



Newsletter September 2007

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Colorado's Community Health Centers Celebrate National Health Center Week

Colorado's Community Health Centers (CHCs) celebrated their patients, their work, and their role in Colorado's good health during National Health Center Week (NHCW) August 5-11, 2007. The week included events at CHCs across the state. Governor Bill Ritter issued a proclamation declaring National Health Center Week for the state of Colorado.

Peak Vista hosted a forum at which Colorado Springs residents heard an update on the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform. Then the Health Center topped off a busy week with an ice cream social and block party at its newest facility at the Myron Stratton Home. Plains CHC in Limon offered free blood pressure checks to its patients, and fruit, juice and homemade cookies were supplied by each department. The *Valley Courier*, Alamosa, carried a letter by Marguerite Salazar, president and CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., about the importance of access to a health care home for everyone. In addition, the City of Alamosa issued a NHCW proclamation. Salud Family Health Centers hosted an open house at the Estes Park site, a health fiesta in Fort Lupton, and a block party in Fort Collins. Health and dental screenings and information were part of all three events.

See below for highlights of NHCW activities.

New Health Center Doors Open in Evans

Sunrise Community Health kicked off NHCW by welcoming the public to an open house at the new family practice clinic in Evans. Sunrise rang the last bell at its 1915 schoolhouse-turned-community-health-center in Greeley on July 6, opening in Evans three days later.

The Monfort Family Clinic opened with four doctors and four physician assistants. Three family physicians, one physician assistant, and one nurse practitioner will be joining Sunrise in the next two months. Three more clinicians will be recruited by the end of 2008. When fully staffed, the new clinic will serve up to 300 patients per day for primary medical care, more than doubling the capacity of the historic schoolhouse in Greeley.

The Monfort Family Clinic is the result of an unprecedented collaboration focused on the growing challenge of affordable health care. Banner Health, North Colorado Medical Center Inc. (NCMC), the Monfort Family Foundation and the NCMC Foundation partnered to raise \$6 million for the new facility. Creative collaboration leveraged federal, state and local resources. The city of Evans purchased undeveloped land to ensure convenient access to the new clinic. The Colorado Health Foundation, the Caring for Colorado Foundation and Sunrise contributed funds for equipment.

As a result, 40,000 square feet of the new space is open for patient services, with 41 exam rooms; three procedure rooms; five women's health rooms; three behavioral health rooms; Women, Infant and Children nutrition program (WIC); pharmacy; lab; X-ray; three group visit/community rooms; and a patient wellness library. "Front office" and "back office" terminology has disappeared as there are no physical barriers between the functions. Instead, three "mini-clinics," each with 12-to-14 exam



From left to right, speakers at the Open House included Dr. Mark Wallace, Sunrise Board Chair; Janice Ranson, NCMC Foundation President; Kay Drake, NCMC Inc Board Member; Peter Fine, Banner Health CEO; and Mitzi Moran, CEO Sunrise CHC.

rooms, break down the large space into inviting and team-promoting “pods.” Additional space is designated for future expansion and a small portion is being used for administration.

Over 250 community members helped joined Sunrise for the open house. Key note speakers included Peter Fine, CEO of Banner Health; Kay Drake, member of NCMC Inc Board of Directors; Janice Ranson, NCMC Foundation Board President; State Rep. Jim Reisberg; Mayor Sherry Melby, City of Evans; Mike Bloom, CEO North Colorado Health Alliance; and Mark Wallace, Sunrise Board Chair.

Study Shows Health Center Contribution to Colorado Economy

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter joined CCHN to release an economic impact analysis showing that CHCs generate almost a quarter billion dollars for the Colorado economy. The analysis focused on the economic impact of direct employment and additional jobs created in community businesses and industries due to the presence of CHCs. The release event was hosted by Peak Vista Community Health Centers in Colorado Springs.

The analysis revealed that CHCs directly employ the equivalent of 2,789 full time employees. An additional 2,753 jobs are created in other businesses and industries in communities where there are CHCs. These include people who supply medical equipment, maintenance services, and clean linens to CHCs; and provide food and uniforms for CHC employees.



From left to right, Governor Ritter, BJ Scott, CEO of Peak Vista CHC; and Marguerite Salazar, CEO of Valley Wide FHS.

The economic impact of direct employment and additional dollars of income generated by CHCs ranges from \$630,247 in the central mountain region to \$47,037,006 in Denver. This benefit is in addition to the cost-effective primary and preventive care provided to nearly 400,000 Coloradans from more than 50 counties. CHCs collectively serve one-third of all low-income uninsured, one-third of all Medicaid patients, and one-third of all Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) patients in Colorado.

"Community Health Centers provide high quality care to some of Colorado's most vulnerable populations and they do so cost effectively. As we think about health reform we need to look for high value systems already in place and the Community Health Centers are certainly one model to look to and learn from."
Colorado Governor Bill Ritter.

High Plains Features Hats, Health, and Kids

High Plains Community Health Centers in Lamar celebrated the week with a different theme each day. Monday was Hat Day, with everyone invited to wear his or her favorite or strangest hat. On Hat Day, High Plains featured sports physicals. Tuesday was Pajama Day, no ironing necessary, and well-woman exams were given. Wednesday was Crazy Day, all invited to be different and crazy that day, or at least not be shy. It was also Kid's Afternoon at High Plains, with a Kid's Fair, well exams and immunizations, dental exams with fluoride treatments and visits with High Plains' early childhood specialist. Sports physicals were also given.



MCPN Helps Kids Help Themselves, Plus Golf

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) partnered with Building On Life's Disappointments (BOLD) to provide health care services and an outdoor Colorado experience to children who have faced crisis. The youth then joined MCPN for its annual celebrity golf classic *Healthcare the Fairway* to tee up NHCW.

Ten children from New Orleans impacted by Hurricane Katrina, two Virginia Tech students affected by the campus shootings last year, and 10 children from Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colo., site of a recent school shooting tragedy, spent a week in the Colorado Mountains. They shared lessons in character, leadership, life development skills and essential tools for rebuilding. The BOLD program encourages its participants to confront their fears and obstacles through various outdoor activities including camping, white water rafting, and ropes courses. MCPN provided physicals and health care services to the participants.

To cap their experience, the participants served as ambassadors at MCPN's annual golf event, which raises funds to support MCPN's health care services. For more information about MCPN and the golf classic, please visit www.mcpn.org.

DCHS Celebrates National Health Center Week

Denver Community Health Services' (DCHS) celebration of NHCW featured State Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald and Denver City Councilperson Carla Madison. Sen. Fitz-Gerald and Denver Health physician Judy Shlay addressed an audience on the importance of women's health issues. This was followed by tours of Denver Health's Mammovan, a mobile mammography unit that visits all eight family health centers.

Later in the week, Eastside Family Health Center administrator Lucille Ruibal hosted newly-elected City Councilperson Carla Madison at the clinic. They were joined by DCHS board member Jay Tompkins and Chief Government Relations Officer Elbra Wedgeworth.



From left to right, Community Health Services board members Carol Quinn, Constance Eberhardt, Ken Floyd, COO Stephanie Thomas, CHS Director Paul Melinkovich and CHS Board Chair Dean Brown after Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald's talk.

Pueblo CHC Hosts Lieutenant Governor

Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) hosted its annual community meeting during NHCW, inviting the public to a complimentary luncheon in downtown Pueblo. Colorado's Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien spoke about health care needs in Colorado and the work of CHCs in addressing those needs. She pointed out PCHC's excellent child immunization rates and participation in Health Access Pueblo, a program designed to provide health coverage for small businesses and their employees.

Byron Geer, CEO of PCHC, reported on activities and achievements, noting that PCHC has doubled its patients and visits in the past ten years, having added three new service locations, two pharmacies, mental health services; expanded the dental program; and begun outreach to homeless, farmworker and HIV-infected clients. He provided an overview of the Health Center's upcoming capital and endowment campaign to address the insufficient space for current programs and lack of space for new programs.



MCPN's David Myers Receives National Recognition



From left to right, Julie Hulstein, CEO of CHAMPS and David Myers, CEO of MCPN.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) presented the 2007 Aaron L. Brown Memorial Public Service Award to Dave Myers, president and CEO of MCPN on August 27.

“As I approach my 25th year in the Community Health Center movement, I am both honored and humbled in receiving this award,” said Myers. “Honored with the recognition given me by both my colleagues in Colorado and at NACHC and humbled knowing that no single individual can truly claim to make a significant contribution to public policy without the aid and assistance of all people aligned and working towards the same goal.”

The Aaron L. Brown Memorial Public Service Award was established in 1985 and is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Health Center movement. Myers has over 20 years of experience working for CHCs in Colorado, creating and sustaining relationships with public officials, legislators and the community. MCPN serves Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Park and Jefferson counties.

CCH Holds Ribbon Cutting for New Health Outreach Van

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) celebrated the arrival of its new Health Outreach Van with a ribbon cutting and van tour on August 29th. The ribbon cutting included remarks by CCH President John Parvensky, CCH Medical Director Ed Farrell, Health Outreach Program (HOP) Manager Darcie Meierbachtol, HOP staffer Mike Masee, and formerly homeless individuals.

Serving the hardest-to-reach communities, this van is the center of the CCH's medical outreach. The HOP regularly provides services to parents and children living in motels along East Colfax Avenue and working homeless who can't access daytime health services due to jobs or other daily commitments. As part of its regular duties, van staff members work closely with CCH's street outreach team to help chronically homeless individuals who are often the most difficult population to serve. The HOP regularly visits motels as well as at least four shelters and day centers serving Denver's homeless population.



CCH's Health Outreach Program staff pose in front of the new health outreach van.

New School-Based Health Center in Lamar

High Plains CHC took its first venture into school-based clinics this fall. On the first day of school August 20, the School-Based Health Center at Lamar High School was open for business. High Plains' partners in the endeavor included the school district, Southeast Mental Health Services and Southeast Colorado for Drug Free Communities.

“We consider this a pilot project,” said Jay Brooke, executive director of High Plains CHC. High Plains received a planning grant through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to spend the next year figuring out how to spread the pilot to other schools and develop a dedicated staff for the area schools. “We really believe that the best place to deliver comprehensive health care to kids is in the school setting” added Brooke.

☞ San Luis Valley Mourns Two Health Care Friends ☜

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. recently lost two valuable members of its community. Dr. Mark Goldstein, a Valley-Wide family practice physician in Alamosa since April 2006, passed away in June 2007. Dr. Mark Goldstein had an extraordinary ability to both diagnose illness and provide personal comfort and strength to his many patients. He loved caring for children and sending them home with a small toy or book after each check-up.



Gerry Eichholz, a member of Valley-Wide's Board of Directors, passed away in August. He participated on the Legislative, Finance and Policy Manual Review committees of the Board over the past years. He attended national, state and local meetings to support the CHC movement and Valley-Wide's mission. A resident of Crestone, Eichholz was a strong proponent of providing health care to all in that area of the San Luis Valley through the Valley-Wide Moffat site.

Both will be missed.



Colorado CHCs Prepare for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Across the state, CHCs plan to provide health care services to increase early detection.

- Salud Family Health Centers - Fort Collins is working with Dr. Angela King, Women's Clinic of Northern Colorado, on a free mammogram day Oct. 13. Salud expects to provide up to 200 women with mammograms. Salud staff will offer clinical breast exams.
- High Plains CHC in Lamar celebrates the month by offering wellness clinics for women all month long. Services will be advertised in local newspapers.
- Pueblo Community Health Center will be running radio messages increasing the awareness of October's importance.
- Clinica Campesina Family Health Services, Inc., People's Clinic is having an Autumn Mammography Event on October 17th at the Foothills Hospital in Boulder. The goal is to have 70 to 80 patient appointments for that day.
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. will announce that it is Breast Cancer Awareness month on its "on-hold" phone message at its two Alamosa clinics, including information at the Women's Wellness Connection program. In addition, Valley-Wide sponsors a monthly "HealthLines" program on the Alamosa public radio station, KRZA, and the topic for Oct. 4 will be breast cancer awareness. The station can be heard throughout south-central Colorado and northern New Mexico.
- Staff at Plains Medical Center in Limon will hand out patient information items.
- Uncompahgre Medical Center in Norwood will hold a women's clinic month, at which women can receive their physical exam and get labs drawn for \$75. Staff will give away educational material, pink ribbons, and other items. Services will be advertised in local newspapers.

POLICY UPDATE

CCHN Monitors Health Care Reform

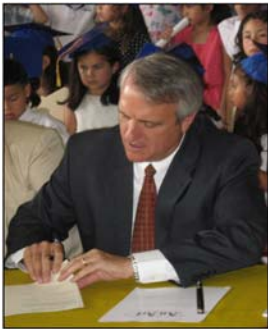
The Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform is making progress in its efforts to study health care reform options in Colorado and make recommendations to the Colorado General Assembly for covering the uninsured and controlling health care costs.

Last month they completed the evaluations of the four proposals selected from the nearly 30 submitted for consideration. The evaluations, conducted by the Lewin Group, show the cost of each proposal and include information about the number of uninsured Coloradans that would be covered by each plan. The four proposals include both private and single payer options and hybrid options with public insurance program expansions, and individual and employer requirements for coverage.

The Commission is currently crafting a fifth proposal of their own. When complete, the proposal will undergo the same cost and coverage evaluation by Lewin.

To learn more about the four proposals or learn how and where to provide input to the fifth proposal and final recommendations to the General Assembly, visit the Commission's web pages at www.colorado.gov/208commission. Be sure to check out the public input meeting schedule by clicking on the "Public Input" tab.

Governor Signs Child Health Care Bills and Tours CHC Kids Clinic



On May 31, 2007 Governor Ritter signed two bills on health care for children: Health Care for Children, SB211, and Concerning Medical Homes for Children-SB130. He signed the bills at a gathering of students and teachers at Stein Elementary School, where MCPN has a children's clinic. Ritter toured the clinic after the bill signing.

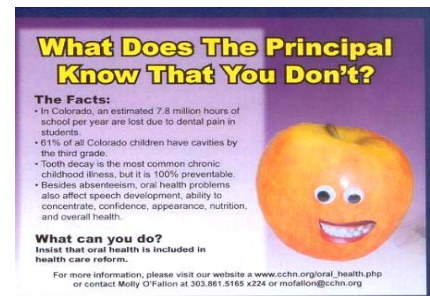
SB 211 was sponsored by Sen. Bob Hadedorn and Rep. Anne McGihon. An estimated 122,000 of the 180,000 uninsured children in Colorado are eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). This bill provided for an advisory committee to develop and oversee the implementation of a plan to provide health care for all low-income children in the state by 2010. It also requires that pregnant

women and children can access care without delay; and Medicaid and CHP+ be simplified to ensure eligible children are enrolled.

SB 130, sponsored by Sen. Betty Boyd and Rep. Morgan Carroll, declared that the best medical care for infants, children and adolescents is provided through a medical home; defined a medical home; and required the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCFP) to report to the legislature on medical home progress.

Oral Health Data in the Mail

The Colorado Oral Health Network (COHN) has developed a series of educational oral health postcards to highlight the importance of oral health during these times of health care reform. The 10 cards will be mailed over the next five months. Look for the first card, seen here, this week. Oral health impacts overall health: it can affect diabetes, heart disease, nutrition, and pregnancy outcomes. COHN members hope that these cards will help decision-makers recognize that oral health must be an integral part of health care reform.



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WORKFORCE UPDATE

Governor Signs Legislation to Bring More Health Care Providers to Underserved Areas of Colorado



Governor Ritter signs SB232 with, from left to right: Sen. Abel Tapia; Lisa Frazier, Pueblo CHC Board President-Elect; Amber Galloway Stephens, CCHN; Rep. Dorothy Butcher; Ross Brooks, CCHN; and Rep. Buffie McFadyen.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed legislation on June 4, 2007 to make it easier for health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas of the state. The legislation was proposed by CCHN.

SB232, sponsored by Sen. Chris Romer (D-Denver) and Rep. Tom Massey (R-Pagosa Springs), created a student loan repayment program for health care professionals in medically underserved areas of the state. This bill will enable up to six health care providers to be placed in these communities each year by providing repayment assistance for student loans. This will help provide access to care for an estimated 6,000 patients per year and introduces health care providers to underserved communities. Providers who receive student loan repayment assistance often stay beyond their obligations and continue to care for underserved communities for many years.

The program is funded with a combination of tobacco settlement funds; a contribution from ColleagueInvest, the Colorado Department of Higher Education's education financing division; and an expected federal match through the National Health Service Corps.

For additional information about the loan repayment program, please contact Amber Galloway-Stephens at (303) 861-5165 ext. 234 or amber@cchn.org.

CHC RESOURCES

Successful Screening Program Improves Detection

All fourteen CHCs in Colorado are participating in the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program (CCSP). This statewide program grew from partnerships with three CHCs in November 2006, to state-wide recruitment of 39 clinical programs by July 2007. The first three groups, Salud, Denver Health and Pueblo/St. Mary Corwin, very successfully recruited patients for colorectal screening procedures and developed patient awareness programs.

By June 2007, CCSP screened 2,131 patients and 91 percent of those colorectal screens were facilitated by CHCs. Twenty-two percent of patients screened had adenomas (growths that may become cancer) removed during the procedure. Treatment services for the one percent of the patients who were diagnosed as positive for colon cancer are funded by CCSP.

The program is funded by the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease Grants Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and administered by The University of Colorado Cancer Center. CCHN developed a partnership with the university to recruit clinics, train staff and support the CHCs. CHC employees provided patient navigation services and patient education, spreading the message that colon cancer is the second most prevalent cause of cancer-related death in the United States, and that colonoscopy may prevent cancer development and save lives.

For more information, please contact Brenda Lantz at (303) 861-5165, ext. 245, or brenda@cchn.org.

CCHN Lead Agency for Women's Wellness Connection

CCHN is now the "lead agency" or primary grantor to Colorado's CHCs for Women's Wellness Connection (WWC) services. WWC provides breast and cervical cancer screenings (mammograms, clinical breast exams, Pap tests and pelvic exams) and selected diagnostic services through contracted agencies across the state. WWC-contracted agencies receive a capitated reimbursement fee for providing exams to women with limited income and limited insurance who are 40 to 64 years of age. Thirteen of Colorado's fourteen CHCs are participating in WWC.



This is a new contracting model with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE), which administers WWC, formerly the Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative (CWCCI). WWC is part of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Two CCHN staff members, Katie Jacobson and Paula Davis, provide support to CHCs with eCaST (WWC's web-based data system), reimbursement of services, increasing the number of women served, meeting WWC identified core performance indicators, and developing and working with a CCHN WWC Advisory Committee. CCHN has contracted with WWC for CHCs to increase the number patients receiving WWC services. CHCs historically have provided approximately half of all of the WWC services offered annually statewide. For more information contact Katie Jacobson (extension 240 or katie@cchn.org) or Paula Davis (extension 286 or paula@cchn.org).

CHAMPS UPDATE

Register for October CHAMPS Conference

Early registration for the *CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference* closes September 25. The conference schedule is packed with timely educational sessions, valuable networking opportunities, and updates on regional and national issues. Join CHAMPS October 20-24 in Seattle, Wash., to connect with colleagues while earning continuing education credit and gaining valuable professional insights.

Visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Conference.asp for a link to the registration brochure.

Live Webcast Series Starts Soon

Region VIII CHC clinical staff, non-clinical staff, and members of boards of directors are invited to join CHAMPS for a three-webcast series designed to improve interpersonal and communication skills in the workplace. *Change for the Better: Creating Work Relationships that Work* will help staff and board members create positive relationships with colleagues, improving productivity, trust, and morale. Interested participants may register for any combination of the following sessions:

- Session 1: Creating Positive Work Relationships – October 4, 2007
- Session 2: Introduction to Ethical Influencing – December 5, 2007
- Session 3: Confrontation without Conflict – February 7, 2008

All sessions will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Libby Wagner of Professional Leadership Results, Inc., will present the sessions. These are free for Region VIII CHCs and Primary Care Associations. For each session, 1.5 hours of continuing medical education (CME) credit will be offered.

Advance registration is required. Please visit www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp for more details and to link directly to online registration.

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CCMCN UPDATE

CHCs Build Tobacco Cessation Program Success

A highly successful statewide symposium on tobacco cessation interventions for underserved populations capped the first six months of CCMCN's CHC Tobacco Cessation Program implementation. More than half of the 110 attendees at the symposium represented CHCs. Keynote presentation and breakout session topics included information on successful approaches for Latino/a populations, and co-morbid conditions such as depression and other mental illness.

CCMCN will be expanding the program to 18-to-22 CHC sites during the next year. In addition, CCMCN welcomes Molly Hanson, who has joined the CCMCN team as the new CHC Tobacco Cessation Program Coordinator. Heather Stocker, who previously served in this role, will continue her work as the CHC Tobacco Cessation Program Manager.



For more information on participating in the CHC Tobacco Cessation Program, please contact heather@cchn.org.

CCHN STAFF UPDATE

CCHN Races for the Cure



CCHN has formed a team for the annual Race for the Cure for the Denver Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The event raises funds to support the mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease through advancing research, education, screening and treatment. CCHN has received funding from the Denver Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure since 1999.

Denver's Race for the Cure is on Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Pepsi Center. Supporters can walk, run, sleep in, or work out for the cure. If interested in joining CCHN's team, **register by 3pm on Sept. 21**. Register online by going to <http://www.komendenver.org>, click on "register," then "join a team," and then enter a team name or click on team "Colorado Community Health Network."

Colorado's other Susan G. Komen for the Cure affiliates held their Races and Ride for the Cure during July and early September. If interested in supporting the Aspen/Snowmass (<http://www.komenaspen.org>), Colorado Springs (<http://www.komencs.com>), or Northern Colorado (<http://www.komennco.org/>) Komen affiliates, please go to their websites.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4, 2007

Ground Breaking Ceremony – MCPN Aurora Health Facility

MCPN will break ground for the new Aurora Health Facility. The ceremony takes place from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 3292 Peoria Street, Aurora. For more information, please visit to www.mcpn.org.

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October 8, 2007

Ethical Aspects of Providing Access & Reforming Health Care

Clinica Campesina's President and CEO Pete Leibig will be among the speakers at this open forum, which takes place at National Jewish Hospital in Denver from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.coloradobioethics.org.

November 8, 2007

Peak Vista Breakfast of Champions

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, United States Olympic Gold Medalist in Track and Field, will be the keynote speaker. The breakfast will take place at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. For more information, please call 719-228-6606 or visit www.peakvista.org.

November 12, 2007

Statewide meeting hosted by the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program (CCSP)

The meeting will take place at the Denver West Marriott from 9:00 a.m. to – 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Brenda Lantz at brenda@cchn or 303-861-5165, ext. 245.

December 5, 2007

CCHN Annual Uniform Data System (UDS) Training

Watch for a flyer and registration materials for this all-day training. For more information please contact Tanah Wagenseller at 303-861-5165, ext. 241 or tanah@cchn.org.

January 15, 2008

Webcast: Pharmacologic Agents for Diabetes

A clinically-themed CHAMPS webcast will be presented by Laura Shane-McWhorter from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MST. Registration opens in late Oct. 2007. For more information, please visit www.champsonline.org.

Save the Date

March 5, 2008

CCHN 2007 Excellence in Clinical Quality Awards Ceremony and Reception

March, 12-15, 2008

NACHC 2007 Annual Policy & Issues Forum

August 3-9, 2008

National Health Center Week

CCHN Newsletter Editor: [Maureen Maxwell](#); Creative Director: [Tanah Wagenseller](#)
Contributors: [Brandi Raiford](#), [Brenda Lantz](#), [Katie Jacobson](#), [Andrea Miller Martin](#), Heather Stocker, and Mitzi Moran, Sunrise; John Reid and Alyssa Kuenning, MCPN; Nancy Hehn, Plains; Jay Brooke, High Plains; Lynn Pelz, Kristin Kelly, and Angie Ulanowski, Peak Vista; Suzanne DeVore, Valley-Wide; Deborah Cameron, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Janet Fieldman, Pueblo; Tony Encinias, Denver Health; Connie Holden, Clinica Campesina.

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