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Newsletter January 2008

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HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Cardiovascular Screenings in Mountain Areas Find Both Challenges and Good News

Over the past year Mountain Family Health Centers in Glenwood Springs conducted free cardiovascular screenings on over 1,600 residents of Garfield, Eagle and Pitkin counties. To reach participants, Sharla Gallegos, Mountain Family's community health worker, visited schools, Wal-Marts and other businesses, churches, public health offices and even mandatory driver's education classes for convicted drunk drivers. She measured cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and body mass index. This data was fed into a laptop computer that used an algorithm to determine a Framingham risk assessment. The work is supported by a health disparities grant awarded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and coordinated by Denver Health.

Given the relatively young age distribution of people tested, the screenings produced some interesting results: 67 percent exercise less than once a week, if at all; 51 percent eat a high fat diet; 47 percent have borderline-to-high cholesterol; and 76 percent are either overweight or obese. Ninety-two percent had no knowledge of risk factors for heart disease. The good news is that 90 percent have normal blood pressure and 91 percent do not smoke. The blood sugar test identified two diabetics per month.

As the data is compiled periodically by Denver Health, Mountain Family provides it to other public and private organizations with an interest in community health. While these numbers reflect risk factors that individuals can change, they also have stirred discussions about lifestyle issues such as long commutes to work, dependence on fast food, and lack of physical education programs in schools to establish exercise habits that extend into adulthood.

"Some people just don't want to know about it or that they might have to change what they eat or turn off the TV and get off the sofa. But when they do and you connect with them and maybe make a difference in their health, you feel really good," explained Gallegos.

Colorado CHC Leaders Honored by Peers

Two Coloradans were honored by their peers at the October 2007 Primary Care Conference of the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS). Byron Geer, chief executive officer of Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC), received the 2007 Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award. Caroline Swieter was awarded the 2007 Exceptional Board Leadership Award. She represents Brighton on the board of directors of Salud Family Health Centers.



Geer meets individually in his office with each new employee that comes to work for PCHC, from the entry-level front desk clerk to the new family physician. With 225 employees, Geer knows each of them by name and cares about them as people. Since CCHN began tracking CHC employee turnover rates in 2003, PCHC has consistently had some of the lowest turnover rates of any CHC.

Under Geer's leadership, PCHC has grown by more than 33 percent. In 2006, PCHC served 18,229 people, an increase of more than 4,500 lives from 2000. When Geer was hired in early 1995, PCHC was \$250,000 in the red. Employees didn't know if they were getting paychecks. In less than one year, he turned the organization around and had a solid "in the black" bottom line that year and every year since. Geer also is an instrumental part of Health Access Pueblo (HAP), a program designed to provide health coverage for small businesses and their employees. This is a local effort that seeks to address some of the

impacts of the problems with the national health care system. In addition to his work in the Pueblo community, Geer was president of the board of CCHN for two terms in a row. He served as president of the Colorado Community Managed Care Network and represented the network on the Colorado Access Board. He was recently appointed to the Medical Services Board (MSB) by Governor Ritter. The MSB has the authority to adopt rules that govern the Colorado Medicaid program, the Child Health Plan Plus program, and the medically indigent, adult foster care and home care allowance programs. The board's decisions affect the lives and health care of hundreds of thousands of Coloradans.

Mrs. Swieter was chosen for the board leadership award in recognition of her contributions and commitment to the Salud Family Health Center Board of Directors since 1981. Salud's board members represent the patients and communities located throughout Salud's service areas in the northern Front Range and northeastern Colorado. Mrs. Swieter serves as the representative for the Brighton service area. Most recently, she served as board chair. During her tenure on the board, Salud has more than doubled the number of patients served and the operating budget, and successfully expanded clinics into five communities.



As a former nurse in public education, Swieter recognizes the importance of Salud's commitment for quality assurance in clinical services. Swieter is a spirited advocate for the medically underserved, understanding the needs of the Brighton community and the importance of access to health care services. Her vision and participation has led to improvements and expansions that have benefited patients, staff, and Salud's relationships with hospitals and partner agencies.

CHC Dentist Chosen for National Lifetime Achievement Honor

Dr. John McFarland, dental director of Salud Family Health Centers, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) in December 2007. The award was given in recognition of McFarland's outstanding vision and leadership in founding and nurturing the network. NNOHA is a national organization that supports Health Center clinicians and oral health care for underserved populations.

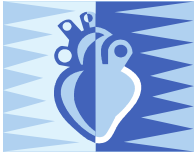
McFarland is celebrating his thirty-fifth year at Salud. He opened one of the first CHC dental clinics in the country to meet the health care needs of farm workers and their families in north central Colorado. He works tirelessly to make oral health an accepted partner in the interdisciplinary approach to patients' overall health. He was involved in the Children's Oral Health Outcomes Partnership, which worked to increase the collaboration between medical and dental providers to improve children's oral health.



McFarland founded the Colorado Dental Health Network, an assembly of CHC dental directors, who meet quarterly to discuss policy issues, challenges, and best practices. McFarland represents Salud in the Colorado Oral Health Network, a group of non-profit dental clinics working to increase access to high quality oral health care for underserved Coloradans. He volunteered Salud to be one of the pilot sites for the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Oral Health Disparities Pilot Collaborative and has led his staff on this challenging journey.

McFarland, right, receives his award from Dr. Jay Anderson, chief dental officer of the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Bureau of Primary Health Care, at the NNOHA banquet during the 2007 National Primary Oral Health Care conference in San Diego.

New Heart Smart Navigation Program



In June 2007, CCHN rolled out its Heart Smart Navigation Program. This one-year pilot project made it possible for two CHCs in Colorado, Uncompahgre Medical Center in Norwood and High Plains Community Health Center in Lamar, to employ patient navigators.

The patient navigator is informed when a patient is at risk or has been diagnosed with hypertension. The navigator helps those patients work their way through the health care system to gain access to the appropriate resources. Patient navigator services will improve the efficiency of the CHC disease management team and improve care for all patients with this condition.

Data is collected on certain measures used for the Heart Smart Navigation Program. The patient navigators send the data to CCHN, where a representative from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center evaluates it. This is the same reporting process used for the Health Disparities Collaborative in which both CHCs participate.

The program is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease Grants Program. To learn more about the program, please contact Jessica Sanchez at jessica@cchn.org or 303-861-5165 ext.231.

Successful Partnership Improves Health Care Access in Jefferson and Arapahoe Counties

What do self-employed Coloradans who have no health insurance do when they are told they might have a serious medical condition requiring extensive specialty care? The uninsured often don't have access to the testing needed to pinpoint a diagnosis. Without a diagnosis, they can't get the necessary surgery and treatment. This leaves patients with serious chronic illnesses crowding the emergency rooms, often late in the illness when cost of care is higher.

A partnership in health program led by Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) and funded by The Colorado Trust seeks to change this. The Access to Specialty Care Project is already helping patients receive care from volunteer specialists in the community.

Martha King recently benefited from this partnership. She was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer and through the project, was referred to Dr. Alvin Otsuka, oncologist with Rocky Mountain Cancer Center (RMCC). King has undergone several months of treatment and is doing well. This kind of care is often impossible for uninsured patients to obtain. In this case, Otsuka and RMCC were able to donate the needed services.

Nearly 800,000 individuals in Colorado do not have health insurance. Community Health Centers such as MCPN can provide primary health care, but not specialty care. Specialists, who already care for some uninsured patients from emergency rooms, are willing to see uninsured patients if it's a shared burden and they can be sure there is a primary care provider to provide ongoing care.

The Access to Specialty Care Project ensures that patients have a primary care provider for ongoing care. The specialists



Dr. Alvin Otsuka, right, an Oncologist with Rocky Mountain Cancer Center and Martha King, left, MCPN Jeffco Clinic patient.

determine how many patients they can see. The financial burden of care is shared with other specialists. The project's patient navigator works with the specialists and primary care providers to coordinate services with labs, radiology centers, hospitals and pharmacies. Thus the cost to the patient and the health care system is kept under control.

Currently the project has specialists in cardiology, orthopedics, ear-nose-throat (ENT), perinatology, dermatology, podiatry, general surgery, ophthalmology and oncology caring for uninsured patients. The goal is to provide earlier access to needed care so that patients have better health outcomes.

Health care providers who volunteer their services to people in need make a big difference. MCPN welcomes providers who wish to participate in the Access to Specialty Care Project. Please contact John Reid at (303) 761-1977 ext.124 or jreid@mcpn.org.

Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey Keynotes Peak Vista's Breakfast of Champions



Jackie Joyner-Kersey, left, and Dr. Thomas Theune at the Breakfast of Champions.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Olympic gold medalist in track and field, gave the keynote speech at the Breakfast of Champions hosted by Peak Vista Community Health Centers in November. The annual event raised more than \$100,000 for primary medical, dental and behavioral health services for working families in the Pikes Peak Region.

The event raised awareness about Peak Vista and its contributions to the Colorado Springs community. It also served to recognize the many champions associated with the Health Center, especially volunteer physicians and dentists, and community partners.

"Jackie's health issue is asthma and it certainly impacted her life as well as her career," said BJ Scott, president and CEO of Peak Vista. "While Jackie had

numerous resources to tap during her asthmatic episodes, many of our patients have little-to-none when a health care crisis arises. Peak Vista is there for the many working families of El Paso and Teller counties when they have health-related need. In essence, they serve as champion for the 52,000 patients they care for each year."

Dr. Thomas W. Theune was honored at the breakfast as Peak Vista's 2007 Champion of Community Health. Theune has worked hard to help those with visual impairment in the Pikes Peak Region. Winners of this award must exhibit outstanding advocacy for issues which directly impact the community's health and/or contribute financially to a measurable community health-related initiative or solicit significant funding for the initiative.



Board members from Peak Vista CHC and major sponsors join BJ Scott, Peak Vista president and CEO (second from left), and Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey (third from right) at the third annual Breakfast of Champions

Peak Vista's President and CEO Honored by Colorado Springs Chamber

BJ Scott, president and CEO of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, received the S. Jerrard Smith Community Service Award at the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on Nov. 8, 2007. The award is named after Jerry Smith, former CEO of United Way. The honor recognized BJ for her ongoing civic commitment and community contributions. Peak Vista CHC cares for patients from El Paso, Teller and Park counties.



Immunization Data Collection Complete



Members of Mountain Family's Glenwood Springs team who work to assure that their patients are up-to-date on their immunizations. From left, Eileen Salerno, R.N. Site Coordinator; Claudia Schaffler, Site Manager; Marlene Peterson, R.N.; Katherine Drapeau, D.O.; Carrie Kussin, Front Office; Heather Meadors, R.N.; Cindy Brock, Billing Clerk; and Heather Anderson, Front Office.

The CCHN Immunization Initiative has completed the 2007 data collection at all participating Colorado CHCs. This is done through collection of the immunization rates for 1-and 2-year-old children from 63 CHC sites. Analysis of the data is used to pinpoint strengths and areas of improvement for individual immunization providers. The goal of the initiative is to improve the immunization rates at CHCs. Several CHCs across the state will be recognized at CCHN's Clinical Quality Awards Ceremony in March for their outstanding efforts to increase immunization rates.

Data collection techniques include chart review and use of the expanded Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), the state's immunization registry. The registry is designed to allow providers to capture immunization records of all Coloradans, regardless of the location where immunizations are received. Providers can check patient immunization records, assuring that children don't miss needed immunizations and also reducing unnecessary duplication. In addition, providers can print the children's records for their parents to use for school records.

New Resource for Cervical Health

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month and Colorado has a new resource to help people get care. Shirley Hass, N.P., M.S.N., is nurse consultant for Colorado's Women's Wellness Connection (WWC). Her main task is to help the clinics that participate in the WWC determine which services are covered by the program. She works with the lead agencies if they have any questions regarding coverage. Hass is knowledgeable about resources for patients.

The main goal of the WWC, a program funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is to reduce breast and cervical cancer death rates through regular screenings and timely state-of-the-art diagnostic procedures. CCHN is a lead agency for the WWC services provided at participating Colo. CHCs.

To help providers explore resources during National Cervical Health Awareness Month, Hass recommended the Web site of the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. Clinics that participate in WWC can contact Hass at (303) 692-2323 or Shirley.hass@state.co.us.

Additional resources:

National Cervical Cancer Coalition, www.nccc-online.org
CancerCare, www.cancercare.org or 1-800-813-HOPE (4673)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov

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Colorectal Cancer Preventable: Get Screened

It is usually not recommended for one to ask about someone's age – this is often considered inappropriate or just plain rude, especially during a first date. However, there is nothing inappropriate about discussing age when meeting with one's physician. Age serves as an important factor in meeting health care needs.

For individuals 50 years of age or older, it may be the right time for a colonoscopy. A colon-what? A colonoscopy is a careful examination of the entire large intestine, also known as the bowel, and of the rectum. As uncomfortable or embarrassing as those words may be, what outweighs that discomfort is that colorectal cancer is one of the most prominent cancers in the United States. Every year there are approximately 150,000 new cases of colorectal cancer identified. About 55,000 people die from it. If detected late, it can result in death. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States.

The good news is that colorectal cancer can be prevented. If polyps, masses of cells that would look like elevated "bumps on the road" along the bowel track, are identified early and removed from colon and rectum, colorectal cancer is preventable. Physicians can use colonoscopies to determine if patients have polyps, and often can remove the polyps at the same time. This is precisely why it is recommended that people speak with their physicians about colon screening. It saves lives.

CCHN has partnered with the University of Colorado Cancer Center to implement the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program (CCSP) at Colorado's 14 CHCs. The program relies on patient navigators to assist patients during the screening process. For example, the Stout Street Clinic, part of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, is having good success helping the clinic's patients get colorectal screening. Patient navigators accompany patients during each step of the process: from meeting with them to identify barriers, solutions and resources, to ensuring continuation of care even if patients are referred to another health care facility. In addition, Stout Street Clinic works closely with a physician who uses a mobile van clinic to provide colonoscopies.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Make it an opportunity to get screened and prevent this type of cancer.



105 Honored at Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil



The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) held the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil on the steps of the Denver City and County Building on Dec. 20. More than 250 attendees gathered to honor by name each of the 105 men and women who lived on the streets and died during the past year in the Denver metropolitan area. For many, this candlelight ceremony will be the only tribute paid to their lives.

Held on the eve of the first day of winter, a season of extreme hardship for those without housing, the memorial vigil demonstrated the tragedy of homelessness and paid tribute to those persons who suffered the ultimate price for it. Speakers included Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, CCH President John Parvensky, and homeless advocate and jazz singer René Marie.

Communities Seek HPSA Designation to Help Increase Health Care Access

Several applications for Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) designations in Colorado have been submitted for approval recently. Most are for new designations. These requests were made possible though funds provided by CCHN, the Caring for Colorado Foundation, and the Colorado Primary Care Office.

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area Applications

South Arvada
Northwest Aurora
Northeast Denver
South Denver
West Denver
East Central Lakewood
Littleton-Englewood
Morgan County
Northeastern Park County

Dental Health Professional Shortage Area Applications

Town of Craig
Crowley County
Northern Fort Collins
Hinsdale County
Huerfano County
Jackson County
Western Moffat County
Park County
San Juan County
Washington County
Weld County

HPSA designation is a primary means by which a community can tell its health care workforce needs to the state and federal governments and private foundations that make grants to communities for the development of health care service capacity. To receive a HPSA designation, an application must describe how an area or facility meets federal shortage criteria. An application is prepared at the local level, in consultation with the state Primary Care Office, and then submitted to the federal Shortage Designation Branch for approval. The complete application and approval process typically takes from three to twelve months. To maintain a HPSA, designation must be renewed every three years. Nearly all Colorado counties have some part of the county designated as a shortage area. For more information, please [click here](#) or call the Colorado Primary Care Office at 303-692-2470.

New Site Purchased for Clinica's People's Clinic

Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., and Boulder County have agreed to buy Kaiser Permanente's former building near downtown Boulder. The building will provide space for Clinica's People's Clinic and for some county departments. People's Clinic will occupy the bottom floor and some of the second floor, giving it more space than at its current location.



POLICY UPDATE

Health Care Reform is Front Burner Issue for 2008 Legislative Discussions

On Jan. 9, the 2008 Colorado legislative session began. CCHN and member advocates will be focusing policy work on health care reform efforts to increase access to comprehensive primary health care for all Coloradans, and supporting current health care services and resources for low-income Coloradans.

CCHN expects to see much discussion at the capitol about covering all children by reducing barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), and by expanding eligibility. In addition, on Jan. 31, the 208 Health Care Reform Commission will submit to the state legislature its recommendations to cover the uninsured and reduce health care costs.

There will be many other health care bills this session and CCHN will need your help to ensure they benefit CHCs and their patients. Stay tuned for calls to action and additional information.

Let's turn to two areas where we must make substantial progress this session: health care and education. On health care, my goal remains the same -- that all Coloradans have access to some basic level of health care. I know that's ambitious. Nearly 800,000 Coloradans, 17 percent of our population, lack insurance. 180,000 of them are children. Every uninsured Coloradan means higher costs for every family, every person living on a fixed income, and every business.

We spend \$30 billion a year on health care in Colorado, but we don't get \$30 billion worth of value. We have to continue addressing that, and we have to keep doing it in a way that acknowledges the fiscal constraints of this state. We have to do it with a shared sense of responsibility, from individuals to employers to insurers to providers to government.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, State of the State Address, Jan. 10, 2008

CCHN and CKF Working to Cover All Kids

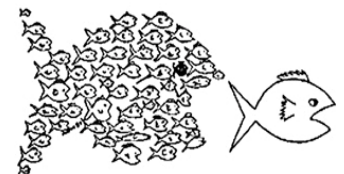
With more than eight out of 10 children currently insured in Colorado, the goal of providing coverage for all children is achievable. The 2010: All Kids Covered Initiative is a collaborative effort by more than 40 organizations, including CCHN, working toward that goal. Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF), a project of CCHN, in partnership with the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, Colorado Children's Campaign and Metro Organizations for People, is helping to lead the initiative.

The initiative seeks to ensure that by 2010, all children in Colorado will have coverage through insurance or public programs assuring access to a medical home providing appropriate and affordable health services. In 2006, the initiative developed a roadmap with a four-year timeline of legislative and administrative activities. 2010: All Kids Covered achieved its first success in 2007 with the passage of S.B. 211 and S.B. 130. These bills included presumptive eligibility (PE) for children to provide immediate access to medical services when they apply for coverage through Medicaid and CHP+, and the designation of a medical home for children enrolled in these programs.

In 2008, the initiative is proposing legislation to ensure that Colorado expands and simplifies coverage and reduces enrollment barriers. For more information about 2010: All Kids Covered, please contact Stacey Moody, CKF Project Director, at stacey@cchn.org or (303)861-5165 x 249.

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 Community Health Center. 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 Analyst, at katie@cchn.org or (303) 861-5165 ext. 240.



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WORKFORCE UPDATE

Student Loan Repayment Advisory Panel to Make Awards



Colorado's new student loan repayment program will soon be making its first awards. The program is designed to place health care providers in medically underserved areas of Colorado by providing repayment assistance for student loans that these providers took to get their training.

The recently appointed community board for the program was pleased with the large number of applications received for the first round of awards. Six awards will be given in February and March 2008. These awards go to primary care physicians serving in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The program resulted from a bill, S.B. 232, sponsored in 2007 by Sen. Chris Romer (D-Denver) and Rep. Tom Massey (R-Pagosa Springs).

"This program will help underserved areas of Colorado attract and employ committed health care professionals," said Ross Brooks, CCHN's director of health center operations and a member of the community board. "This program is exciting because this is the first time that Colorado has committed funds to loan repayment to help fix the health care workforce shortage."

The program will award student loan repayment assistance annually. The next chance to apply is January 2009. For more information regarding the student loan repayment program, please contact Tanah Wagenseller at tanah@cchn.org or 303-861-5165 ext.241.

Health Professions Scholarships Awarded

CCHN recently announced the fifth and final round of Health Professions Initiative (HPI) scholarship awards. The last round scholarship awardees are:

- Aspen Funk, Peak Vista CHC, Medical Lab Technician Certification
- David Gurule, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., Pharmacy Technician Certification
- Denise Dwight, Pueblo CHC, Associate's Degree in Registered Nursing
- Elizabeth Sanchez, Denver Health Family Health Centers, Licensed Practical Nurse Certification
- Hilda Barazza, MCPN, Pharmacy Technician Certification
- Jackie Marshall, Mountain Family, Lab Technician Certification
- Jessica Gomez, Sunrise Community Health, Inc., Dental Assisting
- Kalee Chavez, Valley-Wide, Bachelor's Degree in Registered Dietetics
- Kathy Reed, Uncompahgre Medical Center, Medical Assistant Certification
- Lorena Rodarte, Salud Family Health Centers, Licensed Practical Nurse Certification
- Malia Howard, Clinica Family Health Services, Inc., Bachelor's Degree in Nursing
- Michelle Parras, Salud, Licensed Practical Nurse Certification
- Miguel Perez, MCPN, Licensed Practical Nurse Certification
- Nancy Lea, Denver Health, Bachelor's Degree in Registered Dietetics
- Olga Martinez, MCPN, Associate's Degree in Occupational Studies
- Paulina Adjei, Pueblo, Bachelor's Degree in Registered Nursing
- Scott Brown, High Plains Community Health Center, Bachelor's Degree in Registered Nursing

The HPI scholarship program provided qualifying high-achieving, entry-level staff with scholarships to further clinical education in a health professions support staff position. Over the last three years CCHN has

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awarded 66 CHC staff with scholarship awards ranging from \$300 to \$5,000. The program paid out over \$142,000 in scholarships to staff from almost all CHC organizations in Colorado.

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

CHAMPS UPDATE

Web Page Centralizes Resources to Help Patients With Weight Management



To help CHCs get a jumpstart on the New Year, CHAMPS has just released a new Web page, "Overweight and Obesity Treatment and Prevention Resources." CHAMPS developed this listing of online resources to support CHCs in treating and supporting their patients who are overweight or obese. The online resources include fact sheets and reports, clinical guidelines and recommendations, treatment tools for health care professionals, patient education tools, webcasts, and other resources.

CHAMPS conducted an extensive search of online resources and to identify those of the highest quality and usefulness for CHCs. Examples of resources provided include:

- downloadable booklets and articles to assist clinicians treating obesity in the primary care setting;
- patient education tools including serving-size cards, low-calorie recipes from many cultures, tip sheets for eating healthy, food comparison charts, and meal planners;
- the most current guidelines on obesity, weight management, physical activity, and diet;
- a video on counseling overweight and obese patients; and
- relevant CHAMPS archived webcasts.

You can visit this Web page [here](#).

New Clinical Programs Director Joins CHAMPS

CHAMPS welcomed a new staff member in October: Clinical Programs Director Shannon Kolman. Kolman supports the work of the Region VIII CHC clinicians in quality improvement, clinician training, best practices, evidence-based medicine, and provision of resources. Kolman has a bachelor of science degree in finance from Denver Metropolitan State College, and a master's degree of business administration from the University of Colorado. She worked for Colorado's nonprofit Medicaid HMO, Colorado Access, for nine years, and prior to that for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She has many years of experience coordinating preventive health programs and clinical initiatives, including childhood/adolescent health, smoking cessation, women's health, and influenza. Shannon is also a certified practitioner in the Feldenkrais Method® of Somatic Education. Shannon can be reached at (303) 861-5165 x236 or shannon@champsonline.org.

CHAMPS CHC Clinicians' E-Mail Listserv

An e-mail listserv is a great way to stay in touch with colleagues, learn about emerging health issues, exchange information, and share tools and resources. CHAMPS hosts an e-mail listserv for all Region VIII Community Health Center clinicians interested in joining a free discussion forum. By subscribing to the CHAMPS Region VIII CHC Clinicians Listserv, members are free to post articles, questions, announcements, or discussion items. Members can unsubscribe at any time. Please contact Shannon@champsonline.org to enroll.

New Region VIII Representatives Elected to NACHC

New Region VIII representatives were elected in December to the board of directors of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). John Mengershausen, chief executive officer of Horizon Health Care, Inc., in S.D., and Keith Horwood, M.D., medical director of Community Health Centers in Utah, will serve on the NACHC's 30-member board for 2008.

In September, Lil Anderson, CEO of Deering Community Health Center in Billings, Mont., became NACHC's board chair. Jerry Brasher, CEO of Salud Family Health Centers in Colo., served in the board from 2003 to 2007, the most recent of his many years of service on NACHC's board.

“Confrontation without Conflict” Webcast Coming Up

Region VIII CHC clinical staff, non-clinical staff, and members of boards of directors are invited to join CHAMPS for the webcast “Confrontation without Conflict: How to Address Difficult Issues Directly and Respectfully.” This is the third event in the CHAMPS webcast series *Change for the Better: Creating Work Relationships that Work*.

Date/Time: February 7, 2008, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Presenter: Libby Wagner

Topics: Three kinds of respectful confrontations, dealing with tough emotional interactions, strengthening relationships through honest communication

Cost: Free for Region VIII Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers and State Primary Care Associations (others pay \$50 per computer link and \$15 per person for CME)

CME: 1.5 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit will be offered

Advance registration is required. [Click here](#) for more details, to register, and to learn more about other archived webcasts including the first two events in this series.

CCMCN UPDATE

Network's Tobacco Cessation Program Spreads



Valley-Wide's Cesar E. Chavez Family Medical Center in Center has expanded its tobacco cessation efforts into the Migrant Health Promotion program. The staff plans to promote continued guideline implementation to additional sites. In addition, a current health educator will be trained by CCMCN staff to facilitate tobacco cessation education and guidelines.

Salud's Ft. Collins Family Medicine is creating a comprehensive system-wide effort through involvement of the mental health staff and patient health advocate team. The staff tailored a standardized continuation flow sheet with tobacco cessation measures to track progress.

The Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) CHC Tobacco Cessation Program is currently working with 13 CHC sites to implement tobacco cessation guidelines to ensure all nicotine-dependent patients are identified, treated, and referred to the Colorado QuitLine and to reduce families exposure to secondhand smoke.

For more information on this program, or for more information on how to help patients quit using tobacco, contact Molly Hanson at (303) 861-5165, ext 255.

CCHN STAFF UPDATE

Two CCHN Team Members Take On New Roles

Katie Jacobson has joined the Policy Division as policy analyst. She is responsible for monitoring, tracking, analyzing, and influencing health care legislation, rules, and other policy issues based on the CCHN public affairs agenda. Previously, Jacobson was a clinical project coordinator in CCHN's Clinical Quality Division.

Tanah Wagenseller has become the health center operations and workforce coordinator. She is responsible for the coordination and implementation of programs that promote and sustain the workforce and operations at Colorado's CHCs. Previously Wagenseller was special projects assistant to the Health Center Operations and Policy divisions.

Clinical Quality Division Welcomes New Project Coordinator

Paula Lueras is CCHN's new clinical project coordinator. Previously, Lueras worked on a diabetes quality improvement initiative at a CHC in South Boston, did various types of volunteer work with minority groups and underserved populations, and conducted scientific research. Lueras holds a master's degree of public health with a concentration in health services, management and policy from Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. In her free time, Lueras enjoys learning new languages, volunteering with the elderly, cooking, traveling, and seeing good comedy shows.

Descriptions of current job openings at CCHN are posted at http://www.cchn.org/job_opportunities.php

CCHN Grows Green Attitude

What is a better way to start out the year than to start it out **green**? In the summer of 2007 CCHN's Special Projects Assistants (SPAs) took on the task of implementing Phase I of CCHN's transformation into a green organization. Calling the effort **Mean Green Attitude**, this phase of the transformation consists of three areas: a formal recycling program, energy conservation, and use of green supplies and products for office and kitchen.

For more information on CCHN's **Mean Green Attitude**, please contact Brandi Raiford at brandi@cchn.org.



CCHN's SPAs from left, Nadine Carr, Brandi Raiford, Paula Davis, Kay Roth and Tanah Wagenseller.

Staff Donate to Heifer International

CCHN, CCMCN and CHAMPS employees partnered in a Holiday Giving Drive to raise money for Heifer International, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to end hunger around the world and help families become self sufficient. In total \$870 in donations were collected, allowing the organizations to purchase a heifer, a water buffalo and a goat to be given to families in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31, 2008

Peak Vista to Debut New Family Health Center in Colorado Springs

Peak Vista Community Health Centers will debut its new family health center at a news conference at 10:00 a.m. at 225 South Union, at the corner of Union and Parkside in Colorado Springs. For more information contact Dayna Dorobiala at 719-630-6453 or ddorobiala@peakvista.org.

February 10, 2008

2010: All Kids Covered Rally

The event takes place at The Children's Hospital, 13123 East 16th Avenue, Aurora, CO 80045 at 2:30 p.m. Join the 2010: All Kids Covered Initiative and Colorado leaders, including Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff, to launch the 2010: All Kids Covered 2008 agenda for ensuring all Colorado children have health care coverage by 2010.

February 20-21, 2008

CCHN Annual Policy & Issues Forum

CCHN's Annual Policy and Issues Forum will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Denver. For more information contact Tanah Wagenseller at 303-861-5165, ext. 241 or tanah@cchn.org.

March 6, 2008

2008 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 Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood. For more information contact Paula Davis at 303-861-5165 ext. 286 or paula@cchn.org.

March 15, 2008

MCPN 4th Annual Green Tie Event

Please visit www.mcpn.org for information or to purchase tickets for the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Green Tie Event.

March, 12-16, 2008

NACHC 2007 Annual Policy & Issues Forum

NACHC's Annual Policy & Issues Forum will take place at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information and to register please visit: <http://www.nachc.com>.

Save the Date

August 10-16, 2008

National Health Center Week

CCHN Newsletter Editor: [Maureen Maxwell](#); Creative Director: [Tanah Wagenseller](#)
Contributors: [Brandi Raiford](#), [Janie Martinez](#), [Molly O'Fallon](#), [Katie Jacobson](#), [Kitty Bailey](#), [Paula Lueras](#), [Stacey Moody](#), [Julie Hulstein](#), [Shannon Kolman](#), [Andrea Miller Martin](#), Molly Hanson, and Lynn Pelz and Krystal Boudreau, Peak Vista; Jennifer Morse, Salud; B.J. Iacino and Eric Stevens, Colo. Coalition for the Homeless; Janet Fieldman, Pueblo; Michele Lacey, Clinica; David Adamson, Mountain Family; John Reid, MCPN; and Steve Holloway, Colorado Primary Care Office.

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