



## Newsletter October 2011

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## HEALTH CENTER NEWS

### 2011 National Health Center Week

Aug. 7-13, 2011, was National Health Center Week (NHCW), dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless, and school-based Community Health Centers (CHCs). This year's theme, "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Serving Locally, Leading Nationally," highlights the record of CHCs in providing affordable, high quality, cost-effective health care to people across the country, regardless of their ability to pay.

Primary health care access expanded in Colorado with grand openings and ribbon cuttings of CHC facilities across the state. Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC) opened a new facility in Rifle, with a ribbon cutting, speeches, expressions of thanks, a band, and barbecue. Across the state, High Plains Community Health Center (High Plains), which is celebrating its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hosted a grand opening celebration for the new Adult Health Center in Lamar. In Antonito, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (VWHS) celebrated the grand re-opening of the renovated and expanded Guadalupe Health Center. All three projects were partially funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In addition, Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) hosted the inaugural ribbon cutting celebrating MCPN's new Extended Care Clinic at North Aurora Family Health Services. The new facility will extend clinic hours in the evenings and weekends to accommodate increased access to primary care and other related services to the public and working families.



The new Mountain Family Health Center in Rifle.



At the High Plains grand opening, from left to right: Courtney Hasser, Monette Sutphin, Kacee Lucero, Ray Matteson (Board Chair), Elwood Gillis (Board member), Jean Lunt (Board member), Jay Brooke (in background), Dr. Margaret Loewen, Dr. John Abbott, Cheryl Chesnut FNP, Lisa Thomas, and Joe Giadone, High Plains insurance agent. All except board members and Joe Giadone are High Plains staff members.



New President/CEO of VWHS, Gigi Darricades, addresses the crowd.

Several CHCs kept the approaching school year in mind and combined health care with education. This included the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH), which each year helps children living in shelters or transitional housing get a healthy start at school. Dozens of health care professionals volunteered their time at the Coalition's Healthy Kids Fair to give more than 200 homeless children immunizations, vision, hearing and dental screenings to ensure the children had a healthy start to the new school year. Each child also received a backpack full of new school supplies. In addition, former Denver Broncos joined community volunteers to distribute school backpacks to children at MCPN facilities.

CCHN fielded a team in MCPN's annual Celebrity Golf Classic, "Healthcare the Fairway," held at Lakewood County Club. The

annual golf tournament benefits MCPN and was hosted by Denver Bronco Ebenezer Ekuban.

CCHN launched a campaign to show people interested in health care careers the fulfillment of working at CHCs. A new website, [www.missiondrivencareers.org](http://www.missiondrivencareers.org), was opened and includes listings of job openings, and loan repayment and scholarship options available to students in health professions. This effort is supported by the generosity of The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF).

Additional activities during the week included sports physicals for students preparing to return to school, block parties combined with health fairs, free immunizations, blood donation drives, health education sessions presented by CHC staff experts, city proclamations in support of CHCs, and picnics.



From left to right: Denver Bronco Ebenezer Ekuban; CCHN's Michael Boyson, Kristen Pieper, and Nick Howell; and John Reid, MCPN, at MCPN's Celebrity Golf Classic, Aug. 1, 2011.

## Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership Wins First Ever Colorado Collaboration Award

Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership has won the first ever Colorado Collaboration Award for its work to develop a regional network of care for the underinsured and uninsured in Routt, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Jackson Counties.

"We are so thrilled to be recognized by Colorado Nonprofit Association and its partnering foundations. This is a wonderful affirmation of five years of work as a community partnership. The award will go a long way in helping us continue the work of improving the lives of residents in Northwest Colorado," said Diane Miller, Director of Clinical and Quality Services at Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association.

The Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership consists of community and safety net organizations, health care providers, and government agencies. Since 2005, their combined efforts have included:

- Establishing the Northwest Colorado Community Health Center in Moffat County that now provides care to more than 3,000 individuals per year;
- Developing an integrated behavioral health project between the Northwest Colorado Community Health Center and Colorado West Regional Mental Health, which has served more than 1,000 patients;
- Organizing administration of the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey in Routt, Moffat, and Jackson County middle and high schools, and establishing stronger local ordinances to address youth access to alcohol;
- Developing a system to help low-income families gain access to discounted and sliding fee medical and behavioral health services; and
- Creating a local system of medical transportation financed by Yampa Valley Medical Center.

The Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership was selected to receive the \$50,000 award from among six award finalists. A group of Colorado foundations, in partnership with Colorado Nonprofit Association, created the Colorado Collaboration Award to recognize innovative collaboration projects with exceptional community results. Funding for the award is made possible by grants from Anschutz Foundation, Anschutz Family Foundation, Boettcher Foundation, TCHF, Community Shares of Colorado,

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Daniels Fund, The Denver Foundation, Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, El Pomar Foundation, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Gill Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, The Kenneth King Foundation, The LARRK Foundation, The Women's Foundation of Colorado, and Xcel Energy Foundation.

## Rep. DeGette Presented with National Award for Health Care Leadership

U. S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) was presented with the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) "2011 Community Health Defender Award" for her outstanding leadership in expanding health care access for uninsured and medically underserved Americans. The award was presented on Sept. 30, 2011, at a ceremony held at La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health Center in Denver. Dr. Paul Melinkovich, director of Denver Health's Community Health Services, presented the award, joined by representatives of CCH and MCPN, both with CHC facilities in Colorado Congressional District 1.



U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) holds her Defender Award, surrounded by representatives of the three CHCs with facilities in Rep. DeGette's congressional district, Sept. 30, 2011. From left in front: Dr. Lucy Loomis, director of family medicine for Denver Health; B.J. Iacino, director of education and advocacy, CCH. Behind them from left: Dr. Morris Askenazi, team lead at Denver Health's La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health Center; John Niemann, board member, Denver Health Community Health Services; Dr. Paul Melinkovich, director, Denver Health Community Health Services; Rep. DeGette, Molly Markert, community liaison for MCPN and member of Aurora City Council; Meg Costello, public policy manager, CCH; Elizabeth Kissell, RN, program manager, La Casa/Quigg Newton; and Carlos Estrella-Rodriguez, CCH program manager, La Casa Quigg Newton.

The award is given each year to members of Congress who have worked to successfully increase the number of CHCs around the country that provide high quality, comprehensive, primary health care to medically uninsured and underserved people.

"We are pleased to honor Representative DeGette for her strong support of Community Health Centers here in Colorado and throughout our nation," said Dr. Melinkovich. "For many individuals, Community Health Centers are their only source of health care, and through our network of community and school-based Health Centers, we at Denver Health served more than 117,000 patients in 2010, bringing health care to the neighborhoods in which they live."

La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health Center is one of Denver Health's Community Health Services facilities. In a collaborative program that started in 1993, CCH provides medical and mental health services at La Casa/Quigg Newton to the residents of the Quigg Newton housing development and the surrounding Sunnyside neighborhood.

## Five Generations Ride in Parade

Something very special happened at the Arkansas Valley Parade in Rocky Ford in August: Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (VWHS) sponsored a float called “Providing Excellent Health Care – Generation After Generation,” on which rode five generations of care at VWHS. VWHS employees volunteered their time to put together the float.

### **Health Center News From Around Colorado News Briefs**

#### **Salud Leader Receives Unique National Recognition**

Jerry Brasher, Salud Family Health Center’s (Salud) executive director, was honored at a national gathering of the NACHC Community Health Institute held in San Diego, Calif., in August. The award, “In Appreciation, Stanley J. Brasher, Parliamentarian, 2009-2011,” was presented by Anita Monian, former NACHC board chair, in recognition of Jerry’s numerous steadfast contributions serving as parliamentarian during Ms. Monian’s tenure as board chair. This is a unique award in that board service is not typically recognized in this manner. The award is a testament to the guidance, support and commitment that Mr. Brasher expressed serving as parliamentarian for the NACHC Board Executive Committee. Mr. Brasher continues to serve on the NACHC Board of Directors.



VWHS’ five generations of care ride together. From left to right are: first generation Beatrice Ojeda; second generation Gloria Simon; third generation Patricia Ramirez (Wolfswinkel); fourth generation Rachel Carson; and Ms. Ramirez is holding fifth generation Liliana Barela and Ms. Carson is holding fifth generation Audriana Barela. Ms. Ramirez is Valley-Wide’s medicine management specialist in the Arkansas Valley, Ms. Ojeda is her grandmother, Ms. Simon is her mother, Ms. Carson is her daughter, and Liliana and Audriana are her granddaughters.



Greg Morris, PA-C, gives a routine check up at Peak Vista’s second Block Party on July 15 in Colorado Springs. Block party attendees received physicals and dental check-ups.

#### **Peak Vista Block Parties Help Kids Get Ready for School**

Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) in Colorado Springs provided much-needed care this summer for children going back to school. Its two block party events were attended by more than 2,000 people. Peak Vista staff also distributed backpacks full of school supplies to attendees at the end of their visits.

#### **Denver Health CHC Physicians Make Annual “Top Docs” List**

Five of Denver Health’s Community Health Services physicians were selected by their peers for *5280 Magazine’s* annual “Top Docs” edition. Greg Gutierrez, sports medicine; Jay Lee, family medicine; Lora Melnicoe, pediatrics; Kathryn Wells, child abuse pediatrics; and Robin Yasui, geriatric medicine, are listed among the nearly 300 physicians from more than 80 specialties in the Denver metropolitan area. *5280* staff survey physicians annually, asking them which

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metro-area doctors they would trust to treat themselves and their families. To view the list, please go to <http://www.5280.com/magazine/2011/08/top-doctors-2011-list>.

### **Salud Featured in National Peer-Reviewed Journal**

Salud's integrated model of care is highlighted in the current online edition of Professional Psychology: Research and Practice (PPRP). PPRP is a peer-reviewed journal of the American Psychological Association. The article, "Establishing an Integrated Care Practice in a Community Health Center," was co-authored by Salud staff members Andrea Auxier, Ph.D., director of integrated service and clinical training, Tillman Farley, MD, medical director, and Katrin Seifert, Psy.D., associate psychology training director. To view an abstract of the article, click [here](#).

### **Peak Vista and Susan G. Komen Celebrate Partnership**

On Sept. 15, 2011, Peak Vista and Susan G. Komen for the Cure Southeastern Colorado celebrated their partnership on two programs that primarily support homeless women in the Pikes Peak region with breast health and cancer prevention. Patients who have benefitted from these programs shared how these initiatives have impacted their lives.

Peak Vista and Komen's Homeless Breast Health Program, a 16-year partnership, has reached thousands of homeless women. It is the only program in Colorado that focuses solely on homeless women. Because of the often insurmountable challenges and the stigma associated with homelessness, a high degree of distrust exists within this population. Quarterly sessions, held at Peak Vista's Homeless Health Center, serve to educate patients on healthcare options, the importance of annual checkups, mammography, and follow-up care.

The partnership also runs a mammogram screening and reading program, which targets women up to age 64 and homeless individuals, including men. Staff teach patients about breast cancer and distribute vouchers for mammograms and mammogram readings. In addition, staff assist with follow-up diagnostics and treatment when necessary. Komen provides the funding for both programs.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. For more information, please go to [www.komensecolorado.org](http://www.komensecolorado.org).

Peak Vista, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is a nonprofit, multi-specialty primary health care organization whose mission is to provide exceptional healthcare for people facing access barriers in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, please visit [www.peakvista.org](http://www.peakvista.org).



### **Denver Networking Event Best in the Nation**

The September 7 Region VIII Community Connection, a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Colorado Health Service Corps (CHSC) loan repayment networking event, turned out to be a huge success, attended by 93 people. Guest speakers Marguerite Salazar, regional director, Health Resources and Services Administration; Rebecca Spitzo, administrator, NHSC; and two loan repayment recipients, all provided inspirational words and thanked the audience for their dedication to serving those truly in need.

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This event is part of a pilot in five states. Although all events were successful, Denver surpassed Boston's event attendance of 78 attendees.

Attendees had the opportunity to network with like-minded people also serving in CHCs and other essential safety-net clinics. Icebreakers had people meeting and mingling, sharing experiences, exploring commonalities and having fun. Additionally, all the attendees had the opportunity to meet the sponsoring organizations and learn about how these organizations provide resources. The reception was sponsored and coordinated by CCHN, Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), Bureau of Clinician Recruitment & Service/NHSC, Primary Care Office/CHSC, and Area Health Education Center.

## **Colorado HealthStory Completes Pilot Phase of Project**

Colorado HealthStory, a three-year project of CRHC, ClinicNET, and the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, recently completed the pilot phase of their story-collecting project. The stories are now available at the HealthStory website at <http://www.coloradohealthstory.org/>.

Modeled after the award winning StoryCorps, Colorado HealthStory invites Coloradans to tell their own health story and begin a dialogue about health care across Colorado communities. Colorado HealthStory, funded in late 2010 by The Colorado Trust and TCHF, is working to create an appreciation of Coloradans' shared experiences of health, one conversation at a time. Everyone has a story to tell, whether it be the joyous birth of a baby, the moving experience of sitting with a dying parent, a journey of remarkable healing, the perspective gained from providing care, or struggling to navigate the complicated health care system.

Colorado HealthStory staff began gathering audio recordings this summer in three focus communities: Rocky Ford, Summit County, and Aurora. After collecting stories in each community, HealthStory gathered community members together for a local forum and listening session. During the forums, storytellers, providers, elected officials, advocates, and other members of the community were able to listen to the collected stories and speak about local shared health issues. Health profiles for the region were presented at each forum. This fall, HealthStory staff will hit the road again to record stories in three additional communities.

To learn more about the Colorado HealthStory project, to hear the stories, to learn about targeted communities, or to view the community health profiles, visit the HealthStory website at <http://www.coloradohealthstory.org/>.

## **POLICY UPDATE**

### **CCHN Supports Proposition 103**

Proposition 103 is the only ballot measure on the statewide ballot for the 2011 election season. CCHN is in support of this measure, which aims to increase statewide revenue in support of education.

Proposition 103 would return Colorado to 1999 tax rates for five years, which means:

- Increasing personal, corporate, and estate income tax from 4.63 percent to 5 percent.
- Increasing sales tax from 2.91 percent to 3 percent.
- For a family making the median income of \$55,700, this will mean paying an estimated \$132 more per year in taxes. Individuals



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interested in knowing the estimated cost for their own family can calculate this cost using the tool found [here](#).

- Over the five years Proposition 103 would be in effect, it is estimated that it will bring in an additional \$2.9 billion in state revenue.
- Click [here](#) to see how this measure will restore per pupil funding by county.

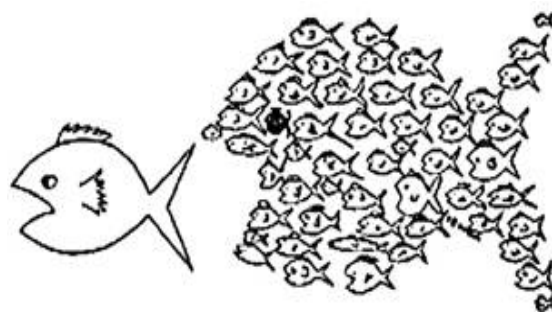
The revenue generated by these increases will be directed to funding education, from preschool through higher education. It is expected that this increased funding to education will help relieve the overall pressure on the General Fund, freeing up additional funding for the other General Fund expenditures, including Medicaid.

CCHN is supporting this measure because it is important that Colorado can fund schools, health care, road maintenance, local emergency departments, and other community services. However, over the past few years state funding for these types of services has decreased while demand continues to increase. Though this measure will not fix Colorado's long-term budget problems, it will provide some relief while other possible solutions are identified.

For more information on Proposition 103 visit [www.voteyeson103.com](http://www.voteyeson103.com).

## Get Active! and Influence Policy: Your Voice Needed Now

Interested in ensuring that health care bills benefit CHCs and their patients? Join CCHN's grassroots network and make your voice heard by your elected officials. Sign up for CCHN emails 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](http://www.cchn.org), click on Get Active!, respond to any action alerts and your information will be added to CCHN's grassroots network. For more information please contact Suzanne Smith, policy analyst, at [suzanne@cchn.org](mailto:suzanne@cchn.org) or (303) 867-9540.



## CHAMPS UPDATE



### CHAMPS Annual Conference is Just Around the Corner

The Community Health Association of the Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) are partnering to bring CHC staff in Regions VIII and X together this year for the 2011 Annual Primary Care Conference. The conference will take place Oct. 22 – 25, 2011, in Seattle, Wash.

Community health staff from operations, administration, finance, clinician teams, and boards can gain an edge from the educational and collaborative sessions centered around the conference theme: "Leading the Change, Rising to the Challenge." The sessions will highlight Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs) and include three full days of clinical sessions. Featured sessions include: "*Integrating Dental and Medical Care for Diabetic Patients*" and "*Best Practices in Clinical Work Force*" presented by Western Clinician Network physicians Dr. Carl Heard and Dr. Robert Moore. The conference will also feature development intensives like the "*Meaningful Use Boot Camp*," "*System Redesign Learning Lab*" by Roger Chaufournier and "*Developing the Leader Within*" for CHC board members.

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In an effort to include CHC staff who have never attended the conference, CHAMPS is offering one scholarship to each of its member CHCs so new members of the safety net can have access to the educational and networking opportunities the conference offers. CHAMPS member clinicians may also apply for travel reimbursement up to \$700 to attend. CHC staff and board members who register before Oct. 11 will receive an early bird discount. For those who cannot be there in person, several sessions will be available to participants in their home offices as real time webinars, including: *“Medical Home and Meaningful Use: Is there a Place for Behavioral Health?”*

To learn more about the conference, scholarship and travel reimbursement opportunities, view the sessions and events, and register, click [here](#).

## CCMCN UPDATE

### CCMCN Welcomes New Staff Member

Laura Foster started as Colorado Associated Community Health Information Enterprise (CACHIE) director of analytics at Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) on August 8 after serving as a consultant for CCMCN’s Meaningful Use and Regional Extension Center projects. Laura has extensive experience in consulting, project management, software implementation, process redesign, data analysis, and business reporting. Before working at CCMCN, Ms. Foster was a subcontractor through HDConsult for Integrated Physicians Network, Centura Health, and Salud Family Health Centers. As director of analytics, Laura leads the CACHIE Data Warehouse and Reporting Program and is extensively involved in Regional Care Collaborative Organization work. She earned a bachelor of science degree in education and mathematics from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

## CCHN UPDATE

### CCHN and CHC Staff Participate in Tri for the Cure



CCHN Safety Net Striders Suzanne Smith, Kristen Pieper, and Angela Rose show off their medals and race numbers for the Aug. 7, 2011, Tri for the Cure.

On Aug. 7, 2011, CCHN and CHC staff participated in the [Tri for the Cure](#), a sprint triathlon that helps raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Denver Affiliate. CCHN staff Kristen Pieper, Angela Rose, and Suzanne Smith participated in the event as the Safety Net Striders, a three-person relay team. The Safety Net Striders placed 14th in the three-person relay category, out of 75 teams. Meg Costello, public policy manager for CCH, also competed.

When asked how she felt about the race, Ms. Rose said, “This was an amazing and inspiring race to participate in. It is great to see so many types of women competing—from the young to old, big to small, elite athletes to first-time racers, as well as breast cancer survivors and their supporters.”

CCHN is a recipient of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Denver Affiliate screening grants. This year the CCHN Komen grant will provide free breast health and cancer education, breast cancer screening and diagnostic procedures, navigation and treatment support services to approximately 1,360 low-income, under or uninsured CHC patients. “Knowing the importance of this type of funding to CHCs and their patients made competing in this race a lot more meaningful,” said Ms. Smith, adding, “training for the race and the fun of being part of a relay team were an added bonus.”

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[www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org)

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## **CCHN Welcomes Two New Staff Members**

Renee Karl is CCHN's new quality initiatives coordinator, joining CCHN in September 2011. Her responsibilities include coaching, facilitation, and assisting CCHN members in achieving PCMH recognition. Ms. Karl earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a concentration in human services from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, and a master of arts degree in medical anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jennifer Rose is CCHN's new special projects assistant, joining CCHN in September 2011. Her primary responsibilities are to provide administrative support for Quality Initiatives Division projects that help CHCs provide high quality health care to patients. Ms. Rose earned a bachelor of arts degree in music with an emphasis in vocal performance from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

## **Staff Work Together to Support Assisted Cycling Tours**

For every summer and winter all-staff team building event, CCHN, CCMCN, and CHAMPS choose a charity to which they donate money, goods, and/or time. For the 2011 summer team building event, Assisted Cycling Tours (ACT) was chosen as the charity organization. ACT is a local non-profit organization whose goal is to open the world of cycling to people with developmental and/or physical disabilities. ACT coordinates clinics, trainings and trips and show families how to create excursions of one or more days. ACT's mission is to unlock the potential of people with disabilities and to shatter the perceptions of their abilities through transformative cycling and multi-sport adventures. They seek to promote family, independence, and well-being for all who participate. For more information about ACT, please visit their website at <http://www.assistedcyclingtours.org/main/>.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Learning Sessions about Health Insurance to be Presented Across Colorado**

The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI) is holding several meetings around Colorado in October to help consumers, both individuals and businesses, better understand their health insurance. The goal is to help educate consumers about the factors that cause premium increases, what's happening with federal health care reform, and how consumers can make more informed decisions when purchasing insurance. A new website resource will also be introduced that provides more information than ever on health insurance premium rate review, how to shop for insurance, and how the DOI can help consumers when they need information or wish to file a complaint because their carrier does not meet expectations.

Meetings will be held in Denver on Oct. 13, in Greeley on Oct. 20, and in Grand Junction on Oct. 25. In addition, educational webinars will be presented through the DOI website on Oct. 11 and Oct. 18.

For more information and to register for the meetings or webinars, please go to <http://doraapps.state.co.us/Insurance/Consumer/pages/moreMeetings.aspx>.

### **Nov. 17 is National Rural Health Day**

Nearly 62 million people—about one in five Americans—call a rural community home. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health has set aside the third Thursday of every November, starting with Nov. 17, 2011, to celebrate National Rural Health Day.

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The day will celebrate and recognize the value of small towns, farming communities, and frontier areas and their local cultures, neighborliness, and “can-do” spirit. It will also be a time to examine the special challenges faced by rural communities, such as their unique health care needs. Rural communities must address issues of available access to health care and health care providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens.

To learn more about rural America and National Health Center Day, click [here](#). To locate a Community Health Center, click [here](#) and [here](#).

### ***Save the Date***

*February 14-15, 2012*

#### **CCHN’s 2012 Policy & Issues Forum**

CCHN’s Annual Policy & Issues Forum (P&I) will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Denver. For more information contact Kristen Pieper at [kristen@cchn.org](mailto:kristen@cchn.org) or (303) 861-5165, ext. 223.

*March 21-24, 2012*

#### **NACHC’s 2012 P&I**

NACHC’s Annual P&I will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) for more information.

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