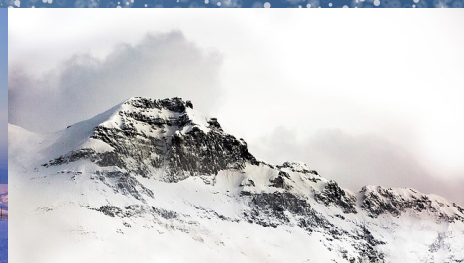




CCHN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019



HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Elena Thomas Faulkner Becomes New NIMAA CEO

Elena Thomas Faulkner is the new CEO of the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA). She joins NIMAA from Clínica Tepeyac where she served as chief strategy officer. She will be based in NIMAA's Denver office.

Prior to her work with Clínica Tepeyac, one of Colorado's CHCs, Thomas Faulkner spent more than a decade with John Snow International (JSI) where she developed projects related to the health care safety net, access to care, capacity building, and payment reform. Before working at JSI, she held leadership positions at CCHN. She has worked extensively within and on issues of importance to underserved communities. She holds a master's degree in international development from American University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado.

NIMAA currently operates in five states, providing live and online instruction with formal mentoring and hands-on clinical training. Participants learn traditional skills as well as inter-professional and integrated team-based care skills from experts online, reinforced daily at the primary care clinics hosting the program.

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Elena Thomas Faulkner, new NIMAA CEO

"I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to lead NIMAA as it grows across the country, bringing an innovative and affordable medical assistant training program to students seeking careers in health care and facilitating the delivery of high quality team-based primary care," said Thomas Faulkner. "I look forward to working with the exceptional faculty and host externship organizations to build upon NIMAA's strong record and limitless potential."

"NIMAA was designed to train medical assistants in the emerging team-based model of primary health care," said Mark Masselli, President/CEO of Connecticut's Community Health Center, Inc. and chairman of NIMAA's board of directors. "Elena brings an outstanding skill set and commitment to the mission that will serve NIMAA and its students well as the organization continues on a steady growth trajectory across the U.S."

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Breaks Ground for New Homeless Veterans' Housing Complex

Homeless veterans in Colorado will have a new affordable housing option coming in 2020.

On Dec. 18, 2018, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless broke ground for the Veterans Renaissance Apartments at Fitzsimons, which will open in Aurora next to the VA Medical Center. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by veterans, staff from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and the Colorado Department of Human Services, and state legislators including Sen. Larry Crowder (SD35) and former Rep. Su Ryden (HD36).

Located on a medical campus that has supported the military since 1918, the Renaissance Apartments at Fitzsimons will have 56 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments, as well as a gym, computer lab, medical exam room, and other amenities. Residents will pay no more than 30 percent of their income in rent.

While affordable housing is a critical issue for all homeless individuals in Colorado, homeless veterans are a unique population who experience a complex web of financial issues, mental health challenges, and difficulty finding work in a competitive job market. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, [about 11 percent of the adult homeless population are veterans](#), and the majority suffer from mental illness, alcohol and/or substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders. Additionally, military occupations and training are not always transferable to the civilian workforce, placing some veterans at a disadvantage when competing for employment.

The Veterans Renaissance Apartments at Fitzsimons will provide an environment to address these complex issues, with on-site resources like employment assistance, mental health services, and case management. The location of the housing complex creates additional opportunities for residents since it will be right next to the Anschutz Medical Campus. As John Parvensky, CEO and president of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, noted in his groundbreaking ceremony speech, many of the veterans who live in the Renaissance Apartments will get training in medical careers and could find work on the Anschutz campus as peer mentors or in other capacities.

Construction will begin in 2019, and the goal is to have the apartment complex ready for its new residents by 2020.



Top: Veteran onlookers attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

Middle: Rendering of the housing complex.

Bottom: From right: Mark Wester, CO Dept. of Human Services (CDHS); Sen. Larry Crowder; Irv Halter, Dept. of Local Affairs; John Parvensky and Bill Windsor, CCH; Rep. Sue Ryden; Aaron Termain, Veterans Community Living Centers of Colorado; Sarah Wager, CDHS



Peak Vista Community Health Centers Expands Services with New Health Center

Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) has purchased a 30,500 square-foot building at 1815 Jet Wing Drive in Colorado Springs, Colo., to serve as a new Community Health Center site for the southeast community. Peak Vista's Health Center at Jet Wing will open its doors mid-February, and remodeling of the building will take place over the next nine months to support six medical providers, two dental providers, two behavioral health providers, enrollment services, and clinical teams.

"Peak Vista is grateful to the community and donors for their support so that access to primary health care will be available to an area that has been identified as a health care desert," commented President and CEO Pam McManus.

According to a [Colorado Springs Gazette report](#), the southeast quadrant of Colorado Springs suffers from higher-than-state-average rates for obesity, diabetes, and fair or poor health, along with mental distress. The lack of health care has been an ongoing barrier for this community whose members often must drive farther than others in the city for health care or delay seeking it because of associated costs.

Peak Vista will play a vital role in ensuring all local residents have access to primary care by utilizing 11,000 square feet of the 30,500 square-foot site. Peak Vista staff hopes to collaborate with agencies and community partners to use the remaining space.

Mountain Family Celebrates Grand Opening for New Basalt Integrated Health Center

Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC) celebrated the grand opening of the new Basalt Integrated Health Center on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. Joined by partner organizations and supporters, MFHC leadership and staff cut a ceremonial ribbon and officially welcomed the community to the newest MFHC location. The Basalt Integrated Health Center will allow MFHC to significantly increase the number of patients receiving care in the Roaring Fork Valley, from 2,200 to 3,700.

"I am thrilled to see this wonderful addition to our community," said MFHC Board Chair Jon Fox-Rubin during opening remarks. "Our family, friends and neighbors, regardless of their income or insurance status, will now have access to fully integrated medical, behavioral, and dental services in one health care home."



CEO Ross Brooks and the staff of MFHC host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Basalt Integrated Health Center.

Mountain Family is in the final fundraising effort for the new center and will be raising \$2.2 million in the coming months, aided by a \$2 million bridge loan from social impact lender Vital Healthcare Capital, or V-Cap. V-Cap offers low-interest, flexible loans to strengthen primary care services in rural and urban communities across Colorado, with support from the Colorado Health Foundation. Funding under this program can be used for construction, renovation, facility acquisition or expansion.

Mountain Family is asking supporters to consider joining V-Cap, The Colorado Health Foundation, and a long list of other vital partner organizations in supporting the new Basalt Integrated Health Center, an essential resource for workers and residents in the Roaring Fork Valley. To join the Basalt capital campaign, please contact Development Director Garry Schalla at gschalla@mountainfamily.org or 970-945-2840 x7290.



Participants in the BSET training prepare for a high-ropes team-building course.

CHCs Build Skills for Effective Teams, Celebrate Successes

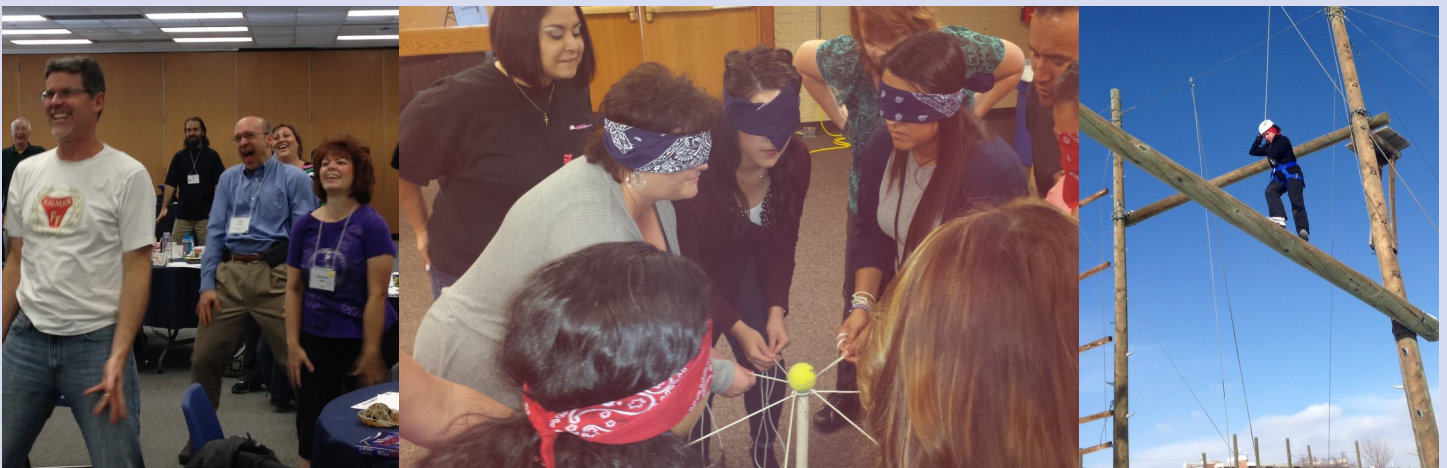
The Building Skills for Effective Teams training (BSET) is a highly-rated training program designed specifically for Community Health Centers (CHCs). The training focuses on expanding participants' leadership expertise, interpersonal knowledge, and emotional intelligence needed to confidently function within their CHC's integrated care teams and quality improvement efforts. BSET teams typically consist of four to seven team members, two of whom are providers. BSET teams receive coaching and develop a capstone project related to a Uniform Data System (UDS) measure.

On Jan. 18, 2019, BSET teams gathered at Rocky Vista University to celebrate the completion of their capstone projects. BSET participants presented on the progress made on their UDS measure and shared how the program contributed to their own personal and professional growth. Program participants said BSET helped them "find their voice" and "learn to communicate more effectively." One CHC surveyed employees before and after the BSET program and saw a 10 percent increase in job satisfaction and 30 percent increase in feeling valued at work among those who completed the survey. BSET participants strive to improve UDS measures chosen for capstone projects by five percent, but some CHCs have seen a 40-70 percent improvement as a result of BSET.

Currently, the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence (CCNE) and CCHN are currently recruiting participants for Cohort four of BSET. The program has been modified to decrease the out-of-clinic time for providers. A new companion program has been created to address this concern: BSET Leadership Development Program (LDP). LDP will include similar BSET content topics via class and web-based sessions that will have a reduced out-of-clinic time. LDP is not replacing the standard BSET training, but rather is designed to be an option for CHCs that may not otherwise be able to participate. LDP participants can choose to participate in the LDP only, or participants can attend LDP as a dedicated provider who will support a BSET team. The standard BSET program will continue to run similarly to previous cohorts. For more information, please [click here](#).



BSET participants pose for a photo after completing a team challenge.



BSET participants take part in a variety of team-building challenges.

New CEO to Join Valley-Wide

The Board of Directors of Valley-Wide Health Systems has selected Jania Arnoldi as the new president and CEO to follow the retirement of Gigi Darricades, current president and CEO. Ms. Arnoldi will begin Feb. 25, 2019.

Ms. Arnoldi joins Valley-Wide with more than 19 years of health care leadership experience. Currently, she is the chief financial officer for Sun Life Family Health Center in Casa Grande, Ariz. She is pursuing a doctorate of health care administration from AT Still University and holds master's and bachelor's degrees in business administration.

Ms. Darricades announced her retirement in May, after serving Valley-Wide for seven years. Under her leadership, Valley-Wide has moved to an integrated model of delivering health care through medical, dental, behavioral health, physical therapy, and pharmacy services, as well as enhanced its financial position in the health care marketplace.

"I appreciate the dedication and work exhibited by Valley-Wide's Board of Directors in selecting Jania Arnoldi as the new president and CEO for our organization," Ms. Darricades said. "I believe that Jania will fit in with Valley-Wide and will provide the leadership needed to guide the organization as it navigates the challenges that arise, especially with regard to innovations in reimbursement."

Learn more [here](#).



Hundreds gathered for the 29th annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil, hosted by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless on Dec. 22, 2018.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Hosts 29th Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil

On Dec. 22, 2018, several hundred Denver residents braved the darkness and the cold to huddle together in front of the City and County Building. Clutching small electric candles, the crowd was there for one purpose: to remember those who died in 2018 after experiencing homelessness in Denver.

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless has organized the Annual Homeless Person's Memorial Vigil for almost three decades. Starting in November, the coalition begins to gather the names of those who lost their lives while homeless by checking in with the Denver medical examiner coroner and the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative. Once the names have been gathered, members of the coalition and other organizations read them out on a dark, chilly night in December – a reminder of

the conditions homeless individuals experience every night during the winter – and after each name the crowd responds with "We will remember." For many individuals who lose their lives while experiencing homelessness, this event might be the only memorial service they have.

For 2018, 233 names were read, and after the list was complete, members of the crowd were welcome to call out the names of those who weren't included on the list. The number of those who died rose for the fourth year in a row, highlighting the affordable housing crisis currently taking place in Denver.

High Plains Wins Prestigious Million Hearts Award

High Plains Community Health Center's Holly Clinic has been recognized as a 2018 Million Hearts Hypertension Control Champion. The Million Hearts Hypertension Control Challenge is a competition to identify practices, clinicians, and health systems that have worked with their patients to achieve hypertension control rates of at least 80 percent through innovations in health information technology, patient communication, and health care team approaches. There were only 18 practices in the United States that qualified to receive this award in 2018.



The team members working at the Holly Clinic during the tracking period were Tracee Nelson-Yarborough, FNP, and site leader Logan Petersen; Sheila Tefertiller, RN; Angelica Neugebauer; Sylvia Juarez; and Delaine Garcia. The Holly Clinic team is the first nurse practitioner-led site ever to receive this recognition.

Over 75 million Americans have hypertension and almost half do not have the condition under control. Research shows that having a blood pressure of more than 140/90 greatly increases the risk of strokes or heart attacks. In the case of the Holly Clinic, 242 of their 286 patients originally diagnosed with high blood pressure had their blood pressure within acceptable limits, an 84 percent success rate. This success was achieved through use of effective medications, healthy lifestyle coaching, and close contact from the health care team. The Holly Clinic also took advantage of quality improvement programs from the University of Colorado Denver, including Evidence Now Southwest and the State Innovation Model.



Salud Pharmacist Receives Prestigious New Preceptor Award

Emily Kosirog, Salud clinical pharmacist at Commerce City and Brighton clinics, received the prestigious American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation New Preceptor Award. This award is given to one pharmacist in the country who has served as a residency preceptor for 3-5 years. Awardees must embody the following characteristics: leadership qualities; respected by peers; innovative resident educator; contributor to research and service at the community and organizational levels; significant contributions to residency training as a residency preceptor; and a track record for instilling these qualities in residents and positively influencing their careers.

Emily Kosirog receives the New Preceptor Award.

One of Kosirog's former residents wrote the following in her nomination: "The moment you meet Dr. Kosirog, you know that she has a strong desire to serve others and is the type of preceptor that becomes a lifelong mentor. Dr. Kosirog has left a sizeable mark on my outlook of pharmacy practice, and I can only hope to leave an impact that large in my current role as a preceptor."

Colorado's Sixth Open Enrollment Period Ends

Colorado's open enrollment period for enrollment in health insurance closed on Jan. 15, 2019. Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado's health insurance marketplace, announced that 169,672 Coloradans enrolled in health insurance plans for 2019. This is two percent higher than 2018 enrollments. Additionally, 77 percent of enrollments qualified for financial assistance.

Until the next open enrollment period, which begins on Nov. 1, 2019, enrollment in health insurance is only available for Coloradans who experience a qualifying life change event. Learn more about Connect for Health Colorado enrollments and qualifying life change events [here](#). Colorado CHCs are certified by Connect for Health Colorado to provide enrollment assistance. Find your local CHC [here](#).



Dr. Shannon-Bannister, Rep. Coffman, and MCPN CEO Ben Wiederholt.

MCPN Honors U.S. Representative Mike Coffman

On Dec. 14, 2018, Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) was joined by members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, City of Aurora leadership, and Mayor Bob LeGare at MCPN's celebration honoring U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman for his years of support for CHCs.

Since 2009, Rep. Coffman has advocated for CHCs during his tenure as representative for Colorado's 6th congressional district, which encompasses many of MCPN's patients. In each of the past five years, he was honored with the Distinguished Community Health Advocate Award or the Distinguished Community Health Defense Award by the National Association of Community Health Centers for his work in supporting continued federal funding for CHCs.

At this celebration, Rep. Coffman honored MCPN Board Member Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister for her support of MCPN and the City of Aurora by reading a statement he had given on the House of Representatives floor recognizing her work. He highlighted her instrumental efforts in founding MCPN 29 years ago, her advocacy for civil rights, and her leadership as president and CEO of the nonprofit foundation Grand Design Inc. He presented her with a framed copy of his statement, which is published in the Congressional Record.

2019 State Legislative Session Begins

The Colorado 73rd General Assembly began on Jan. 4, 2019, and will continue until May 3, 2019. CCHN and Community Health Center advocates are closely watching the state's health care budget and legislative items that impact CHCs and the patients they serve. This includes Medicaid and the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Connect for Health Colorado (Colorado's health insurance marketplace), access to primary care, and Colorado's health care workforce. CCHN is also monitoring efforts to change federal health care laws and fund health care programs. To learn more about the health care issues at the Capitol this session, read this informative guide from the Colorado Health Institute: ["Huge Questions for Health"](#).



As the session progresses, CCHN staff will keep CHC advocates informed of important issues that arise at the Capitol through CCHN's online grassroots advocacy network. Click [here](#) to sign up to receive these important updates.

Salud Featured in New CHAMPS Podcast

Salud Family Health Centers were featured in the inaugural episode of CHAMPS' newly-introduced "Substance Use Disorder Best Practices Podcast" series that highlights best practices among CHCs in Region VIII, which encompasses Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Salud is one of many Colorado CHCs that are leading the way in the provision of services for patients with substance use disorders.

In describing Salud's patient-centered approach to providing services for substance use disorder, Dr. Yajaira Johnson-Esparza shares, "MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) at Salud is not really a program, but rather a part of our comprehensive services. We've made it a point not to make a distinction between addiction and other chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, or asthma. MAT is simply what we do to meet the needs of our patients."

To listen to the episode, and to explore episodes highlighting other CHCs in Region VIII, [click here](#).

New Consumer Assistance Program Honored with Consumer Protection Award

Colorado has made big gains in insurance coverage in recent years, but consumers often run into barriers and challenges when using their insurance. That's why the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) launched its Consumer Assistance Program in the summer of 2018. To date, CCHI's Consumer Assistance Program has worked with 164 consumers across 20 counties to save Coloradans \$436,705.06 in medical bills.

For this effort, the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) gave CCHI the "Get Wise" Consumer Protection Award in November. The award recognizes the direct assistance CCHI is providing to consumers navigating health care services, hospital financial assistance, billing, and coverage issues, and the advocacy work it does to accompany direct service with systemic policy change. During the 2019 legislative session, CCHI is working to help individuals served through the Consumer Assistance Program bring their stories to the Capitol and advocate for legislation to address the health care barriers they've encountered.

To read testimonials from the Consumer Assistance program, [click here](#). For more information on the Consumer Assistance Program and to get in touch with CCHI, visit their website by [clicking here](#) or call 303-839-1261.



Center front row left to right: CCHI Director of Finance and Operations Cynthia Wadle, CCHI Executive Director Adela Flores-Brennan holding award. Back row left to right: DORA Executive Director Marguerite Salazar, Chief Deputy Insurance Commissioner Peg Brown, CCHI Policy Director Debra Judy, CCHI Director of Legislative Affairs Caitlin Westerson, CCHI Director of Strategic Engagement Adam Fox, and Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway and his son.

CHAMPS UPDATE



Save the Dates for Upcoming CHAMPS Trainings

Every year, the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS), along with its partners, works to create a number of invaluable face-to-face trainings for CHC staff of different levels to continue professional development and strengthen their mission-driven organizations. Two in-person CHAMPS trainings are coming up in the next several months.



CHAMPS and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association will be hosting the Next Level Skills for CHC Managers and Supervisors (NLS) training, a step up from the [CORE Competency Training](#), March 19-20, in Seattle, Washington. The training will be led by Lisa Mouscher, CEO and lead consultant at Sogence Training and Consulting. To learn more about the training, click [here](#). If you have questions about this training, please contact the [CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, Workforce & Communications](#).

Additionally, CHAMPS and Denver Medical Society will be offering the annual Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals event Friday through Monday, April 12-15, 2019. This four-day course is an intensive conversational and medical Spanish workshop consisting of medical dialogues, role-plays, visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. Click [here](#) to register and learn more about the training. The registration deadline is Monday, March 25, 2019, or when registration is full. If you have any questions, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

CHAMPS Clinical Podcasts—Substance Use Disorder Best Practices Interview Series

The first and second episodes of the CHAMPS Substance Use Disorder Best Practices Podcast Series, produced by CHAMPS, are now available online. This series consists of free, downloadable, 30-minute interviews with staff from Region VIII CHCs who are operating interesting and innovative programs.

Click [here](#) to listen to the audio-only podcasts, review the typed transcripts, and explore additional resources mentioned during each event. Stay tuned to the CHAMPS [Events and Training](#) webpage for upcoming podcasts.

If you are interested in being interviewed as part of this series, please contact the CHAMPS [Program Specialist Substance Use Disorders](#).

CCHN STAFF UPDATE

New Division Directors at CCHN

CCHN's Policy Division and Quality Initiatives Division have new directors, each of whom has been with CCHN since early 2012.

After working with CCHN's Covering Kids and Families Project for six years, Stephanie Brooks is taking over as policy director for CCHN. Stephanie will oversee implementation of CCHN's policy agenda, including monitoring health care legislation, rules, and other policy issues impacting Community Health Centers. She will continue overseeing the Covering Kids and Families project in her new role. Stephanie has previous 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.

Victoria Anderson is stepping into the role of Quality Initiatives Director. Her primary responsibility is to provide strategic oversight of the Quality Initiatives Division. Victoria received her bachelor's degree from Bucknell University in sociology, with a focus on human service systems. She has worked as a case manager and job developer in a community corrections setting, and as a community organizer raising awareness for and working to end sexual violence. Victoria has a background in public health, and previously worked at an international development and public health non-profit organization in Washington, D.C.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Health Care Day of Action



February 14, 2019

First Baptist Church, Denver, CO
8:00am-1:00pm

Come show some love for health care!



CCHI Health Care Day of Action

Feb. 14, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is hosting its annual Health Care Day of Action on Feb. 14, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The half-day event focuses on the current state of health care policy in Colorado and provides constituents with the tools they need to connect with their legislators about health care issues.

This year's Day of Action will feature discussions about

health coverage access, choice, and affordability, and consumer protections in health care. The event is an interactive, engaging way to get involved in advocacy and learn how to lobby for the health care issues. Breakfast and lunch are provided, and scholarships are available. Learn more and register [here](#).

CCHI is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization working so all Coloradans have equitable access to high-quality, affordable health care. CCHI and CCHN work in partnership on many health care issues. Learn more about CCHI [here](#).

National Association of Community Health Centers Policy and Issues Forum (P&I) **March 27-31, 2019** **Washington, D.C.**

Every year the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy & Issues Forum (P&I) draws thousands of Community Health Center professionals and leaders in one of the largest national conferences focused on primary care and health policy. Clinicians, executives, administrators, consumers, board members and advocates from all over the country assemble to meet with their lawmakers on Capitol Hill and network with each other. They bring with them a long history of bipartisan support based on significant achievement as the largest primary health care network in the U.S.



This year's gathering will be the first since the mid-term elections shifted the balance of power in the U.S. House of Representatives and elected new leaders in state capitals around the country. The NACHC P&I will provide an opportunity to gain a fresh understanding of how the new political dynamics will affect key priorities and shape the future of Community Health Centers.

To learn more about and register for the NACHC P&I, [click here](#). If you are interested in attending the NACHC P&I, please book your hotel room quickly, as hotels in Washington, D.C. fill up very quickly in the spring.

January 2019 Newsletter Contributors

CCHN Newsletter Editor: [Maureen Maxwell](#); Assistant Editor: [Jessica Higgins](#)

Contributors: Taylor Miranda Thompson, Alice Steiner, and Liz Tansey, [CCHN](#); Yael Holzman, [CHAMPS](#); Cathy Alderman and Meredith Ritchie, [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#); Laurie Dimitt, [High Plains Community Health Center](#); Laura Larson and Erika Oakvik, [MCPN](#); Elise Thatcher and Gary Schalla, [Mountain Family Health Centers](#); Jennifer Morse and Ashley Johnson, [Salud Family Health Centers](#); Elario Rickey, [Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.](#); Brenda Spector, [Peak Vista Community Health Centers](#); Ali Murray and Leslie Gianelli, [NIMAA](#); Adam Fox, [CCHI](#)

About CCHN

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 21 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 790,000 of their community members - one in seven 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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