



CCHN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019



HEALTH CENTER NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

John Santistevan, Salud CEO, Elected NACHC Treasurer

Salud Family Health Centers CEO and President John Santistevan was elected as Treasurer for the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) at the annual NACHC Community Health Institute in August.

“We are proud of the service John has given and continues to give to CHCs in Colorado and nationwide,” said Annette Kowal, President and CEO of CCHN. “We appreciate John stepping up to take on this additional role at the national level.”

Mr. Santistevan joined Salud in 1996 and is responsible for establishing the strategic course and overseeing all operations of the organization. Prior to becoming the President and CEO in 2013, he served as Salud’s Chief Financial Officer for Salud for seventeen years. Mr. Santistevan has been a board member on several organizations for numerous years and he currently sits on the numerous boards of directors including NACHC and CCHN. Mr. Santistevan has also served as board member and treasurer of Colorado Access. He was selected for the NACHC Jeffrey T. Latman Leadership in Health Care Finance Award in 2010 and the Betsey K. Cooke Grassroots MVP Award in 2016.

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John Santistevan, Salud CEO is recognized alongside other newly elected officers at the 2019 NACHC CHI conference.

In his statement of interest, Mr. Santistevan said he is “very excited to have the opportunity to seek the Treasurer position for NACHC,” and that he is “confident, working together, we will continue to strengthen and increase access to quality health care to the communities we serve.”

National Health Center Week Celebrates CHC Community Roots

During National Health Center Week in August, CHCs and their communities gathered to celebrate the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless, and school-based Community Health Centers (CHCs).

This year’s theme was “Rooted in Communities,” a theme celebrated at a tree planting in Lamar at an event sponsored by High Plains Community Health Center. Axis Health System was joined by special guests, including Sean Smith, La Plata County Sheriff, and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (CD3) in celebrating “Stakeholders Day” and each guest received a Ponderosa Pine Tree Grow Kit.

Celebrating the work of Colorado CHCs takes more than a week, so Colorado CHC events were spread out over most of the month. Governor Jared Polis and many local communities issued proclamations in support of CHCs. Festivities included health fairs and free health screenings, neighborhood carnivals and community barbecues, patient appreciation days and staff appreciation gatherings, and visits from local, state and federal elected and appointed officials.



Visiting Axis Health Systems on “Stakeholders Day” are, from left Bern Heath, Axis Health System CEO; Sean Smith, La Plata County Sheriff; U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton; John Albright, AHS Board President; Chuck Forth, AHS Board Treasurer; Debbie White, AHS Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wise Romero, AHS Chief Clinical Officer; and Shelly Burke, AHS Chief Operating Officer. Sheriff Smith holds one of two trees that was planted at

Cortez Integrated Healthcare (CIH) this summer. The stakeholders were invited to attend another event to be held at CIH during NHCW 2020, and celebrate the growth of the trees along with our rooted relationships

Left: Front Desk Professional Jennifer Smith at River Valley-Delta gives a fresh peach to patient.

Right: Sunrise Community Health staff welcome Sara Wittner, CCHN, to their community fair in Loveland. From left: Madisha Guzman, Sunrise; Ms. Wittner; and Macayla Roberts, Sunrise.



Staff of CCHN, CHAMPS, and CHPA joined together to say thank you to Colorado CHCs.



Corps Community Day

Participants of the Colorado and National Health Service Corps programs were celebrated at the Oct. 11, 2019, Corps Community Connection and Awards Ceremony. These programs provide scholarships and loan repayment assistance to providers who agree to work in underserved communities. The event was hosted by CCHN, the Colorado Rural Health Center, National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Colorado Health Service Corps (CHSC), Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS), Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and the Colorado Behavioral Health Council.

Outstanding providers working at Colorado safety net organizations were honored at the award ceremony. Award recipients included:

- Dr. Gabija Revis, D.M.D., Summit Community Care Clinic
- Josh Gannon, Pharm.D., Denver Health
- Kelly Shaffer, L.P.C., L.A.C., STRIDE Community Health Center
- Erin Bender, P.A., Clínica Tepeyac
- Adrian Boka, Pharm.D., Denver Health



The event began with an introduction from Steve Holloway, Branch Chief of the Health Access Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment about the role of CHSC and NHSC in the health care environment. Dr. Jefferey Bacon, a physician with more than 20 years of experience in rural communities, shared recruitment and retention strategies during his keynote presentation, and panelists answered questions and shared best practices about mentorship in rural areas. The day concluded with an Equity in Health Training provided by Christina and Dante James of the Gemini Group.

Axis Reaches Out to College Students

An outreach team from Axis Health System (AHS) connected with college freshman and their families in late August to make sure incoming Fort Lewis College freshmen understood three things: first, that the health center on campus offers urgent-care type services but does not accept private (parents') insurance. Second, students need to plan ahead and know exactly where to go when they get sick or need counseling. Third, the AHS La Plata Integrated Healthcare (LPIH) team is excited to help students get set up at the CHC and feel welcome in a new medical home.



Four LPIH staff members popped up some shade in the central plaza of the campus and adopted a carnival-style approach to connecting with more than 200 excited-but-overwhelmed students and parents. Giveaways of squishy, adorable stress bears were a hot item, along with AHS-branded lip balm and cell phone ring-stand/fidget spinners. Gary Meisner helped answer insurance questions, Melanee Hodge took names on a clipboard for enrollment callbacks, AHS Medical Director Dr. Luke Casias spoke with parents and addressed questions about students' medical conditions; and Karla Sluis passed out giveaways, took photos and answered general questions. The giveaways were critical for

Visitors to the Axis booth at Fort Lewis College hold up their Axis stress bears.

attracting youth to the table, followed by the question “Do you know where to go if you get sick?”

The outreach event resulted in 12 immediate new-patient enrollments at LPIH. The AHS team also made important connections with other partners and college staff, who were particularly interested in the integration of counseling with primary care in a region experiencing a high youth suicide rate. After the students’ establishing visit, they will be able to get in quickly for same-day sick visits. Even if these youth are in good health, they will also have access to family planning, immunizations, counseling, substance-use treatment/ education and crisis care.

HHS Distributes FY19 Grants for CHC Programs

In late summer, Colorado Community Health Centers (CHCs) received grants to support quality improvement, oral health infrastructure, to combat the opioid crisis, and to integrate substance use disorder and mental health services. These grants were made as part of Federal Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) funding, which ended Sept. 30, 2019, funding approved by Congress late last year. These grants are not the current-year (FY20) federal government funding Congress continues to debate. Congress has just passed another short-term continuing resolution while they continue to debate appropriations for the remainder of FY20.

Through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded nearly \$107 million to CHCs across the nation for Quality Improvement Awards. In Colorado, all 20 CHCs eligible for HRSA grants received a total of \$2,399,813. HRSA’s annual Quality Improvement Awards are classified in several categories, including designating CHCs that ranked in the top 30 percent of CHCs that achieve the best overall clinical performance as Health Center Quality Leaders. Eight Colorado CHCs were recognized as Health Center Quality Leaders this year: Clínica Tepeyac, Mountain Family Health Centers, Northwest Colorado Health, Pueblo Community Health Center, River Valley Family Health Center, Salud Family Health Centers, Sunrise Community Health, and Uncompahgre Medical Center.

The quality awards also recognize CHC achievements in other areas, including improving cost-efficient care delivery while also increasing quality of care, reducing health disparities, increasing both the number of patients served and patients’ ability to access comprehensive services, advancing the use of health information technology, and delivering patient-centered care. All of Colorado’s eligible CHCs received awards in two or more categories.

HRSA Regional Administrator Nick Zuconi traveled to Colorado CHCs to highlight some of the awards. He joined Northwest Colorado Health and Clínica Tepeyac at their celebrations of their Health Center Quality Leader Awards.



Top: From left: Nick Zuconi, HRSA Region 8 Administrator; Diana Horning, MD, Medical Director, Northwest Colorado Health; and Stephanie Einfeld, CEO, Northwest Colorado Health.

Bottom: From left: Nick Zuconi, HRSA Region 8 Administrator; Elsa Ramirez, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services; Dr. Pam Valenza, Clínica Tepeyac Chief Health Officer; and Jim Garcia, Clínica Tepeyac CEO.

In addition to the quality awards, HRSA distributed nearly \$400 million to CHCs to combat the nation's opioid crisis, including \$3,170,546 that was divided among 19 Colorado CHCs to advance their work to provide access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services.

"This week's awards recognize especially high-achieving health centers. America's health centers are essential to producing results on our actionable public health challenges, like HIV/AIDS and the opioid crisis, as well as to building a healthcare system that delivers better value and puts the patient at the center," announced HHS Secretary Alex Azar on August 20.

Health information technology (health IT) is an important part of these efforts, and in July, HHS distributed awards to Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs), which support CHCs to expand the use of health IT. Among the recipient HCCNs was the Colorado Community Managed Care Network, which supports 19 CHCs in Colorado.

In addition, HHS awarded FY19 funds designated for CHCs to expand their oral health service capacity through new infrastructure enhancements. These investments are the first by HRSA to solely focus on oral health infrastructure and will enable HRSA-funded CHCs to provide new, or enhance existing, oral health services. Six Colorado CHCs were among the awardees and will be using the funding for minor alteration and renovation to modernize existing facilities, the purchase and installation of dental and radiology equipment, training and consultation to increase oral health integration, or the purchase of mobile dental units to increase access to oral health care in hard-to-reach parts of communities.

To sustain these programs, grassroots advocates are letting Congress know how important renewed funding is to their communities. To participate in this effort, sign up to be an advocate at <https://cchn.org/>.

Valley-Wide Makes Three Big Changes

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. will open a new CHC in Buena Vista in the spring of 2020. Buena Vista in Chaffee County is one of the few counties in Colorado that does not have access to the services provided by a CHC yet. The name of the new CHC site will be Valley-Wide Buena Vista and the opening date has not been determined. The Buena Vista clinic location will complement Valley-Wide's other CHC locations in the Upper and Lower Arkansas Valleys and the San Luis Valley.

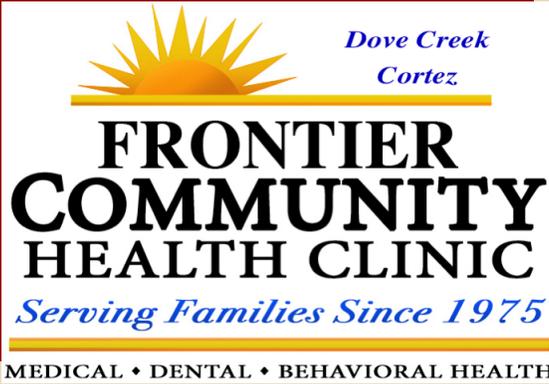
Family medicine and dental services will be the areas of focus for the Buena Vista site, with the addition of integrated behavioral health services soon. Valley-Wide President/CEO Jania Arnoldi noted that Valley-Wide is excited to ensure that Buena Vista and the surrounding communities have access to the best health care services possible.

In southeast Colorado in October, Valley-Wide welcomed the transition of Centennial Family Health Center, LLC, to the Valley-Wide family of CHC sites. Family Nurse Practitioner, Karen Tomky, M.S.N., F.N.P. has led the clinic for over 16 years. Ms. Arnoldi said Valley-Wide is excited to continue providing much-needed service with Ms. Tomky and her staff. In honor of the regional nature of the community served, the clinic's new name is Valley-Wide Ordway. Like Buena Vista, family medicine will continue to be the Ordway clinic's focus, with the addition of integrated behavioral health services soon.

In the San Luis Valley, Valley-Wide partnered with the Town of Center to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the State of Colorado –Department of Local Affairs. Valley-Wide recently received word from the Department of Local Affairs that the project was selected and will be fully funded at \$600,000. This grant will support the renovation of a recently purchased building to a modern dental clinic to serve the people of Center and Saguache County. The partnership with the Town of Center was essential in securing these funds because they are only available to statutory governments. The Center Town Board passed a resolution in support of the Valley-Wide project and grant application. The grand opening of the new building is planned for the spring of 2020.



Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.



Two Western Colorado CHCs to Merge

The Board of Directors of Frontier Community Health Clinic (FCHC) and Axis Health System (AHS) are pleased to announce their plan to merge the two organizations. Both Frontier and Axis are community health providers in Montezuma and Dolores counties.

Pending federal and state regulatory approvals, which are expected in late spring, FCHC will become a part of Axis, and Frontier's employees and patients will become part of the regional AHS health care system. The Health Resources and

Services Administration (HRSA) is the federal granting agency for CHCs. The health care services available through FCHC will continue to be provided at the Dove Creek Clinic and the Cortez Dental Clinic locations both during the regulatory review and after the merger. There will not be any change or disruption in service. Both Axis and Frontier are accepting new patients.

Mergers of this type are not uncommon nationally, as CHCs look to consolidate for better economies of scale, provider coverage, and long-term sustainability. Mergers can enhance the continuum of care and resources available in communities.



"The discussions that have led to this decision are between two organizations that are extremely healthy and vibrant resources for our communities. The decision to merge arose from our shared view of the future of health care, which will require increased scale, administrative capacity, the stability of provider coverage, and innovation. We are convinced that the new whole will be an even better resource to our communities in the future than the sum of us separately today," said Bern Heath, Ph.D., Axis CEO.

Axis was founded in 1960, has seven clinic locations in southwest Colorado, and is the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) for five counties. FCHC was founded in 1975 and has two clinic sites in western Colorado, the Dove Creek Clinic and Frontier Dental Clinic.

"We complement each other in so many ways. This merger allows us to leverage our staff much more effectively and combine resources in a way that we can provide more effective care in the long-term," said Lincoln Pehrson, Frontier CEO. After HRSA approves the merger, Pehrson will join Axis as the new Chief Integration Officer and will remain based out of Dove Creek.

Post-merger, Axis will have approximately 270 employees providing high-quality services and programs to an estimated 12,000 patients. The respective Boards of Directors for Axis and Frontier will continue to operate separately (but in partnership) until the merger is completed in the spring and the boards will consolidate.

Shelly Burke, chief operating officer of Axis, said, "As community providers, we must innovate and grow in financially sustainable ways to ensure we are preserving and advancing affordable, accessible, high-quality care in our communities. We believe that welcoming FCHC into our organization will provide long-term

Coloradans Honored by CHAMPS

Four Coloradans were among the recipients of CHAMPS awards at the 2019 Annual Primary Care Conference held by the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA). Each year, CHAMPS recognizes outstanding contributions to the CHC movement by individuals in Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming).

Nominations are submitted by Region VIII Health Centers and Primary Care Associations, and awardees are chosen by the CHAMPS Executive Committee. CHAMPS honored the following highly deserving individuals with awards during the CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday, October 6, 2019.

Anne Beer, Director of Homeless Programs at Peak Vista Community Health Centers, received the Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved. Ms. Beer embodies Peak Vista's Homeless Program mission to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness has access to excellent health care and has the best possible experience anywhere in Peak Vista by going where the homeless are on the streets of Colorado and neighboring community facilities. She approaches them and offers assistance in the form of hygienic care packages, information about where they can get food, and advocates for Peak Vista's Homeless Health Center which provides medical, behavioral and dental health care. Her accomplishments include initiating and overseeing participation in the Coordinated Entry process of the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care for Homeless Programs, increasing utilization of the Mobile Health Services van, and innovations to make it possible for Peak Vista to become a Trauma-Informed Organization.

Angela Green, Psy.D., Director of Behavioral Health at STRIDE Community Health Center, was presented with the Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award. Dr. Green has led STRIDE's behavioral health efforts with an innovative frame of mind that has changed the delivery of integrated behavioral health care. In order to improve behavioral health reach and patient access, Dr. Green grew STRIDE's internal behavioral health workforce from one behavioral health professional (BHP) to 15 in a span of 18 months. She recognized the need to address a workforce shortage in individuals trained to provide integrated behavioral health care and subsequently doubled STRIDE's psychology and social work training programs to address this gap. STRIDE was a forerunner in recognizing and responding to the opioid crisis thanks to Dr. Green's leadership. STRIDE was one of four Colorado CHCs who received a HRSA grant to provide MAT services in 2016.

Jonathan Muther, PhD, Vice President of Behavioral Health and Training at Salud Family Health Centers, was honored with the Exceptional Clinical Leadership. In addition to his role at Salud, a large CHC system providing behavioral health services in 13 clinics, he is also a senior clinical instructor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, and Behavioral Health Clinical Integration Advisor with the Eugene S. Farley Health Policy Center. His specialty area is Integrated Primary Care Psychology and he is involved in direct patient care, training and supervision, program development and evaluation, as well as advocacy for health care policy change. His primary areas of interest are working with those traditionally underserved by existing systems and working with the Spanish-speaking population. He is committed to providing treatment and program development to address life stress and the full spectrum of mental disorders, behavioral interventions for physical illnesses, and evaluating health outcomes.

Julie Hulstein, Executive Director, Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States, was awarded the Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award. A secret effort by CHAMPS board members and PCA CEOs to honor Ms. Hulstein for her hard work and commitment to the CHC movement led to her unanimous selection for the Brasher Legacy Award. She has served as the executive director of CHAMPS for more than 20 years, the nonprofit membership association providing opportunities for education and training, networking, and workforce development to Region 8 CHCs. She knows the differences between large, urban CHCs and small, frontier sites, and works with each to support their unique needs. She understands the challenges of homeless programs and the diminishing populations in rural America. In addition to working with these programs on an individual basis, Ms. Hulstein has strong partnerships with her state PCA colleagues striving to enhance the services to the individual CHCs. In addition, she was instrumental in establishing the partnership between CHAMPS and NWRPCA to form what is now called "Region 18". This collaboration has enhanced training for CHCs and attracted key speakers and high level BPHC staff to meetings, allowing many CHCs an opportunity to hear and speak with these leaders.

Rounding out CHAMPS' recognition of outstanding people in the CHC movement was Tom Bibbey, Board Member at Heritage Health Center in Wyoming, who was selected for the Exceptional Board Leadership Award in recognition of his service and commitment to Heritage Health Center and the medically underserved.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Wins Sterling Achievement Award

The Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless was recognized by the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSDA) with the 2019 COSDA Sterling Achievement Award for Homelessness. COSDA awards programs in Colorado that have made recognizable, positive results each year in the program areas of community/economic development, housing assistance, and homeless assistance/prevention.



John Parvensky, president and CEO of the Coalition, said “We’re proud to be part of such an innovative program that provides housing and recovery options for those most in need. Our commitment to providing lasting solutions to homelessness means we try to find space for everyone, especially those most marginalized in the community.”

“Fort Lyon is an innovative program serving Coloradans doubly challenged by addiction and homelessness. We are honored Fort Lyon was recognized for the positive and great impact it has had on hundreds of lives, and we are thankful for the many partnerships that continue to make this program possible,” explained Alison George, housing director of Colorado Department of Local Affairs Division of Housing.

The Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community provides recovery-oriented transitional housing to individuals experiencing homelessness and places an emphasis on serving veterans and those struggling with addiction in its 250-person capacity community. The Fort Lyon program allows those experiencing homelessness to leave an unhealthy environment for up to two years to gain stability, so they are better able to maintain long-term recovery, employment and overall self-sufficiency. The program is located at the former Fort Lyon VA Hospital in Bent County, Colorado, and is part of state and community efforts to re-purpose the facility to meet the needs of individuals across the state and to catalyze the re-use of the facility to meet a variety of community needs.

MarillacHealth Honored for Oral Health Program

MarillacHealth was among three CHCs selected for the John Rosetti Centers of Excellence Award at the annual conference of the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) in October. Dr. Judd Chamberlain, Associate Dental Director, and Diana Carolina Flinn, Dental Operations Manager, accepted the award.

Each year the DentaQuest Safety Net Solution program recognizes safety net dental programs that have displayed tremendous leadership and excellence in oral health practice management and significantly improved their operations in the areas of finance, access and outcomes. The other two awardees were the Community Health Center of South Central Texas and ReGenesis Health Care in South Carolina.



Two CHCs Honored for Cancer Prevention Efforts

MarillacHealth and STRIDE Community Health Center were among the three providers selected by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to receive the 2019 “Shirley Hass Schuett Quality Award” for the Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Program Health Navigation and Clinical Services of the Women’s Wellness Connection. This program provides free Pap tests and mammograms for uninsured or limited insured, low-income women.

Sunrise CFO Honored at National Conference

Maddox, the chief financial officer (CFO) at Sunrise Community Health, received the Jeffrey T. Latman Leadership in Health Care Finance Award at the National Association of Community Health Center's Community Health Institute & EXPO in August.

Mr. Maddox has served in community health for 22 years; 10 of those years at Sunrise Community Health. As CFO, he has shepherded more than one CHC from precarious brinks to solid financial standing. He does so with compassion and expertise that respects the need to deliver quality care in a sustainable manner. Mr. Maddox is known for his analytical and thoughtful problem-solving approach and offers his knowledge to the team as organizational decision-making occurs. He is a strong mentor to finance team members, enabling them to learn and grow.



Pueblo CHC Opens New School-Based Site

Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) cut the ribbon for its newest School-Based Wellness Center (SBWC) at the grand opening on Oct. 8 hosted by the Latino Chamber of Commerce. The Chávez-Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy (CHPA) SBWC features a reception area, behavioral health evaluation room, breakroom, lab, and two newly equipped exam rooms.

PCHC's SBWCs meet student health care needs by providing services for acute illnesses like the flu, chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes, preventative visits for immunizations and physicals, and behavioral health counseling. The CHPA SBWC accepts most insurance plans and will see any student regardless of their ability to pay.



CCHN STAFF UPDATE

CCHN Celebrates Anderson's 15 Years

CCHN staff celebrated Polly Anderson's 15th anniversary with the organization on Oct. 16, 2019. Ms. Anderson is CCHN's Vice President of Strategy and Financing. She joined CCHN in 2004 as project director for the Covering Kids and Families project and was promoted a year later to policy director, one of several promotions that have occurred during her tenure. Her passion for ensuring access to health care for all individuals spans more than two decades and includes working for substance abuse treatment and public health organizations.

Just a few of her achievements while at CCHN include her role as a key leader in the development and implementation of the Colorado Primary Care Fund; helping ensure that the health care dollars allocated as a result of Referendum C, approved by Colorado voters in 2006, were dedicated to expanding eligibility in Colorado's indigent care program; and working with CHCs and partner organizations to advance mental health integration in health care services. Polly is currently leading a long-term project to implement value-based care reimbursement.

At the anniversary celebration, Annette Kowal, CCHN CEO, praised Polly's work, saying, "You have held different positions at CCHN over the years, and in each position, you developed ways of doing things that were better than previous ways and left each position in better shape than when you started in that position." said Annette Kowal, CCHN CEO, at Ms. Anderson's anniversary celebration.

CCHN Welcomes New Policy and Payment Reform Analyst

Ben Gronowski joined the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) in July as the new Policy and Payment Reform Analyst. He is responsible for tracking, analyzing, and advocating for state and federal regulations, legislation, and policies impacting Community Health Centers (CHCs), as well as supporting the implementation of a CHC payment reform pilot. Mr. Gronowski recently received his master's degree in human rights from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs with a focus on socioeconomic rights and migration, and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Willamette University in Spanish and international studies. Prior to joining CCHN, he worked as a researcher in academia and for a human rights nongovernmental organization (NGO), an investigator with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, and a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, biking, snowboarding, and reading in hammocks.

CHAMPS STAFF UPDATE

Andrea's 15th Anniversary at CHAMPS

Congratulations to Andrea Martin for 15 years at CHAMPS! Andrea is the Workforce Development & Member Services Director and plays a vital role at the organization for the health centers of Region 8 (Colo., Mont., N.D., S.D., Utah, and Wyo.). Andrea's focus is giving the region's CHCs the tools they need to attract and retain a strong workforce and supporting CHAMPS members by creating and distributing multiple workforce related resources, including the CHAMPS Salary Survey and Report and the Clinical Staffing and Productivity Expectations Surveys and Reports, leading the Region 8 Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment, and undertaking the CHAMPS Recruitment and Retention Surveys when needed. Besides leading these projects, Andrea has helped CHAMPS build strong relationships with partner organizations and is consistently working to improve the resources and trainings provided by CHAMPS. Andrea's tireless dedication to CHAMPS and the health center mission and movement has created a lasting impact on everyone she works with and CHAMPS is incredibly grateful to have her.

Congratulations Andrea!



Right: Andrea Martin poses with Julie Hulstein at her 15th anniversary celebration.



Left: The CHAMPS team: from left, Helen Vernier, Andrea Martin, Julie Hulstein, Jennifer Anderson, and Yael Holzman Castellands. CHAMPS supports CHCs in Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date: CCHN Policy and Issues Forum Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 5-6, 2020

CCHN's 2020 Policy and Issues Forum is coming up in February! This two-day event gives participants the tools to have meaningful interactions with their legislators, including the latest data on CHCs, upcoming health care legislation, and strategies for meeting with legislators. Wednesday's training events will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Denver, Colo. and on Thursday, participants will head to the state capitol to meet with legislators. Registration will open in early December.



Save the Date: NACHC Policy and Issues Forum March 16-19, 2020 Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

NACHC's 2020 Policy and Issues (P&I) Forum is taking place March 16-19, 2020. Committee meetings will precede the P&I in 2020: March 13-15. The NACHC P&I is an opportunity for CHC executives, clinicians, board members, consumers, and other community health leaders to bring their unique perspectives to members of Congress and offer constructive solutions to the legislative and regulatory issues in play. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from government officials, some of the nation's leading health care experts, and their peers. Hotel rooms fill

up fast – for conference hotels, please visit <http://www.nachc.org/conferences/policy-and-issues/pi-hotel-information/> (use the links on this page to book online).

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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 for more than 830,000 of their community members – more than one in seven people in Colorado - from 63 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 <https://cchn.org/>.



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