

Edwards Clinic, 320 Beard Creek Road, Edwards

Mountain Family breakfast with local elected officials, police and fire departments, public health, partners, and media. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Thursday, Aug. 17, 10:00 a.m.

Peak Vista Coloring Contest

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

Peak Vista will host a coloring contest with bikes, helmets, and bike locks as prizes. For more information contact [Kelly Utermoehlen](#).

Thursday, Aug. 17, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Dove Creek Community Health Clinic (Dove Creek) Open House

495 West 4th Street, Dove Creek

For more information contact [Amber Anderson](#).

Thursday, Aug. 17, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Valley-Wide NHCW Employee Celebration Picnic

Staff only

For more information contact [Suzanne DeVore](#).



Thursday, Aug. 17, all-day
Mountain Family Children's Health Day

All Mountain Family sites

Promote Smiles and good outcomes of early dental intervention, and celebrate back-to-school. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Thursday, Aug. 17, all-day
High Plains Patient Appreciation Day

All High Plains sites

For more information contact [Laurie Dimitt](#).

Friday, Aug. 18, 12:00 p.m.
Mountain Family Grill Out

Mountain Family Admin building

BBQ celebrating Mountain Family staff. For more information contact [Garry Schalla](#).

Friday, Aug. 18, 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) Community Health and Resource Fair

Jeffco Family Health Services Center, 7495 West 29th Avenue, Wheat Ridge

Community health and resource fair with two dozen partner agencies in attendance. Rep. Perlmutter will present consumer board members with plaques recognizing their contributions. For more information contact [Laura Larson](#).



Friday, Aug. 18
High Plains 22nd Anniversary Celebration

Celebration includes a live scavenger hunt. For more information contact [Laurie Dimitt](#).

Monday Aug. 14– Friday, Aug. 18, all-day
Uncompahgre Dress-up Days at the Clinic

1350 Aspen Street, Norwood

Uncompahgre staff will dress up to trigger patients to ask why so staff can educate them on NHCW and the importance of CHCs. For more information contact [Amanda Pierce](#).

Health Center News From Around Colorado

Dove Creek CEO Dianne Smith Retires

Dianne Smith, executive director of the Dolores County Health Association's Dove Creek Community Health Clinic (Dove Creek CHC) for 28 years, has retired. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues in the CHC movement. Ms. Smith, born in Dove Creek, led Dove Creek CHC through many changes and fostered growth to meet the community needs.

While Ms. Smith's job description included the normal duties for an executive director, her actual role went well beyond that during these past 28 years. Her duties also included coder, biller, financial director, operations director, human resources director, janitor, maintenance staff, and front desk receptionist. In addition, she was job site supervisor for all the many construction projects she spearheaded over the years as the clinic expanded. Ms. Smith's originally four-person staff has grown to thirty-two.

Dove Creek CHC started out in a small building of approximately 1,400 square feet, donated by Union Carbide Corporation. As needs arose in the community, Ms. Smith worked to secure grants for expansions, growing the clinic to nearly five times its original size. Dove Creek has become a truly integrated facility, providing primary, behavioral, and oral health care under the same roof.

Ms. Smith has always thought outside of the box when it comes to meeting community needs. In 2000, she headed pulling together clinic staff and community members to host a telethon on the local Dove Creek television station. In three hours, with donated time and talent from many community members and staff, more than \$30,000 was raised, which helped secure a matching grant. All of this came from a community of only 1,200 residents.

Bill Waschke, operations director at Dove Creek, said of Ms. Smith that she considered the reward for her years of service to be “helping patients to receive the care that they needed and would not have otherwise been able to afford.” One of her prized moments was when a patient who was unable to afford dental care got a set of dentures and came out into the lobby smiling and showing off their new teeth to everyone in the clinic.

As a trusted member of her community, state legislators or their aides have always felt comfortable calling Ms. Smith with a question or stopping by the clinic, often unannounced. Legislators have always been impressed with Dove Creek CHC and its growth over the years, and have been willingly offered support.

Ms. Smith’s vision, passion, and dedication have undeniably transformed the health care provided to the residents of Dolores County and surrounding communities in western Colorado. In February, CCHN celebrated Ms. Smith for her dedication and commitment to community, her leadership, and her countless contributions to Dove Creek CHC, CCHN, and the Community Health Center program in Colorado, by presenting her with the 2017 Stanley J. Brasher Community Health Gratitude Award. This award is named in honor of Jerry Brasher, former CEO of Salud Family Health Centers and one of CCHN’s founders. The award is given to a CHC executive who has been working at a CHC for ten or more years, has maintained excellent relationships with his or her state and national legislators, and has done something extraordinary as it relates to CCHN’s priorities during her or his career.

Disposing of Old Medications Now Easier in the San Luis Valley

Did you know the average American household has four pounds of prescribed and over-the-counter medicines in their home? Those prescriptions can fall into kids’ hands, either by accident, or because someone is looking for a way to abuse them. Teens say prescription medicines are easier to get than beer because they can access them from their friends’ and families’ medicine cabinets. Research shows almost 38 percent of teens who abuse prescription drugs obtain them from their parents’ medicine cabinet. There are 35 prescription-drug-related deaths per month in Colorado.

Valley-Wide Health Systems (Valley-Wide) is utilizing a solution for getting rid of those the medicines. Valley-Wide recently installed a household medication drop-box at its pharmacy located in the Alamosa Family Medical Center. It is a registered drop-off location for the [Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program](#), a program developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in partnership with the Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention in response to the increased need for safe disposal of prescription medications. Since January, the pharmacy has had three pick-ups of 40 pounds each.



Axis New Outreach to Patients and Community

Axis Health Systems (Axis) is using exciting and innovative new tactics for outreach and communication with their patients and community.

- Axis moved their team to a larger location on May 1, 2017 to meet the high demand for care in La Plata County. The new space expanded capacity from two to four operatories.
- A newly redesigned website will help explain the integrated care model at Axis in a more reader-friendly way. One new feature of the website will be the “Care-Finder” app, an electronic decision tree that quickly directs potential patients to the best care, the best provider, and the most convenient of the eight Axis locations. The new website will go live during NHCW in August.
- A new patient portal empowers patients to be active participants in their own care. Patients can access their own health records and communicate with care team members in a private and secure way, even from mobile devices.
- [Mariti interpretation services](#) help reduce barriers to care for people who do not speak English. When patients need interpretation services, both in person or by phone, the care team will set up a conference call with Mariti staff, who interpret for them live, in real-time, in any language.
- In an effort to reach potential patients and explain the care model, Axis is trying non-traditional advertising methods. One is to have a movie pre-show spot in theaters in Durango and Cortez that promote Axis. Axis received positive feedback about the first three-month run of this spot, and plan to build on it with storytelling techniques about patient experiences. Click [here](#) to see the 30-second spot.

“Founding Father” of Summit Community Care Clinic Retires

“I would like to share with you a thought that I have been mulling over the past few months...” This was the beginning of a letter written by Dr. James Oberheide in May of 1991 to a handful of doctors. The thought was an after-hours clinic made up of volunteer providers to provide health care for underinsured community members. Dr. Oberheide was concerned about a group of people living in Summit County without health insurance “falling through the cracks.” Little did Dr. Oberheide know, that with the help of other key community members, this thought would grow into the Summit Community Care Clinic.

Dr. Oberheide retired from the Summit Community Care Clinic on Friday, June 2, 2017. He leaves behind a legacy of health care that winds throughout Summit County.



Originally from Chicago, Dr. Oberheide was finishing his residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Denver when he befriended an orthopedist named Dr. Swearingen. Dr. Swearingen had recently built a clinic in Summit County and invited Dr. Oberheide to work with him as a family physician. He agreed and moved to Summit County in 1974. They worked for several years together in the old hospital location in Frisco. In 1982, Dr. Oberheide joined a new clinic in Keystone called Snake River Health Services. This clinic expanded services to Dillon, which evolved into a partnership with Vail Summit Orthopedics. This partnership later turned into what is now known as High Country Health Care. Dr. Oberheide was a partner and family physician at High Country Health Care until he left the practice eight years ago.

In 2011 Dr. Oberheide returned to the Summit Community Care Clinic, the organization he had started with a letter. Since 1993, when the volunteer clinic went into motion, Dr. Oberheide had volunteered off and on while working full time at High Country Health Care.

“When the Clinic started, it was seeing 20 patients per week with only volunteers,” reflected Dr. Oberheide. “I think it financially became unsustainable, so now we take insured patients. Becoming an FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center*) was a big thing. There are still uninsured patients, but there are a large percentage of people with Medicare and Medicaid, but our mission has still stayed with the people in the community and making sure they can access health care and we have continued to do that.”

About his experience with the Summit Community Care Clinic, he said, “I have just really felt fortunate to be here; it’s a way to give back to the community. Working with the other people who work here has been amazing... working together to bring quality health care to the community.”

Dr. Oberheide and his wife Tina Oberheide have been married for thirty years and have four sons. They met in Steamboat Springs. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family in Salida. He’s not sure exactly what he’ll do, but when asked, he responded, “I think it’s likely I’m going to do medicine in some form, but I don’t have any set plans.”

Mountain Family Says Goodbye to a Founder *Diane Rittenhouse was First Executive Director*

By Carolyn Hardin, Development Consultant, MFHC

Diane Rittenhouse, Mountain Family Health Centers’ first executive director, passed away May 17, 2017. She was instrumental both in starting and expanding Mountain Family, and led the organization for twenty three years, until 2004.

Ms. Rittenhouse and a group of motivated citizens founded the Gilpin County Health Clinic in 1978 in Blackhawk, Colorado, when the town’s only physician retired, which left the area with no provider. Under the umbrella of the Red Cross, the group formed a non-profit and set out to find a new provider. Federal seed money was obtained, space was donated in a stone building built in the 1800s by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a family nurse practitioner was hired, and the clinic was born.



So, too, was the foundation of Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC)—committed citizens joining together to address the lack of access to care for the underserved. In 1982, a second clinic was opened in Nederland, and the name changed to Columbine Family Health Centers. In the 1990s, the Roaring Fork Valley faced a crisis when the only pediatric practice accepting Medicaid suddenly closed its doors. The task force working on this issue was put in contact with Columbine by CCHN. Ms. Rittenhouse, undaunted by the long distance to Glenwood Springs, mountain passes or snowy roads, worked with the group to open Mountain Family Health Centers in Glenwood Springs in 2000. She led this charge because of her firm commitment to access to quality medical care for the underserved.

From its origins as the Gilpin Health Clinic that Ms. Rittenhouse and the group of citizens from Blackhawk built, Mountain Family Health Centers today serves 18,000 persons in nine clinic sites in Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties. (The Front Range clinics were closed due to changing demographics and providers—Nederland in 2006 and Blackhawk in 2014).

I first met Ms. Rittenhouse when she came to Glenwood to discuss Columbine's expansion to this side of the divide. There were a lot of people with very strong opinions on the task force, and Ms. Rittenhouse was so strong in making her case, and getting the group to look beyond their own agencies' concerns. It was certainly a leap of faith to expand here, but she had the vision and the heart to make it happen.

Many Mountain Family staff members and friends shared their memories of Ms. Rittenhouse once the news of her passing was out. Here are some of them:

From Ross Brooks, MFHC CEO

"Diane Rittenhouse was the first real-live Colorado Community Health Center leader I met in October 2002. I had come from Washington, D.C., to work at CCHN and Elena Thomas-Faulkner took me to the Columbine Family Health Center in Nederland, Colorado, to get some CHC mud on my hands. Diane quickly washed the D.C. politics off of me and showed me a patient-centered, community-organized, model of caring for all. I was hooked and knew that's what I wanted to do when I grew up. Diane was direct, committed, rarely took no for an answer, and a stalwart for access for all.

"Diane Rittenhouse's commitment to access to health care as a human right was clear from our beginnings, and fuels the Community Health movement today. I'm deeply grateful to Diane for her vision for our organization and communities.

"As we said our goodbyes after our first meeting in October 2002, Diane grabbed me: 'Wait, I have something important for you.' She hustled back inside the Nederland clinic and shuffled through a pile of paper then handed over a beautiful poster. My brain raced as I thought it was perhaps an artistic flowchart of the health disparities sustain and spread model, or a prequel to the Bodenheimer building blocks for primary care, or perhaps the most beautiful strategic plan ever painted in watercolor. I was wrong. With the pride of a mother, Diane said, "Frozen Dead Guy Days, Colorado's most frigidly fun festival, you gotta come."

From Peter Leibeig, Liebeig-Shepard, LLC, and former CEO, Clínica Family Health

"I remember Diane well from my early days at Clinica back in the late 80s. I think she was the finance director at Columbine when we first met. I recall her smiling face and her deep roots in Gilpin County. She was smart, dedicated, a leader at CCHN on many occasions and a health center pioneer. It's quite a shock to hear of her passing. She'll be on my mind. Frozen Dead Guy Days lives on in Nederland."

From Elena Thomas Faulkner of Clinica Tepayac:

"In my community development role at CCHN (years ago), I had the privilege to work with Diane as she was exploring whether/how to open a site in Glenwood Springs. Diane and I made a number of snowy treks to Glenwood to talk with community and health leaders. During that process Diane always focused on understanding the community need and thinking creatively on how to address it. She was astute in assessing local politics and making the most of small windows of opportunity. She knew that rural and resort communities face unique challenges and had a fierce commitment to meeting those—even when it took a big leap of faith and organizational and personal stretches. I learned a lot from Diane's humble and very competent leadership."

From Chris Tonozi, MD, MFHC physician and Director of Data Quality:

"I was a family medicine resident and then physician at Clinica during the years Elena talks about. I was bound and determined to get a CHC opened in Glenwood, and the sentiment was that it would be better served as an extension of a current CHC. Diane had the ambition and tenacity to take that on. She can be credited with 18,000 patients a year now being served in Western Colorado! But rather than that ambition and tenacity, she'll be remembered for the care she took with her organization. She treated it with the love usually reserved for family. Keep spreading that love!"

From Marguerite Salazar, Colorado Commissioner of Insurance, and former CEO of Valley-Wide
"My best times with Diane usually happened when we would be in D.C. for our NACHC meetings. We were part of the rural caucus and that drew us to each other-that and red wine. Her blue eyes and freckles reminded me of Pippi Longstocking and her pragmatism always made me worry less. 'What's the worst that could happen?' She would add, 'If things go to hell, I'll retire.' And she did-not because things went to hell, but because she wanted to."

From Dave Adamson, MFHC CEO 2004-2012

"Diane was a remarkable leader and mountain girl (her roots in Gilpin County go deep into that rock) with a heart of gold. What MFHC is today is mainly due to her vision, dedication, intelligence, and love for people. I never met anyone who worked harder or with more humility."

Thank you, Diane Rittenhouse, for birthing Mountain Family Health Centers and giving us our wings.

Health Center News From Around Colorado

News Briefs

Marillac Clinic, Inc., is now MarillacHealth

Marillac Clinic, Inc., is now MarillacHealth. The CHC rolled out its new name and main clinic renovation in June. Marillac was founded in 1988, becoming a federally qualified Community Health Center in 2015. The name change is intended to better reflect Marillac's commitment to the health of the community. Learn more about MarillacHealth at <http://marillachealth.org/>.



River Valley Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary

River Valley Family Health Center, with clinics in Olathe, Montrose, and Delta, celebrated its fifth year as a federally qualified Community Health Center on June 23, 2017. Below are a couple of photos from the celebration.



Introducing CCHN'S Quality Improvement Peer Group

Quality Improvement (QI) staff leads across Colorado CHCs have been invited to participate in CCHN's QI peer group. This group presents a unique opportunity for QI leads to network, share promising practices, learn about upcoming initiatives and funding opportunities, and gather resources from partner organizations on a quarterly basis.

Thus far, the peer group has been well-attended with leads from 18 CHCs, and has been a successful forum for discussing Uniform Data System (UDS), Payment Reform, Patient Centered Medical Home, and the many quality improvement initiatives that CHCs lead. If interested in attending the next QI peer group meeting, presenting, or providing a resource for the peer group, please contact Taylor Miranda at tmiranda@cchn.org.

CKF Takes the Lead on September 2017 Building Better Health Conference

CHC Outreach and Enrollment staff are invited to save the date for the fourth annual Building Better Health (BBH) conference on September 25-26, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Denver Conference Center. BBH is hosted by CCHN's Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) project, with funding from the Colorado Health Foundation, and support from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Connect for Health Colorado, the Colorado Division of Insurance, the PEAK Outreach Initiative, and the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative.

BBH is the only in-person training opportunity in Colorado for health coverage assisters and brokers on health coverage application, eligibility, and enrollment processes, federal and state health coverage policy changes, and health insurance literacy, ahead of open enrollment. More information including registration information in coming CCHN and CKF communications.

New Research Supports Cavity Free at Three Services

Many Colorado CHCs participate in Cavity Free at Three, which trains medical and dental professionals to provide preventive oral health services for young children and pregnant women. Exciting new research conducted at Denver Health's Community Health Services (Denver Health) supports the provision of Cavity Free at Three services.

["Effectiveness on Early Childhood Caries of an Oral Health Promotional Program for Medical Providers,"](#) by Dr. Patricia Braun, et. al., was published in the American Journal of Public Health in June 2017. This study explores the dental outcomes of young children in Denver Health after medical providers received training from Cavity Free at Three to promote oral health and provide fluoride varnish applications.



The results show a reduction in Early Childhood Caries when children received four or more fluoride varnish applications at a medical visit by age 3.

The full text of the journal article is available [here](#). There is also a supplemental issue of the June 2017 American Journal of Public Health fully dedicated to oral health research. That issue is available [here](#).

To learn more about Cavity Free at Three or to request a training, visit www.cavityfreeatthree.org.

Exceptional Service Award Goes to Clinica Dentist

Dr. An Nguyen, DDS MPH, vice president of dental services at Clinica Family Health, was awarded the Colorado Dental Association's (CDA) Exceptional Service Award in June 2017. She has worked at Clinica since 2010.



Dr. Nguyen after receiving her CDA Award.

Dr. Nguyen contributes her time and talents to the CDA's Membership Council, sits on multiple boards and advisory groups, and still takes time to regularly care for patients. She currently serves on Medicaid's Medical Services Board (MSB), and she is one of the few dentists to have filled that role in recent history. Her voice and dental expertise on MSB have been invaluable during a time of rapid dental program and policy changes.

As Dr. Nguyen was presented her award, the audience was told, "Dr. Nguyen has been a vital voice to have at the CDA table, bringing great perspectives that help ensure the CDA is reflecting the passions and practice settings of all of their member dentists."

Announcing the Emerging Health Care Advocate Training Program

In the fall of 2017, CCHN, in partnership with the Center for Nursing Excellence, will kick-off a learning exploration for clinical leaders to discover how to advance their health care communities through the power of advocacy and leadership. Starting November 3-4, 2017, and running through March 2019, CCHN will host the Emerging Health Care Advocate (EHA) training program. The purpose of this program is to develop a cohort of effective CHC provider champions who will advocate within their organizations, communities, and state for health care policies that support comprehensive, person-centered care. The training will focus on rural Colorado and take place in La Junta.

The program blends leadership development and advocacy training in a robust experiential learning environment. This one-of-a-kind program will provide EHA clinicians a set of defined leadership and advocacy skills as well as needed health care policy information and context that will allow them to become impactful advocates for change. The program is made possible through a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation. CHC executives will nominate provider employed at CHCs with preference given to those who work at rural locations from the following disciplines:

- Dentists
- Licensed Behavioral Health Providers
- Physicians
- Registered Nurses
- Dental Hygienists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants

Additional program details and information on how to nominate a provider champion will be shared with CHCs soon. Contact with Angela Rose at Angela@cchn.or or Erin Lantz at Erin@cchn.org for more information about the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21-24, 2017, Seattle, Washington

2017 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference

The NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference offers education and training, information and resource sharing, coalition building, and program and policy development for like-minded community health professionals and partners in Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY) and Region X (Arkansas, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). To learn more and to register, visit the CHAMPS conference webpage: <http://championline.org/events-trainings/annual-primary-care-conference#2017>.

October 27, 2017, Golden, Colorado

Corps Community Day

Corps Community Day is a day of training and celebration for National and Colorado Health Service Corps programs (NHSC/CHSC). It is an opportunity for job seekers and students to learn and network with representatives of Colorado's safety-net health care facilities, as well as providers, residents, health care workers, and students pursuing careers in primary health care for the underserved. The event will be held at the Marriott Denver West in Golden, Colorado.

Free public health trainings will be offered throughout the day and open to any who wish to attend. Possible training topics this year will include: Opioid Treatment, Long Acting Reversible Contraception from Introduction to Advanced LARC Insertion; and Mental Health First Aid. A full list of the available trainings will be released soon. Health care students, residents, job seekers, NHSC/CHSC alumni, and Community Health Center staff will then have the opportunity to attend the annual Corps Community Connection and Award Ceremony, which will include networking, food, cocktails, and celebration of those dedicated to serving the Corps – past, present, and future. More information will be provided in upcoming communications including registration for the trainings and RSVP details. See nomination information below.

Call for Nominations

Outstanding Colorado and National Health Service Corps participants and alumni will be honored at the evening awards celebration. Please [nominate](#) an NHSC, CHSC, or NURSE Corps provider who exemplifies the mission of the Corps for an award to be presented at the October 27 event. Deadline for nominations is September 22.

Coming Soon: Advanced Clinical Transformation Webinar Series

CCHN and CHAMPS announce a webinar series focused on advanced clinical transformation. It will begin early 2018, it is available to CHCs in Region VIII. CCHN will collaborate with experts on a variety of topics concentrating on specific skills that aid clinical support staff, providers, and care teams in effective implementation of advanced clinical transformation and health-equity-focused initiatives. This unique learning opportunity aims to provide robust support to advanced clinical transformation initiatives across the region and build a large group of empowered, patient-focused clinical staff.

More information is coming soon and will be shared with members.

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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 - 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.

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