



# CCHN NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 2020**



## HEALTH CENTER NEWS

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**PCHC East Side Expansion Underway**  
 Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) is growing its presence on the east side of the city. In February 2019, PCHC purchased property at the corner of East 8<sup>th</sup> and LaCrosse streets. The primary goals of this project are to assure long-term access to quality integrated primary health care and to contribute to the revitalization of the east side neighborhood. PCHC estimates that an additional 5,000 patients will be served at the new location over the next 10 years.

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With planning and design currently underway, PCHC expects construction to begin by mid-year 2020. The anticipated completion and occupancy of the site are in 2021. The facility will house primary medical, behavioral, and dental care services in addition to a patient pharmacy and laboratory. All services currently being offered at the Park Hill clinic (located at 1302 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of East 4<sup>th</sup> and LaCrosse Streets) will be relocated to the new site.

Currently, PCHC has 13 health care clinics and provided care for 25,858 patients in 2018. Projections for 2019 patients-seen exceed 27,000.

For more information or to donate to the east side project, please contact Laura Kelly at 719-543-8711.



*Project sign at the site of Pueblo's future CHC.*

## Peak Vista's New Sites

On December 12, 2019, Peak Vista Community Health Centers celebrated the opening of their Health Center at Jet Wing with a formal Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Health Center at Jet Wing is located at 1815 Jet Wing Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo., 80916 and serves the Southeast Colorado Springs community with integrated medical, behavioral, and dental health care.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Peak Vista's Health Center at Jet Wing

Peak Vista is hosting an open house for their Community

Health Center, Family Health Center at Mitchell High School on February 8, 2020, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Family Health Center at Mitchell High School is located at 4041 E. San Miguel Street, Colorado Springs.

## Salud is Growing

Salud Family Health Centers is expanding in two locations. There is a new Community Health Center that opened on January 13 at 562 Sable Boulevard, Ste 100, in Aurora. This CHC is a partnership between the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Salud to provide quality, affordable health care to the patients they serve.

Salud is also opening a Dental Clinic at 928 Smith Street in Trinidad. The Dental Clinic will be adjacent to the already operational Salud CHC. It will serve all ages and will be staffed by a full-time dentist and full-time hygienist. Opening day is scheduled for February 10, 2020, and Salud is hosting an open house for the community on February 21, 2020, from 5-6 p.m.

**Aurora**  
**Community Health**  
*Your Partners in Health*

 **Salud**  
Family Health Centers

 School of Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Logo for Salud's new CHC in Aurora

## STRIDE's New Programs and Inspiring Stories

On September 20, 2019, STRIDE Community Health Center launched the Colorado Adolescent Maternity Program (CAMP) at Aurora Health & Wellness Plaza. Originally a Children's Hospital Program, CAMP provides innovative, evidence-based care for pregnant and parenting adolescents (21 years and younger) and their families. Click [here](#) for more information.

Additionally, in recent years, STRIDE has identified a growing number of older adults who have low and fixed incomes, especially in Jefferson County. In 2019, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$250,000 to STRIDE to participate in a Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). The grant will allow STRIDE, along with several other health care organizations, to focus on enhancing training and resources for geriatric care providers and to improve the ability to care for seniors across Colorado over the next five years. Click [here](#) for more information.

Read inspiring stories from STRIDE patients [Aaron](#), who started getting home visits from his medical providers when he needed them, and [Nora](#), who found out she was cancer-free thanks to the Colorado Gives Day fund.

## Colorado CHCs are Hiring!

Colorado's 21 Community Health Centers (CHCs) are always hiring and are great places to work. As the health care home to more than 830,000 of their community members – more than one in seven people in Colorado – CHC staff practice cutting edge medicine and feel the positive impact and reach of their work every day. CHCs are always hiring for the following professions:

- Physician
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Dentist
- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Assistant
- Behavioral Health Provider
- Licensed Social Worker

For a full list of job opportunities available at Colorado CHCs, visit the Mission Driven Careers site at [www.missiondrivencareer.org](http://www.missiondrivencareer.org).



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tortillas for Tepeyac Coming Soon

Clínica Tepeyac is hosting Tortillas for Tepeyac, a spirited luncheon where local community leaders and celebrities roll up their sleeves, grab their rolling pins, and showcase their tortilla-making talents. This event raises funds for the health and wellness services provided by Clínica Tepeyac. Contestants include political leaders, media personalities, business and community leaders, and sports mascots. Tortillas for Tepeyac will be held Friday, May 8, 2020, from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Infinity Park Event Center in Glendale. For more information contact [Heather Orr](#), or visit this [website](#) to buy tickets.

### NNOHA Video Details Founding and History

The National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) put together an inspiring video detailing their founding and history. You'll see familiar Colorado faces such as Dr. John McFarland, retired dental director of Salud Family Health Centers and Colleen Lampron, former CCHN co-director of the Clinical Quality Division and former NNOHA Executive Director. NNOHA's mission is to improve the oral health of underserved populations and contribute to overall health through leadership, advocacy, and support to oral health providers in safety-net systems. Watch this great video [here](#)!

# Policy Update

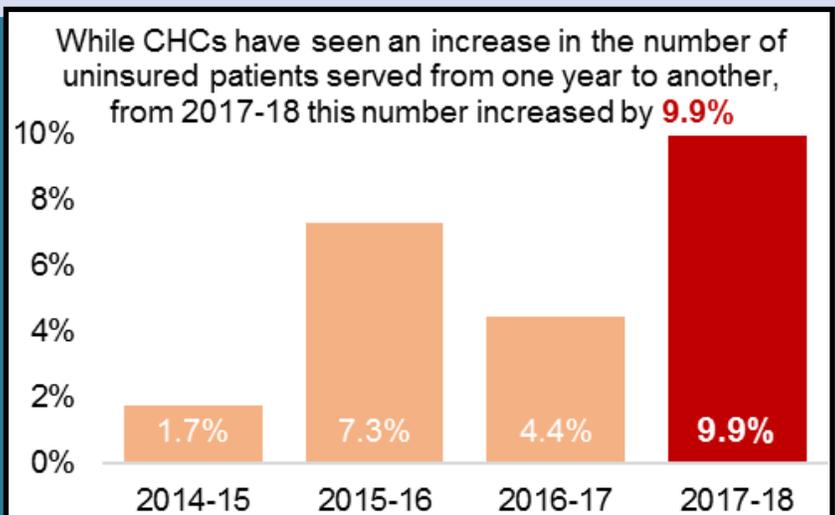
## Colorado Safety Net Seeing Drastic Rise in Number of Uninsured

Community Health Centers are currently experiencing a drastic and unexpected rise in the number of uninsured patients they are seeing. While CHCs have been working for the past few years to raise grants and donations to be able to open sites in areas previously underserved by the health care system, many are now seeing an increase in uninsured across the state. As Colorado's population has increased, so has the number of patients receiving their health care at CHCs, growing by three percent between 2017 and 2018. At the same time, the overall number of Medicaid patients at CHCs decreased by 3.2 percent. While the statewide uninsured rate was unchanged at 6.5 percent during this period, the number of uninsured patients at CHCs increased by 9.9 percent. In 2018, 22.9 percent of CHC patients were uninsured.

There are a number of things driving this trend. Changes to Medicaid enrollment and reenrollment processes make it harder for individuals to gain and maintain coverage. Some patients are afraid that utilizing Medicaid benefits that they are eligible for could impact future immigration status. Some individuals and families earn slightly too much to be eligible for Medicaid but are still unable to afford private health insurance, even with subsidies. Colorado's high cost of living leaves little money for health care expenses for many hard-working families and individuals.

What this means for CHCs is that the decrease in Medicaid enrollment is resulting in an estimated \$10.6M decrease in revenue for CHCs across the state. As a result, many CHCs are making or considering tough budgetary decisions including limiting hours and services, reducing staff hours and the number of patients seen, and closing sites.

CHCs care for 40 percent of the state's uninsured and need Colorado's investment to keep their commitment to care for Coloradans. The Colorado Legislature can help by investing in care for the uninsured at CHCs through a General Fund appropriation to the Primary Care Fund, Colorado Indigent Care Program, or a newly created program for the uninsured. CHCs will be visiting members of the General Assembly to share how these trends are impacting their communities.



### CHCs are a critical safety net for Colorado's uninsured.

Colorado's 21 Community Health Centers (CHCs) care for more than one in seven people in the state, including:

- 27% of Medicaid enrollees,
- 25% of CHP+ enrollees, and
- 40% of Colorado's uninsured.

Almost 92% of patients at Colorado CHCs have family incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$25,520 for an individual, \$52,400 for a family of four).

## 2020 State Legislative Session Begins

The second regular session of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Colorado General Assembly began on Jan. 8, 2020, and will continue until May 6, 2020. 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 issues impacting 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. In addition to the legislation mentioned in "CCHN Partners with Coalition for the Homeless on Legislative Fix for CHCs" (below), CCHN and CHCs will seek opportunities to address the rise in uninsured patients at CHCs as well as play a role in health system transformation efforts that come before the legislature.

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 updates.

## CCHN Partners with Coalition for the Homeless on Legislative Fix for CHCs

During this state legislative session, CCHN is working with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless to fix two significant issues with Medicaid reimbursement for Colorado's CHCs. The bill, [HB20-1092](#), aims to improve Medicaid reimbursement to CHCs for telemedicine and clinical pharmacists. Both updates should result in better access to care and higher quality of care for CHC patients, and appropriate reimbursement for these services for CHCs.

The bipartisan sponsors, Representatives Yadira Caraveo (D) and Perry Will (R), introduced the bill on Jan. 13, 2020. It will first be heard in the House Public Health Care and Human Services committee on Feb. 5, 2020. If the bill passes the House, it will be introduced in the Senate by bipartisan sponsors Senators Kerry Donovan (D) and Bob Rankin (R). For more information about this bill, please contact Stephanie Brooks at [sbrooks@cchn.org](mailto:sbrooks@cchn.org).



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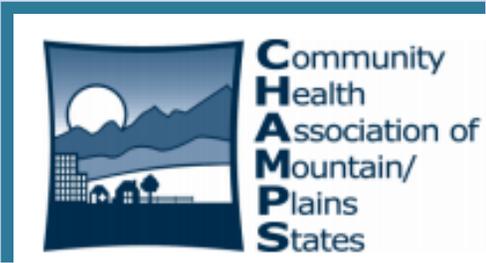
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## CHAMPS UPDATE

### 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.



This year CHAMPS' annual face-to-face training intensive for supervisors and managers from CHCs in Region VIII offering is CORE Competencies for First-Time CHC Supervisors and Managers, to be held in late April 2020 in the Denver, Colo. metro area. Lead trainer Lisa Mouscher of Sogence Training and Consulting will provide intensive, hands-on, and immediately applicable skill building to help participants successfully navigate management and supervisory roles in the fast-paced CHC environment. Designed for CHC supervisors and managers who have been in their positions for 18 months or less,

this training will offer a balance of face-to-face and virtual educational and networking components. More details and registration are coming soon. Learn more on the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage or contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).

CHAMPS and Denver Medical Society will be offering the annual Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals event April 24-27, 2020. 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. If you have any questions, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

Additionally, CHAMPS is offering a new CHAMPS Medical Spanish Language for Clinical Support Staff Training. This new two-day event is a medical Spanish course for those who speak conversational Spanish but need medical vocabulary and the more nuanced Spanish phrases needed to address sensitive medical conversations. Two days of instruction, a course book, and continuing medical education (CME) credit will be included in the cost. Click [here](#) to register and learn more about the training. If you have any questions, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#).

## CHPA UPDATE

### About CHPA

Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA) is a Clinically Integrated Accountable Care Organization (a collection of health providers that join together to improve care, reduce costs, and give coordinated high-quality care). There are 19 Community Health Centers (CHCs) across Colorado that are part of the CHPA network. CHPA formed the network of high-quality CHC practitioners to provide integrated physical, behavioral and oral health services and provide a patient-centered medical home to more than 610,000 Coloradans.

CHPA was formed by the CHCs in 2014 as a 501(c)(3) accountable care entity, which sets it apart from other Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). The mission is to focus on value-based care and outcomes, versus seeking volume-based profits or higher fee-for-service reimbursement. CHPA focuses on improving clinical and quality outcomes; increasing patient and provider satisfaction; and reducing the total cost of care.

CHPA serves its member CHCs and their communities by providing training, coaching, and expertise in comprehensive integrated primary care services, with a special focus on the medically underserved populations. Patients of CHPA's member CHCs benefit from CHPA's enhanced innovative care delivery model with high-quality services delivered regardless of the patient's ability to pay or their payer source. CHPA also works closely with the CHCs to improve quality, coding education, hierarchical condition category (HCC) and risk adjustment, increased annual wellness visits, and reducing ER visits.

CHPA holds agreements with several Medicare Advantage and Commercial payers, which aligns nicely with its overall focus on Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

Services CHPA can help CHCs with include:

- Contract guidance, assistance & Payer Relations
- Claims & Denials assistance
- Technical assistance with value-based care
- Quality and Performance Improvement
- Implementing Annual Wellness Visits and Chronic Care Management Programs/Processes
- Billing & Coding education and training
- HR Recruiting assistance

## CHPA Staff

Kerry Cogan, CEO, negotiates all contracts for CHPA. She works closely with the CHPA Board of Directors to develop company objectives. Kerry oversees all aspects of CHPA. Kerry also works with the CHPA team on value-based performance improvement and CHC data reporting to maximize value-based contracts.

Rosario Morales, Quality Program Manager, provides training and technical assistance to support Colorado's CHCs related to practice transformation and using clinical data for quality improvement, assists with data analysis and reporting packages, and develops standard reporting packages with Medicare information that is sent to CHCs monthly.

Brandi Nottingham, Director, Clinical Operations, is responsible for working directly with CHCs regarding Annual Wellness Visits, Chronic Care Management, HCC Coding and Risk Adjustment, and reducing ED visits. She will be meeting with all CHCs regularly to develop plans and processes to help improve quality objectives.

Joseph Berry, Operations Manager, develops project plans and oversees progress of ongoing CHPA initiatives and deliverables, supports CHPA contract reviews and negotiations, manages relationships with various payers, and tracks progress towards organizational goals and keeps CHCs and staff informed.

## CCHN STAFF UPDATE

### New Staff Members at CCHN

CCHN has some new faces!

Kate Kennedy joined the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) as a Quality Initiatives Specialist. Ms. Kennedy's primary responsibility is to facilitate the quality improvement capacity of Community Health Centers, especially related to oral health integration, by providing technical assistance, coaching, and practice facilitation. Specifically, she works with the Rocky Mountain Oral Health Network and supports a new Learning Community aimed at improving treatment plan completion among CHC dental programs. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Florida, and she is working on her master of public health online through the University of South Florida. She was the program coordinator for a pediatric mobile medical clinic in Tampa, Florida, from 2012 to

2019, and served as the co-chair of the Florida Coalition of the Mobile Healthcare Association. In her spare time, Ms. Kennedy enjoys hiking, reading, and eating pizza.

Sarah LaRue joined the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) as a Quality Initiatives Specialist. Ms. LaRue's primary responsibility is to work with Community Health Centers (CHCs) on integration of behavioral health services and substance disorder treatments. She earned a Master of Science in rehabilitation counseling from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She spent eight years delivering direct supportive services to adults with behavioral health diagnoses, many of whom faced homelessness. Most recently, Ms. LaRue worked with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation providing employment and disability management support to adults receiving publicly funded behavioral health services. In her free time, she is a published poet and enjoys live music, yoga, hot springs, and her orange cat.

John Tavenner joined the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) as an Accountant in August 2019. His primary responsibilities are general ledger accounting, tracking program budgets and expenditures, and preparing financial statements. Mr. Tavenner earned a Master of Arts in Accounting at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, and a Master of Business Administration at New York University with a concentration in finance, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Yale.

Melissa Wright joined the Policy Division as a Communications Assistant at the Colorado Community Health Network. She was previously the Administrative Assistant in Operations. Her responsibilities include providing support in communications, public affairs, and Covering Kids and Families (CKF) project tasks, and providing administrative support to the Policy Division. She graduated from California State University Fresno in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and literature, and has served her community through supportive roles in health care and education. In her time off, Ms. Wright enjoys baking and spending time with her family.

Bri Cordova joined the Colorado Community Health Network as the Administrative Assistant in January 2020. Her responsibilities include offering administrative support to all the divisions of CCHN; and providing high quality customer service to CHC members, partners, and the community. She also provides administrative support to the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS). Ms. Cordova holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management and minor in sociology from Regis University. In her free time, Ms. Cordova enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her dog Rhett.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **National Association of Community Health Centers Policy and Issues Forum (P&I)** **March 16-19, 2020** **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 to 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.



The NACHC P&I will provide an opportunity to gain a fresh understanding of how the political dynamics will affect key priorities and shape the future of Community Health Centers.

**Room blocks open – reserve now: NACHC P&I March 16-19, 2020**

- **Please note** this is a Monday-Thursday schedule rather than the Wednesday-Saturday schedule of prior years.

In addition, the committee meetings will precede the P&I, occurring on **March 13-15, 2020**.

Please make hotel reservations NOW as the hotel blocks fill up fast. [Go here](#) for NACHC’s conference hotel information – you can book online at this page using the NACHC/hotel custom reservation links. Hotels have differing cancelation and deposit policies – please see NACHC’s notes in red for each hotel. Registration for the P&I is now open and [posted here](#).

**CCHI Health Care Day of Action**

**Feb. 20, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is hosting its annual Health Care Day of Action on Feb. 20, 2020, 8:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. The half-day event is an opportunity for consumers and advocates from all over Colorado to discuss important health policy issues and engage with legislators on current health policy. At this event, advocates and consumers will learn about the legislative process and current health care legislation, hear from health care experts, and connect with legislators in the thick of the legislative session. 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 also a celebration of CCHI’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Learn more and register or donate [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](#).



## January 2020 Newsletter Contributors

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## About CCHN

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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 830,000 of their community members - 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 [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).



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