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Newsletter May 2009

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Coloradans Advocate for Community Health Centers in Nation's Capitol

In March, Community Health Center staff and board members traveled to Washington to discuss health care legislation and funding with members of Congress. They discussed health care reform, appropriations for Community Health Centers (CHCs), health care workforce issues, and Medicare with Colorado's senators and representatives.

Several members of the Colorado congressional delegation were honored for their support of CHCs and their patients. Rep. Diana DeGette received the highest congressional honor given by the National Association of



Rep. John Salazar (CD-3) holds up his Superhero award, presented by Donald Moore (right), CEO of Pueblo Community Health Center, March 26, 2009.

Community Health Centers (NACHC), the 2009 Distinguished Community Health Champion Award. She was honored for her leadership on issues that impact the more than 17 million people nationwide who rely on community, migrant, homeless and school-based Health Centers for their health care. The top award is given only to select members of Congress who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating their commitment and support for Health Centers nationwide.



Dr. Paul Melinkovich, CEO of Denver Health's Community Health Services, reads Champion Award citation to Rep. Diana DeGette (CD-1), March 26, 2009.

In addition, Superhero Awards were given to Reps. Ed Perlmutter and John Salazar and Sen. Mark Udall for demonstrating deep and steadfast support of CHCs and their patients.

Colorado Health Care Providers Honored With Loan Repayment Awards

Loan Repayment awards were given to a group of providers who serve Colorado's neediest populations. Two programs are offered in the state of Colorado for physicians willing to serve in rural or urban underserved areas of Colorado, including patients on Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Medicare and the uninsured.

The Colorado Health Foundation, in partnership with Colorado Community Health Network and Colorado Rural Health Center, announced round two awardees of The Colorado Health Foundation Physician Loan Repayment Program. More than two million dollars were awarded to these deserving physicians for their service to underserved communities:

Amy Alter-Pandya – Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Karen Funk – Clinica Family Health Services in Lafayette, Aline Hansen-Guzman – Salud Family Health Centers in Fort Morgan, Colleen Kepner – Clinica Family Health Services in Thornton, Amber Koch-Laking – Denver Community Health Services Westwood Clinic, Anna Lundeen – Northwest Colorado Community Health Center in Craig, Robert Magnuson – Peak Vista Community Health Center in Colorado Springs, Katherine Lorraine Rufner – Salud Family Health Center in Fort Lupton, Danielle Ann McClellan - East Phillips County Hospital District in Holyoke, Gabe Godina - South Federal Family Practice in Denver, Christine Hoppe - Summit Community Care Clinic in Frisco, Dan LaPerriere - Yuma District Hospital in Yuma, John Mathers - Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte, Gregory Suchon - The Pediatric Associates in Montrose, Troy Phillips - Moffat Family Clinic in Craig, and Alan Schultz - San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

The Colorado Health Care Loan Repayment Program, operated through ColleagueInvest and partially funded by the State of Colorado, is preparing to announce round two awardees. More than \$100,000 is available to physician and non-physician health care providers who serve Colorado's neediest populations.

For further information, please contact Tanah Wagenseller at tanah@cchn.org or 303.861.5165, ext 241.

Health Centers Improve Their Health Information Technology

Four CHCs were among the recipients of grants for Health Information Technology (HIT) from The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF). Clinica Family Health Services headquartered in Lafayette; Mountain Family Health Centers based in Glenwood Springs, Northwest Colorado Community Health Center in Craig, and Salud Family Health Centers headquartered in Fort Lupton shared in the funding provided to twelve nonprofit health care organizations.

The grants will help the organizations adopt electronic health records and related technologies. The goal is to provide more effective and efficient patient care. The grants are part of “Healthy Connections,” an initiative of TCHF aimed at increasing the use of information technology in safety-net clinics and creating the infrastructure necessary for health care providers to share information electronically.

For more details on the Healthy Connections program of The Colorado Health Foundation, please visit <http://www.coloradohealth.org/yellow.aspx?id=3592>.

Health Centers Respond to Flu Alert

Colorado CHCs were prepared when news of the H1N1 influenza outbreak broke in April. They have been working on pandemic flu planning for the last three years, supported by federal grant monies provided through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The CHCs quickly put their plans into action and began working with staff on the proper use of personal protective equipment. Some CHCs cleared specific providers’ schedules so that they could work exclusively with patients with acute respiratory symptoms. Clinics found ways to segregate patients with flu symptoms from other patients to prevent further spreading of illnesses.

The Health Centers also worked closely with the local public health departments to keep current on accurate and up-to-date information as well as access to needed antivirals. CCHN provided support, information, and direct contact with CDPHE.

The H1N1 strain in the U.S. has turned out to be weaker than the one in Mexico. Some CHCs have seen an increase in flu patients while others dealt mainly with the worried-well. The spring outbreak has given the CHCs an opportunity to test and improve their pandemic flu plans. This is essential because the H1N1 virus is expected to return in the fall and, if it follows the pattern of past pandemics, could be a much deadlier strain.

Health Center News From Around Colorado News Briefs

Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Ronald McDonald House Charities Partner on Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado have unveiled the thirty-fifth Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM). The RMCM will provide checkups, health education, immunizations, and medical and dental care for children through age 20 years old in need of a health care home. Medicaid, CHP+ and sliding scale for those without insurance will be accepted.



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is used by Peak Vista Community Health Services to provide check ups, health education, immunizations, and medical and dental care for children through age 20 years old in need of a healthcare home.

The RCMC program is a fleet of state-of-the-art vehicles that delivers cost-effective medical, dental and health education services directly to underserved children in their own neighborhoods. Unlike most mobile clinics, RCMCs are designed and built specifically as pediatric health care vehicles. Through a relationship with Peak Vista, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado developed and executed this RCMC program tailored to the specific needs of the Pikes Peak Region. The mobile is a 40-foot-long,



eight-foot-wide vehicle. It accommodates two patient rooms that double as dental operatories and medical exam rooms, a laboratory, a reception area and connection to specialty care.

BJ Scott, President and CEO of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, shares the front seat with project partner on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Beth Alessio, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado. Peak Vista has received \$1.3 million for mobile services as part of the ARRA.

Valley-Wide Receives Gold Standard Accreditation from Joint Commission

Valley-Wide Health Services, Inc. (Valley-Wide) was recently re-accredited by The Joint Commission, a national nonprofit that provides health care quality and safety accreditation and certification. The accreditation process lasted five days and included surveyors using the tracer methodology. This evaluation method in which surveyors select a patient, resident or client and use that individual's record as a roadmap to move through an organization to assess and evaluate the organization's compliance with selected standards and the organization's systems of providing care and services.. Valley-Wide has received accreditation since 1997. The official gold standard accreditation will be applied to Valley-Wide in a formal declaration in the near future.

Valley-Wide Announces New Computer System

Valley-Wide has expanded its use of technology, employing an electronic health system from NextGen, as a tool to enhance and improve the organization's ability to provide cutting-edge, safe, quality, and comprehensive care to patients, as well as to improve work environment efficiencies. Starting May 1, a new, modern practice management computer system is being used to assist in scheduling and billing of patient medical, dental and physical therapy visits. This is the first step in Valley-Wide's installation of a comprehensive and integrated health information system consisting of an Electronic Practice Management system (EPM) and an Electronic Health Record (EHR).



Sandy Beiriger, Valley-Wide's star employee for the NextGen system, stands next to the doors leading into the "NextGen Academy."

Colorado Homeless Advocate Elected Board President of National Organization

John Parvensky, president and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) since 1986, was elected president of the board of directors of the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) for a two-year term.

Mr. Parvensky became involved with NCH during 1987 while working to create and enact the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first federal legislation ever dedicated to homeless assistance programs. Through his guidance, CCH has become a national leader in developing model integrated health

care programs for homeless persons, while creating a new way of providing integrated, supportive housing for homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Mr. Parvensky spearheaded the development of more than 1,400 affordable housing units throughout the Denver Metropolitan area and directs the day-to-day activities of an organization that delivers housing, health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, counseling and other supportive services to more than 15,000 homeless men, women and children, each year.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Opens New Site

On April 7, 2009, CCH opened Renaissance Riverfront Lofts, offering a new supply of affordable housing for formerly homeless residents. CCH will provide residents a combination of on-site services and access to other health and supportive services through its Stout Street Clinic. Homeless service providers agree that an integrated and coordinated approach provides the best chances for success when housing is linked to health care, mental health and substance treatment, employment, vocational, and other support services.

Renaissance Riverfront Lofts meets the Green Communities guidelines established by Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. These nationally recognized standards deliver greater energy efficiency, water efficiency, indoor air quality and sustainable use of space in affordable housing projects. In addition, CCH worked with City Councilwoman Judy Montero and neighborhood organizations to ensure that the project not only met the needs of the new residents, but supported the redevelopment of the River North neighborhood.



CCH President John Parvensky and new resident Gerald Robert, at the grand opening of Renaissance Riverfront Lofts, April 7, 2009.



Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien, center right, along with Salud staff and patients, participates in Día de Los Niños activities.

Lieutenant Governor Joins Salud to Celebrate Día de Los Niños

Colorado Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien participated in Salud's Día de Los Niños celebration on April 24. She spoke at an enrollment fair at which eligible children and pregnant moms received help enrolling for coverage of health care through the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) program and Medicaid.

Salud-Longmont has celebrated Día de Los Niños for eleven years. Día de Los Niños (Day of the Child) is recognized nationally within the Latino culture as a day to celebrate children.

POLICY UPDATE

State Legislative Session Ends, Economy Affects Decisions

Colorado's 2009 legislative session ended May 6. This session was marked by difficult choices to balance the state's \$17.9 billion budget in the midst of a significant budgetary shortfall brought on by the severe economic downturn and sharply declining state revenues. Many lawmakers agreed the biggest accomplishment of the session was the act of balancing the state's budget, which required draining as much as possible from cash funds and reserves, trimming spending and raising revenue where possible.

Here are the highlights for Colorado CHCs:

HB09-1111, Health Resources for Underserved Areas: In order to maximize the effectiveness of programs supporting rural and underserved communities in Colorado, this legislation strengthens the state's student loan forgiveness program for health care providers in underserved areas and establishes in statute the Primary Care Office in the Department of Public Health and Environment. The bill has been sent to Gov. Ritter for signature.

HB09-1164, Surcharge Breast Cancer Special Plates: This legislation is aimed at ultimately expanding breast and cervical cancer treatment services through Medicaid for low-income women by adding a \$25 surcharge on breast cancer awareness license plates. HB 1164 also allows for gifts, grants and donations to be collected, and authorizes the state to expand and sustain eligibility for the program when sufficient funds are available.

HB09-1293, Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act: This legislation will assess a fee on hospitals which, when matched with federal funding, is expected to generate \$1.2 billion to increase hospital Medicaid reimbursement and expand state health coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans through Medicaid and CHP+. The funds will help make health care more affordable for consumers and businesses by reducing uncompensated care and cost-shifting, two leading causes of sky-rocketing health costs. Gov. Ritter signed the bill on April 21.

SB09-228, Flexibility to Use State Revenues: SB 228 is a budget reform bill that repeals the Arveschoug-Bird six percent spending limit in the state budget. This 1991 provision allowed Colorado's General Fund to grow by only six percent per year. It also ratchets down the state's General Fund in lean years making it harder to recover when the economy rebounds.

Now, under SB 228, spending growth is linked to five percent of the state's personal income growth. It also sets up a rainy day fund for the state, guarantees funding for transportation under a compromise brokered by Gov. Bill Ritter, and puts Colorado in a stronger position to withstand and recover from recessions. Gov. Ritter is expected to sign the bill.

SB09-271, Emergency Use Tobacco Tax Revenues (Primary Care Fund): The size of the Primary Care Fund cut was reduced from a proposed \$15 million cut to a \$7.4 million cut. SB 271 states that "up to \$15 million" may be transferred from the Primary Care Fund. However, the appropriations clause will take \$7.4 million. If the Legislature wants to take additional dollars, they must do so with new legislation. SB 271 also transfers funds from the Tobacco Education Programs Fund and the Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Fund in Amendment 35. The state health department has indicated they can implement these budget cuts with minimal impact on current grantees and programs. Gov. Ritter is expected to sign the bill.

Health Centers' 2009 State Legislative Advocacy

In February, CCHN hosted its annual Policy and Issues (P & I) Forum. This event provides Health Center staff and board members an opportunity to learn about CCHN's top legislative priorities for the current session, and spend a day at the state capitol speaking with their elected officials about these priorities. The 2009 P&I drew more than 85 Health Center advocates, who met with 45 of the state's 65 legislators. Also during this year's event CCHN recognized the 2009 Community Health Advocate: Dayna Dorobiala of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, and Community Health Champions: Sen. Moe Keller (SD – 20); Rep. Dianne Primavera (HD – 33); Dr. Martin Koschnitzke, volunteer clinician for Salud Family Health Centers; and Fox Sports Network – Rocky Mountain Region.



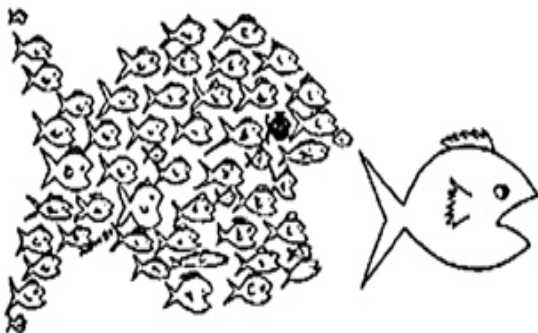
CCHN's youngest advocate, Tate Brooks, son of CCHN's Chief Operations Officer Ross Brooks and Lindsey Brooks, sleeps in the sun while CCHN and CHC employees and partners rally for Health Care.

While CCHN's P & I kicked off CHC advocates' legislative activities, advocates remained informed and engaged throughout the legislative session through CCHN's grassroots advocacy network. More 1,300 CHC advocates from across Colorado are signed – up in this system and 667 participated in call-to-actions, sending 2,623 e-mails to all members of the legislator. Health Center advocates contacted their legislators during the budget process, urging them to protect vital Amendment 35 (tobacco tax) funding including the Primary Care Fund (PCF) used to expand health care for children and low income Coloradans. They also advocated support for HB09-1164 aimed at expanding breast and cervical cancer treatment services for low-income women through a \$25 surcharge on breast cancer awareness license plates.

Health Center advocates strong advocacy efforts helped reduce the proposed \$15 million PCF cut to a \$7.4 million cut, and pass HB08-1164.



Pete Leibig, CEO of Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., speaks at a rally on April 21, 2009, about state budget cuts to health care.



Get Active and Influence Policy

You can get active and make your voice heard by your elected officials. Sign up for CCHN e-mails about legislation affecting health care and your CHC. You will receive action alerts that have specific, easy to understand ways to talk to your legislators. How do you get active? Go to www.cchn.org, click on **Get Active!**, enter your information, and respond to any action alerts. For more information please contact Katie Jacobson, CCHN Policy Manager, at katie@cchn.org or (303) 861-5165 ext. 240.

Recommendations Offered for Application Maze

Colorado Covering Kids and Families' (CKF) new report, "The Maze: The Barriers That Keep Colorado's Eligible Children and Families out of Medicaid and CHP+ and Recommendations to Create a Direct Path to Enrollment," explores more than 40 barriers that create Colorado's complicated eligibility maze in Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). In the report, CKF provides 20 concrete recommendations for legislative and administrative policy reforms to simplify Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility system, including improvements that can be implemented in the next year. The full report can be downloaded at: http://www.cchn.org/ckf/pdf/CKF_Report_The_Maze_April_2009.pdf. For more information about the report, contact Stacey Moody, CKF Project Director at stacey@cchn.org or (303)861-5165 x 249.

2009 CCHN Policy and Issues Forum Health Care Champions



Sen. Moe Keller (D-20) accepts her Health Care Champion Award from BJ Scott, Peak Vista CEO and CCHN 2009 Policy and Issues Forum master of ceremonies.



Rep. Dianne Primavera (D-33) accepts her Health Care Champion Award from BJ Scott.



Kenny Marks (left – green shirt) and Larry Nettingham (center) of Fox Sports Network - Rocky Mountain Region join Dave Myers (holding poster), Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) CEO, and other MCPN employees to celebrate FSN-RMR's recognition as Community Health Champions.



Dr. Koschnitzke, volunteer clinician for Salud Family Health Centers, is joined by his son and daughter to accept his Community Health Champion Award.



Dayna Dorobiala (center) the 2009 Community Health Advocate, celebrates her award with (from left to right) Cindy Ellis and Casey Corey, Peak Vista board members, BJ Scott, Peak Vista CEO, and George Guerrero. Peak Vista board chair.

CLINICAL QUALITY UPDATE

Clinical Quality Award Recognition

CCHN Clinical Quality Division is honoring individuals and CHCs who have met specific standards of clinical quality. Recognition is given this year through the disbursement of letters of commendation, award certificates or plaques, in place of the annual CCHN Clinical Quality Reception. The following are recognized:

- Women's Wellness Connection (WWC) award plaques go to High Plains Community Health Center and Pueblo Community Health Center for program excellence based on maintaining all quality core indicators for two quarters of this state fiscal year.
- Award plaques go to Plains Medical Center and Mountain Family Health Centers for excellence in patient tracking for maintaining the four clinical quality core indicators for abnormal test results for two quarters of this state fiscal year.
- Sunrise Community Health receives a certificate of honorable mention for quality excellence.
- Award certificates are presented in recognition of immunization rates of 80 percent or higher, based on Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices standards for 2 year-olds during the 2007 assessment year. The following CHC sites receive awards: High Plains, Pueblo, Sterling Clinic from Salud Family Health Centers, Jeffco Clinic and South Aurora Family Health Services from MCPN, Fremont Family Medical Center from Valley-Wide Health Systems, and the following Denver Health Community Health Services sites: the Pediatric Clinic of the Bernard Gipson Eastside Family Health Center; Webb Family and Internal Medicine Clinic and Webb Pediatric Clinic, both in the Wellington E. Webb Center for Primary Care; La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health and Counseling Center; Lowry Family Health Center; Montbello Family Health Center; Park Hill Family Health Center; the Pediatric Clinic of the Sam Sandos Westside Family Health Center; and Westwood Family Health Center.
- Lynn Bakken, pediatric nurse practitioner – board certified (PNP-BC), from Stein Kids Clinic associated with MCPN, received an award certificate for outstanding immunization practices.

Colorado CHCs Receive Komen Funding to Continue Breast Cancer Screening

The Healthy Woman Outreach Project (HWOP) has been awarded funding beginning April 1, 2009, by the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Denver Metropolitan Affiliate, to continue patient breast cancer screening and diagnostic testing through March 2010. CHCs participating in the effort are Clinica, MCPN, Mountain Family - Black Hawk, Plains - Strasburg, and Salud. The goal is to provide 1,000 mammograms for underserved patients with no other options.

During the 2008-2009 year, 1,375 patients were served by HWOP. Screening provided early detection of breast cancer in twelve patients and four of these occurred in women under the age of forty years. Six men were provided with diagnostic testing services. The Komen support assists an underserved patient population who may not otherwise have options for access to breast cancer screening services.

For more information, please contact Brenda Lantz at brenda@cchn.org.

Plains Medical Center Receives Gift from Two Local High School Seniors

Two high school seniors raised money to fill the gap in women's health for women not eligible for WWC or HWOP services recommended by the patients' health care providers. Carolyn Juranek, case manager for Women's Wellness Connection (WWC) and CCHN's Healthy Woman Outreach Project (HWOP) at Plains Medical Center, was presented with a check for \$4,610.90 during the Flagler - Seibert High School

basketball game half-time in March. The seniors raised the money serving in Future Business Leaders of America during golf tournaments and volleyball serving contests.

CCHN's condolences go out to the family of one of the seniors, who became ill from influenza in January and passed away from complications of the viral infection.

The Women's Wellness Connection program is supported by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

CHAMPS UPDATE

Training Opportunities to Promote Customer Service

CHAMPS will be hosting two upcoming distance learning events addressing customer service within health centers, to be presented by Lisa Mouscher, organizational learning facilitator with Integrated Work Strategies (IWS).

SESSION 1: THE CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

(http://www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp#CustSvcMGR)

Live teleconference, June 1, 2009, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Target audience: Human Resources staff and other managers

Topics:

- The Critical Nature of Customer Service in Health Care
- Defining a "Culture of Customer Service"
- Customer Service Best Practices for Managers: Hiring, Training, and Walking the Talk
- Standards, Policies, and Procedures: Guidelines and Guideposts
- The Role of Accountability: the Key to Success

Please Note: This event includes time to solicit input from participants regarding issues of particular concern to be addressed in the July Customer Service webcast for all health center staff and board members (see below).

Registration: This event will take place over the phone, and advance registration is required. Please contact Nadine Carr at nadine@champsonline.org or (303) 861-5165, ext. 221 by **June 9, 2009**. Call-in information and handouts will be emailed to all registrants one day before the live event.

Cost: Attendance is free for participants from CHAMPS Organizational Members, including CME credit. To determine current membership, please visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/About/CHAMPS/Org_Members.asp. Non-member participants will be billed \$50 per phone line after the event.

SESSION 2: CUSTOMER SERVICE: THE ART OF CARING

(http://www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp#CustSvcALL)

Live webcast, July 22, 2009, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Target audience: All Health Center Staff and Board Members

Topics:

- The Critical Nature of Customer Service in Health Care
- Handling Challenging Situations with Confidence, Competence and Caring
- Making the Most of Each Interaction: the Small Things Make a Big Difference
- Communication through Listening: Hearing the Spoken and Unspoken Messages
- Stress Management Techniques: Taking Care of Yourself So You Can Take Care of Others

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credit: 1.5 hours of CME credit will be offered for this webcast (determination of credit is pending).

Registration: This event will take place online, and advance registration is required at least 24 hours before the event. To register, please visit <https://comp08.eventcenterlive.com/cfm/ec/register/reg.cfm?BID=1&RegID=E8B6A8DC>. Handouts and log-in information will be emailed to all registrants the day before the event.

Cost: Attendance is free for participants from CHAMPS Organizational Members, including CME credit. To determine current membership, please visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/About/CHAMPS/Org_Members.asp. Non-member participants will be billed \$75 per webcast link and \$15 per person for CME credit.

Each session will include an interactive question-and-answer session, and participants will leave each session with concrete resources and immediately useable skills for improving customer service within their Health Center. A printable flyer for these two events can be downloaded from: <http://www.champsonline.org/Events/DistanceDocuments/CustomerServiceSeriesFlyerJuneJuly2009.pdf>.

Please contact Andrea Martin at 303-861-5165, ext. 285, or andrea@champsonline.org, with questions.

CCHN STAFF UPDATE

CCHN Welcomes Three New Staff Members

Brittney Petersen is the policy analyst for Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF). Brittney joined CCHN, the lead agency for CKF, in February 2009. Her primary responsibility is to analyze Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ policies and make recommendations to reduce the barriers to enrollment and re-enrollment for thousands of eligible families in our state. Ms. Petersen earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University and a Master of Science degree from Regis University. Prior to joining CKF, Ms. Petersen worked at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials on primary care and public health services projects. Ms. Petersen's principal role was to promote and support primary health care services and help define and market the function and value of state public health agencies.

Christy Trimmer joined CCHN as Field Coordinator for CKF in March 2009. She is responsible for working with Community Health Centers and CKF's partners to support their work in enrolling eligible children and families into Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus*. Ms. Trimmer earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in public health policy and management from the University of Arizona. Prior to CKF, Ms. Trimmer did policy and advocacy work to improve the ability of migrant farmworkers to access health and social services in southern Arizona. She also helped develop a school-based outreach and enrollment plan for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Plan. In addition, Ms. Trimmer was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mojocoya, Bolivia, where she worked as a health education teacher at the local junior and senior high schools.

Bette Brassfield joined CCHN in May 2009 as the Clinical Project Coordinator for the Immunization Program. Her primary responsibilities include program management and assisting CHCs in forming and operating high quality practices consistent with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. Ms. Brassfield holds a doctorate and a master's degree in public administration through the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado, a bachelor's degree in nursing from California State University at Long Beach, and certification as a women's health care nurse practitioner through University of California – Los Angeles. Ms. Brassfield has extensive experience in public, private and nonprofit management and clinical care.

Please visit http://www.cchn.org/about_us/jobs.asp for current job openings at CCHN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Changing Landscape of Homelessness: Creative Solutions in Challenging Times

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

The Colorado Convention Center, Downtown Denver

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Through dialog with national and local experts and interactive breakout sessions, CCH will explore how community stakeholders can continue to create lasting solutions to homelessness in the midst of economic uncertainties and growing levels of need, particularly among newly homeless persons and families. For more information and to register, please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/what_we_do/education_programs.aspx.

Colorado Rural Health Center's 2009 Annual Rural Health Conferences

June 25-26
Fort Morgan

August 6-7
Glenwood Springs

July 16-17
Alamosa

August 27-28
Rocky Ford

The 18th Annual Rural Health Conferences, presented by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), provide participants from a variety of healthcare sectors with information, resources, and networking opportunities. The sessions have been tailored to the needs of each representative region, and CRHC plans to provide up-to-date information and tangible solutions to pressing issues. Each conference will consist of optional pre-conference workshops, an evening welcome reception, conference sessions, and meals. Additionally, CRHC will honor individuals with the 2009 Rural Health Excellence Award. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Registration materials and addition information can be found at: <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/ACRegistration.pdf>. **Registration deadlines for each conference are a week before the conference dates.**

Save the Date

August 9-15, 2009

National Health Center Week

August 21-25, 2009

2009 Community Health Institute and Expo

Chicago, Ill.

October 22, 2009

Colorado Workforce Summit

Denver, Colo.

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CCHN is supported in part by the Bureau of Primary Health Care of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through technical and non-financial assistance to Community Health Centers (Grant number 4 H68CS00151-10-01). 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, communications manager, at 303-861-5165 ext. 259 or Maureen@cchn.org.