



## Newsletter February 2006

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## HEALTH CENTER NEWS

### ☞ IN MEMORY ☜

David Wearly, D.D.S., former dental director at Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) passed away on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006. Dave is survived by his wife Marianne and their three children.

Dave worked with MCPN from December 2002 until September 2005, when he decided to open his own dental clinic in Parker, Colo. He was an integral part in putting together the dental services at MCPN as well as bridging the gap between the academic environment and the business environment. He worked as an assistant professor for the University of Colorado School of Dentistry and as such, brought many students to enhance MCPN's dental services.



Prior to joining MCPN, Dave worked at Eastside Community Health Center. In addition, he volunteered services with the Colorado Foundation of the Handicapped and State Migrant Program, was dental director at Howard Dental Center serving HIV+ and AIDS patients, was a dentist for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and served as a dental officer in the United States Air Force.



From left to right, Dr. Woods, formerly of Marillac clinic, Dr. Wearly, and Bev Sleight, hygienist.

As it was Dave's nature to give, at the end of his life he continued to give. Dave's family followed his last wish to allow any viable organs to be donated to people in need. His family wishes for contributions be made to the charity of your choice.

Dave was a kind and gentle soul and will be greatly missed.



## Colo. Coalition for the Homeless Award Nominations Due

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) is accepting nominations for their Creating Lasting Solutions Award. This award acknowledges individuals and organizations that have set the standard for excellence in serving and advocating for Colorado's homeless. Award categories include Outstanding Volunteer Award, Media Service Award, Community Spirit Award, Michael Gilbert Outstanding Achievement Award, Mitch Snyder Memorial Advocacy Award, and the Father Ed Judy Memorial Award for faith-based organizations. The awards will be given at CCH's 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference on May 17, 2006. Please visit [www.coloradocoalition.org](http://www.coloradocoalition.org) as soon as possible to download the nomination form.

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## Salud to Break New Ground

Salud Family Health Centers is breaking ground in Estes Park for a new 11,000 sq. foot clinic. The new clinic will include eight medical exam rooms and three dental operatories. Salud has served the Estes Park community since 1992 and has experienced continued growth each year. Please join Salud FHC to celebrate this momentous occasion. The groundbreaking will be held 11 a.m. on Feb. 24 at the corner of Dry Gulch Road and Red Tail Hawk Drive. A reception will follow at the Good Samaritan (adjacent to the site). Please call Jennifer at (720) 322-9402 or Lynn at (970) 586-1677 to R.S.V.P.

## Pueblo to Host Mardi Gras Casino Night

Pueblo Community Health Center's annual Mardi Gras Casino Night is rapidly approaching. In light of Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact, PCHC will donate a portion of the evening's proceeds to New Orleans-area Community Health Centers. Please contact Janet Fieldman at 719-543-8718, ext.152 or [Janet.Fieldman@pueblochc.org](mailto:Janet.Fieldman@pueblochc.org); or visit <http://www.pueblochc.org/2006mqcn.htm>.

## Dr. Melinkovich Appointed Director of Denver Community Health Services

Paul Melinkovich, M.D., has been appointed director of Denver Community Health Services, Inc. Melinkovich was previously interim manager while a search was conducted for a successor to Richard Wright, CHS director, who retired in November 2005. Melinkovich is a 29-year Denver Health employee.

As director, Melinkovich is responsible for all ambulatory care at Denver Health, including nine family health centers and 11 school-based health centers. CHS has more than 350,000 patient visits annually. Melinkovich attended the University of Wyoming and earned his medical degree from the University of Washington. He completed his residency in pediatrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.



## Homeless Coalition Starting Rural Women's Health Coordinating Center

When compared to urban Americans, rural and frontier residents have higher poverty rates, tend to be in poorer health, have fewer physicians and fewer health resources. Rural and frontier women are also more likely to suffer from heart disease, hypertension and cancer than urban women residents. In an effort to work against this trend in Colorado, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health are developing a rural/frontier women's health coordinating center on the Northern Front Range.

Currently in its early stages, this initiative will provide:

- Networking in the community to form alliances linking existing resources,
- Efforts to foster the leadership and advocacy skills of women,
- Facilitation of research in women's health in the communities, and
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate training and education in women's health for the public and health care professionals.

For more information about the program, contact Martha Leidheiser, CCH Department of Education and Advocacy at 303-293-2217.

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## **Peak Vista Help with Medicare Part D Breaks Records**

More than 100 Medicare patients attended a Medicare Part D event hosted by Peak Vista Community Health Centers on Jan. 20. They met with Social Security and the Senior Insurance Assistance Program for application help and Part D information. Social Security Administration (SSA) staff reported that they received 58 applications for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) that day, which “broke records for any SSA event in the six-state region.”

Medicare patient encounters represent more than 10% of annual patient visits at Peak Vista, up from only 2% a few years ago. Often, Peak Vista’s Medicare patients have incomes too high for Medicaid, but too low for the purchase of private supplemental insurance that covers medications. As a result, in the past, some enrolled in the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) to cover simple generic prescriptions and applied to patient assistance programs to obtain more expensive medicines. On Jan. 1, 2006, those programs began pulling out of Medicare drug coverage since Part D had become available to beneficiaries in need.

Choosing a Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) can be complex. There are 17 PDPs with more than 40 tiers to choose from in Colorado. In addition, PDPs can be more costly, for example, than the simple fees of CICP. However, low-income Medicare beneficiaries can qualify for the LIS by applying to the SSA for reduced Part D monthly premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance. In October 2005, Peak Vista sent postcards inviting their enrolled Medicare/CICP patients to the clinic-hosted event staffed by SSA.

For more information about Peak Vista’s efforts around Medicare Part D, visit [www.peakvista.org](http://www.peakvista.org). To share information about CHC best practices, please contact Rebekah Shardy of Peak Vista at (719) 228-6602.

## **People's Clinic's 'Diabetes Recall Letter' Selected as National Model**

People's Clinic's "Diabetes Recall Letter," sent in October 2005 to patients with diabetes, was selected by the Health Disparities Network, part of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, to be used as a model tool for CHCs throughout the country. The letter was sent to People's patients with diabetes who had not seen their Primary Care Physician in the last four to 12 months. The letter encouraged patients to receive diabetes follow-up care and to get a flu shot. The letter will be posted at [www.healthdisparities.net](http://www.healthdisparities.net) (go to "community" and to "library.")

## **Clinica and Private Practice Community Linked to Improve Patient Care**

Clinica Campesina Family Health Services and a group of health care organizations and physicians in the Denver area have put together the final pieces of a comprehensive patient information network. As part of joining the network, the private physicians have agreed to open their panels to individuals who are uninsured or have Medicare and Medicaid. The network is one of the first in the nation to build an electronic patient information network linking a CHC and its low-income patients with private practices. iPN Avista, a regional health information organization, uses an electronic medical record (EMR) system from NextGen Healthcare Information Systems to link Clinica Campesina, Colorado Access, Avista Adventist Hospital and independent physicians from 14 private practices at 19 sites.

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## POLICY UPDATE

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“As you know, nearly 800,000 Coloradans are uninsured – that’s more than one out of every six people in this state. The emergency room should not be their primary source of treatment. A neighborhood clinic can fill the gap. Let’s invest in community health centers throughout Colorado. That’s a proven, cost-effective approach.”

*Andrew Romanoff, Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, to the legislature on Jan. 10, 2006, opening day of 2006 legislative session*

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CCHN has been working closely with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Rep. Betty Boyd and a coalition of health care advocates on a bill to streamline Medicaid and CHP+. The bill has not been introduced yet in the legislature. HCPF announced that they are working on a fiscal impact analysis and should have it done by April 1. It is unlikely that the bill will be introduced before the analysis is complete.

While the legislature debates how to spend Referendum C dollars, they are also debating if there is even enough money to restore some previous budget cuts, let alone fund any “new” programs. The Joint Budget Committee has expressed interest in restoring some of the budget cuts for mental health services through community mental health centers for medically indigent patients.

There are three bills to date that propose using some Ref. C funds for health care services. S.B. 44 would allocate Ref. C money to the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP), thus doubling it through federal matching dollars. S.B. 35 offers a premium subsidy program to help people who are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to purchase their employers’ health insurance plan. Lastly, H.B. 1167 recommends premium subsidies to help lower-income people eligible for CoverColorado afford that program’s premiums. For more legislative information please contact Elizabeth Garbe at [elizabeth@cchn.org](mailto:elizabeth@cchn.org).

The Vote Yes on C & D campaign will be hosting an “Accountability Tour” with a series of regional town hall meetings. The meetings will feature educational and informational briefings on Colorado’s state budget and how Referendum C monies are incorporated. For questions about the meetings, contact Laurie Hirschfeld Zeller, Bell’s senior political advisor, by calling (303) 297-0456 in metro Denver, (866) 283-8051 toll-free in Colorado, or by e-mail to [zeller@thebell.org](mailto:zeller@thebell.org).

## CLINICAL UPDATE

### Health Disparities Collaboratives Make Progress

The West Central Cluster Health Disparities Collaboratives Phase I close-out will be held in Denver on Sunday, March 12. All of the Phase I teams are invited to celebrate their continued dedication, hard work and success in sustaining and spreading the Health Disparities Collaboratives throughout their organization and community. This final meeting of Phase I teams will provide them with an opportunity to show off their storyboards, receive recognition for their achievements, and welcome them to Phase II of the Health Disparities Collaboratives. The West Central Cluster Phase II Regional Summit for the Health Disparities Collaboratives teams in New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado will be held in Denver, Colorado at the Grand Hyatt Denver on March 13 and 14.

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## Pediatric Dental Training a Success

CCHN and Patrick Harrison, D.D.S., dental director of Sunrise Community Health Center, organized a course on pediatric training for general dentists for the Colorado Oral Health Network in December 2005. The filled-to-capacity course covered techniques and tips for working with children under the age of 3 years. Dr. Greg Evans, a pediatric dentist in Fort Collins, taught the one-day course. Eighteen dentists and dental assistants participated in the training. One participant commented that the course "...makes me excited about trying new techniques and helping more kids."

## WORKFORCE UPDATE

### CCHN Awards Health Professions Initiative Scholarships

CCHN announced the second round of Health Professions Initiative (HPI) Scholarship Awards on Feb. 13, 2006. The awardees, with their professional goals, are:

- Delfina Ramirez, Clinica Campesina (associate degree in nursing)
- Cherri Lyons, Valley-Wide Health Systems (expanded functions dental assistant certification)
- Christina Rodriguez, Valley-Wide (expanded functions dental assistant certification)
- Jessica Sparks, Valley-Wide (expanded functions dental assistant certification)
- Loan Kieu, Peak Vista (licensed practical nursing certification)
- Melynda Caddell, Salud Family Health Center (bachelor's degree in dental hygiene)
- Pamela Berg, Denver Health (bachelor's degree in nursing)
- Peal LaGrange, People's Clinic (dental assistant certification)
- Shae Emick, High Plains Community Health Center (associates degree in nursing)
- Tavita Chacon, Peak Vista (expanded functions dental assistant certification)
- Violet Martinez, Valley-Wide (expanded functions dental assistant certification)

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.cchn.org/activities/scholarships-loan-repayment.asp> or contact Amber Galloway at [amber@cchn.org](mailto:amber@cchn.org) or 303.861.5165, ext. 234.

## CHC RESOURCES

### More Data About the Good Quality of Health Centers

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) once again cites Health Centers extensively for their achievements in improving access for and providing quality care. AHRQ concludes in its 2005 National Healthcare Disparities Report that Health Centers "are vital sources of health care for many low income individuals." The report also highlights Health Center efforts to provide high-quality care in the battle against chronic disease. The report documents that there are no disparities across race/ethnicity, education, or insurance coverage lines in providing diet advice to obese Health Center patients. The report, with the 2005 National Healthcare Quality Report, is available at <http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov/>.

### Guidelines Web Page Updated

CHAMPS has updated its Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines Web page in a partnership with Colorado Clinical Guidelines Collaborative and Kaiser Permanente. Guideline updates include use of antibiotics, asthma evaluation and treatment, and the diagnosis and management of depression in adults. Future topics include obesity prevention and treatment, and screening for gestational diabetes. Please go to [http://www.championline.org/tools/ClinicalResources/EvidenceBasedClinicalGuidelines/guidelines\\_list.asp](http://www.championline.org/tools/ClinicalResources/EvidenceBasedClinicalGuidelines/guidelines_list.asp).

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## Health Education Loan Repayment Available

The deadline for applying for the spring Colorado Rural Outreach Program (CROP) awards available from the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is **March 1**. These awards are given to rural facilities as a recruitment incentive for a health care professional not yet hired, or as a retention tool for a provider currently on staff who has educational loans. Funding can also be requested to support innovative ideas that pay for coverage to allow health care providers to take vacations or attend CME events, or to provide general temporary relief/locums tenens. For more information, contact CRHC at (800) 851-6782 or (303) 832-7493, or go to [www.coruralhealth.org](http://www.coruralhealth.org) and click on CROP.

## CHAMPS UPDATE

### New CHC Board Resources Available on CHAMPS Website

CHAMPS has compiled and developed a selection of online resources for Community Health Center executive directors and board of directors members to help Region VIII CHCs build and maintain strong and effective governance structures. Visit [www.champsonline.org/Tools/CHCBoardResources](http://www.champsonline.org/Tools/CHCBoardResources) for tools and tips about board composition and recruitment, board member orientation and retention, effective board meetings, board committees, evaluation and assessment, continuing board education, and more.

### Upcoming CHAMPS Webcasts for CHC Staff

Opportunities for continuing professional development are available online for CHC staff members. CHAMPS webcasts are designed to meet the unique needs of health centers throughout Region VIII. Each offers 1.5 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. Region VIII Community, Migrant, and Homeless health centers may participate free of charge (including CME), although advance registration is required. Please visit [www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance\\_Learning.asp](http://www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp) for more details about each event, and to link directly to online registration pages for both webcasts.

<b>Chronic Pain: Optimizing Treatment, Minimizing Abuse</b>	<b>Dealing with the Cranky, Crusty, and Crabby: Serving the Difficult Customer</b>
Presented by Richard L. Brown, M.D., M.P.H.	Presented by Kevin R. Miller
Tuesday, April 11, 2006	Thursday, June 15, 2006
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time	11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time

## CCMCN UPDATE

### Clinical Information Technology Council Convened

CCMCN's newly-established Clinical Information Technology (CIT) Council convened in December 2005. The CIT Council is formulating goals and strategies for a clinical information technology network. Its members include CHC CEOs, medical directors, information technology professionals, and operations directors. The objective is to share information, resources and experiences as clinics implement new information technology systems.

### Guidelines Efforts Continue with Smoking Cessation Partnership

CCMCN continues its clinical guidelines implementation efforts. To date over 100 providers have participated in the archived version of the continuing medical education webcast presentation "Managing Acute Otitis Media." For more information please contact Susan Roughton at [susan@cchn.org](mailto:susan@cchn.org). CCMCN is also beginning a smoking cessation guidelines implementation effort partnering with Jeffrey Cain, M.D., of University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Children's Hospital.

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## Committee Seeks to Improve Services for Disabled Persons

CCMCN continues its work with the Medicaid Disability Redesign Committee (MDRC) to improve health care for people with disabilities (PWD) served by Colorado's Medicaid program. The committee is creating a pilot program to serve PWD. Features of the program will include consumer direction, increased access to quality primary and long-term care, care coordination for clients, and reduced hospitalizations and institutionalization. Please contact Molly Brown at [molly@cchn.org](mailto:molly@cchn.org) for more information.

## CCHN STAFF UPDATE

### Clinical Quality Director to Be Missed

In January, CCHN bade a sad and fond farewell to Colleen Lampron, clinical quality division director. Colleen has moved on to other endeavors, and will be greatly missed at CCHN.

Colleen joined CCHN in September 1995, working on the Together for Tots Immunization project of the Bureau for Primary Health Care and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She took a one-year leave of absence from CCHN to earn her master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She then returned to CCHN and began working with safety net dental providers to develop the Colorado Oral Health Network, enhancing access to oral health care for underserved Coloradans. She also oversaw the Healthy Woman Outreach Project, increasing availability to culturally competent breast health care for uninsured patients. In addition, Colleen served the CHC community by participating in state and national workgroups to improve clinical care at Colorado Health Centers. Colleen was selected co-chair of the National Oral Health Disparities Pilot Collaborative, which she was pivotal in developing.



Colleen Lampron and Patrick Harrison, DDS, Sunrise CHC

CCHN staff agrees they will miss her at the office very much. One described her as “a one-woman oral health machine.” Qualities staff described to Colleen's credit included limitless curiosity, professionalism, humble leadership, and ongoing learner. Her contributions to the underserved communities of Colorado will have lasting impacts long after her departure.

For the near future, Colleen plans to spend more time with her family and teach parenting classes.

### CCHN Grows in January

Paula Davis is the new clinical quality division (CQD) special projects assistant at CCHN. Her primary responsibilities include coordinating and implementing various programs in CQD and providing administrative support. Paula holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Columbia College. She is also a certified emergency medical technician. Paula can be reached at 303-861-5165, ext. 286, or [paula@cchn.org](mailto:paula@cchn.org).

Michelle Dimodica is the new accounting assistant at CCHN, Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS), and Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN). Michelle's primary responsibilities include accounts payable and other special projects. Michelle earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She has worked as an auditor for the U.S. General Accounting Office and as a consultant auditor for Deloitte and Touche, LLP. Michele can be reached at 303-861-5165, ext. 258, or [michelle@cchn.org](mailto:michelle@cchn.org).



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Margaret Mills is the new Health Disparities Collaborative Program Assistant at CCHN. Margaret provides administrative support to the West Central Cluster staff and teams. Margaret earned her bachelor's degree in international relations and women's studies from Washington University, St. Louis. She earned her master's degree in international non-profit development and global health from the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies. Margaret's interest in community health began after volunteering in several clinical settings, including refugee camp clinics in Hong Kong and Greece and a non-profit literacy program in Nepal. Margaret can be reached at 303-861-5165, ext. 225 or [mmills@cchn.org](mailto:mmills@cchn.org).

Tanah Wagenseller is the new special projects assistant at CCHN. Tanah's responsibilities include support for CCHN's Policy and Issues Forum and other Public Affairs activities, collection and entry of data, and Web site maintenance. Tanah earned her bachelor's degree in women's studies with emphasis on race/ethnicity at California State University, Northridge. As student director at the CSUN Women's Resource and Research Center, she organized events, created coalitions between community organizations and the University, and presented research at the National Women's Studies Association. Tanah can be reached at 303-861-5165, ext. 241 or [tanah@cchn.org](mailto:tanah@cchn.org).

Shannon Basford has been promoted to clinical project manager, in CCHN's Clinical Quality Division. She was clinical project coordinator.

Please visit [http://www.cchn.org/about\\_us/jobs.asp](http://www.cchn.org/about_us/jobs.asp) for current job openings at CCHN.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*March 2, 2006*

### **2006 Excellence in Clinical Quality Awards Ceremony and Reception**

CCHN's annual Excellence in Clinical Quality Awards Ceremony and Reception takes place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Warwick Hotel in Denver. For more information contact Shannon Basford at 303-861-5165 ext. 260 or [Shannon@cchn.org](mailto:Shannon@cchn.org).

*March 13-14, 2006*

### **CCHN Annual Policy & Issues Forum**

CCHN's Annual Policy and Issues Forum will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Denver. **Deadline to sign up is Feb. 24.** For more information contact Tanah Wagenseller at 303-861-5165, ext. 241 or [tanah@cchn.org](mailto:tanah@cchn.org).

*March 17, 2006*

### **MCPN 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Tie Event**

Metro Community Provider Network will host the Irish Tenors, accompanied by the Aurora Symphony Orchestra, at its Second Annual Green Tie Gala St. Patrick's Dinner. Please visit [www.mcpn.org](http://www.mcpn.org) for information.

*March 24-29, 2006*

### **NACHC 2006 Annual Policy & Issues Forum**

NACHC's Annual Policy & Issues Forum will take place at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. For more information visit: <http://www.nachc.com/ela/listing.asp>.

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