



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2007

**Community Health Center Staff Honored  
Safety Net Health Care Improvements Celebrated**

DENVER— Community Health Center staff members were honored last night at the annual quality improvement awards ceremony of the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN). In addition, scholarships were awarded to Colorado Health Center entry-level staff members who are in training to advance their health care careers while continuing to care for patients.

CCHN's annual clinical quality awards honor outstanding Community Health Center (CHC) staff members and partner safety-net providers who participate in CCHN's health care quality improvement efforts. Honored this year were individuals and institutions in the Health Professions Initiative Scholarship Program, the Children's Oral Health Outcomes Partnership, the Colorado Oral Health Network Data for Clinical Quality Project, the Healthy Woman Outreach Project, the Health Disparities Collaboratives, and the CCHN Immunization Initiative.

Below are descriptions of the scholarships and awards and recipient names.

**Health Professions Initiative Scholarship Program**

The HPI Scholarships are given to high-achieving, entry-level and mid-level CHC employees seeking to further their education in an allied health profession. Awardees are chosen based on their commitment to serving the underserved, strong support from their CHC, and overall need for the scholarship award. Scholarship winners are:

Clinica Campesina Family Health Services: Victor Montour and Joab Salido.

Denver Health Family Health Services: Yasmin Abdelsalam, Bernice Almanza-Pereyra, Elizabeth Danowsky, Yvonne Garcia, and Irmalinda Gomez.

High Plains Community Health Center: Michelle Fisher, Maranda Foster, Lisa Hasser, Erica Saldana, Brooke Woller.

Metro Community Provider Network: Alma Aranda, Leah Peterson, Cassey Roush.

Peak Vista Community Health Centers: Rebecca McCay, Alma Rodriguez, Maria Sulzer.

People's Clinic: Prisciliana Antillon.

Plains Medical Center: Roxanne Upshaw.

Pueblo Community Health Center: Adrienne Martinez, Lisa Persons.

Salud Family Health Centers: Melynda Caddell, Leticia Chavez, Adria Wichterman.

Sunrise Community Health Center: Elida Rameriz.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.: Cheryl Archuleta, Cherri Lyons, Roland Martinez, Violet Martinez, Jessica Ortega, Christina Rodriguez, Rhonda Terry, Susan Vogel.

### **Children's Oral Health Outcomes Partnership (COHOP)**

COHOP increases collaboration between dental and medical providers to improve oral health outcomes for Colorado's children. This project aims to prevent childhood oral disease through a data driven, quality improvement program based in the medical setting. The 15 clinics participating in COHOP have formed quality improvement teams that include both medical and dental staff. Teams meet regularly with the goal of making continuous improvements in the quality of oral disease prevention services they offer to patients.

Clinica Campesina Family Health Centers – Thornton Clinic

Denver Health – Eastside Family Health Center

Dolores County Health Association - Dove Creek Community Health Clinic

High Plains Community Health Center

Inner City Health Center

Metro Community Provider Network – Jeffco Clinic

Peak Vista Community Health Center

Pueblo Community Health Centers – Avondale and Routt Avenue Clinics

Salud Family Health Centers – Ft. Lupton, Ft. Morgan, Sterling, Brighton, and Longmont Sites

Sunrise Community Health Center – Monfort Children's Clinic and Sunrise Family Dental Clinic

### **Colorado Oral Health Network (COHN) Data for Clinical Quality Project**

COHN is comprised of CHCs with dental clinics and other non-profit dental clinics from across the state. COHN's mission is to increase access to high quality oral health care for underserved Coloradans. COHN's Data for Clinical Quality Project was created to develop a system to measure, analyze, and share oral health outcomes. This helps improve the oral health of the patients served by COHN members. The project is focused on preventive services, completed treatment plans, the number of young children accessing dental care, and availability for emergency cases.

Clinica Campesina – Thornton Dental Clinic

Dental Aid – Boulder, Longmont, and Louisville Sites

Health District of Northern Larimer County

Howard Dental Center

Peak Vista Community Health Center

Salud Family Health Centers – Ft. Lupton Dental Clinic

### **Healthy Woman Outreach Project**

The Healthy Woman Outreach Project improves the health of participating CHC patients by increasing their awareness of and access to breast and cervical cancer screenings and appropriate follow-up services. Since 1999, participating CHC have provided approximately 8,000 clinical breast exams, mammograms, diagnostics, or case management services to over 4,000 patients. CHC staff members were nominated by their CHCs for providing breast and cervical health services to individuals who would otherwise not have access to these life saving services.

Clinica Campesina – Marilyn Davis

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless – Merida Carmona and Patty Heath

Denver Health Community Health Services – Maxine Geathers

Dove Creek Community Health Clinic – Constance Fisher

High Plains Community Health Center – Rebecca Olivas

Metro Community Provider Network – Kelly Laing-Hall

Mountain Family Health Center – Dr. Crystal Roney

Peak Vista Community Health Centers – Dee Anderson

People’s Clinic – Kathryn Werner

Plains Medical Center – Linda Messer

Pueblo Community Health Center, Inc. – Bernadette Lujan

Salud Family Health Centers – Jennifer Hansen

Sunrise Community Health Center – Cindy McDade

Uncompahgre Medical Center – Kathy Reed

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. – Nora Leist

### **Colorado Health Disparities Collaboratives**

The Collaboratives were developed to eliminate health disparities by changing primary health care practices. Efforts include continued participation in this project, transforming clinical practice, and documenting improved patient outcomes. Staff members were nominated by their CHCs for their outstanding contributions to the Health Disparities Collaboratives.

Clinica Campesina – Dr. Amy Russell

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Stout Street Clinic – Dr. Ed Farrell

Denver Health Community Health Services - Steve Bailey

Dove Creek Community Health Clinic - Manda Guillette

High Plains Community Health Center - Shae Emick

Metro Community Provider Network - Kara White

Mountain Family Health Centers - Ken Davis

Peak Vista Community Health Center - Lisa Loof

People’s Clinic - Hilary Helinek

Plains Medical Center – Kirsten Wiegert

Pueblo Community Health Center - Linda Archuleta

Salud Family Health Centers - Deb Maltby

Uncompahgre Medical Clinic - Michelle Haynes

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. - Emelin Martinez

### **Oral Health Collaborative Pilot**

Three Community Health Centers volunteered to be the flagship teams for a national oral health collaborative. Over the last year and a half, these teams have been meeting regularly to establish perinatal and early childhood oral health measures, discuss the latest research, run test cycles, and share best practices. They recently presented their work to a national audience at the National Network for Oral Health Access Conference in Arizona.

High Plains Community Health Center

Salud Family Health Centers - Ft. Lupton

Sunrise Community Health Center

### **Immunization Initiative**

CCHN's Immunization Initiative promotes excellence in immunization delivery through the use of strategies to increase immunization rates and improve quality of delivery. Teams identify barriers and implement quality improvement activities through data collection, team feedback, technical assistance, and best practice exchange. The Immunization Initiative measures the up-to-date immunization rates for one- and two-year-old children who are patients at Colorado's CHCs.

Clinica Campesina - Thornton, Pecos, and Lafayette

Denver Health – Eastside, Westside, La Casa/Quigg Newton, Denver Health Medical Plan, Kids Care, Westwood, Park Hill, and Mariposa clinics

High Plains Community Health Center

Metro Community Provider Network – Jeffco and Jefferson High

Pueblo Community Health Center

Salud Family Health Centers – Brighton, Ft. Collins, Fredrick, Sterling, Longmont, and Commerce City clinics

Sunrise Community Health Center – earned the Innovation Achievement Award, a new award that recognizes clinics that change their processes to improve immunization services delivery. Sunrise earned the award for the implementation of numerous processes during 2006 to improve safety, training and accountability in the delivery of the Vaccines for Children program.

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*To obtain digital photographs from the awards ceremony, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, or [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org).*

*The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. CCHN is Colorado's Primary Care Association, representing 15 non-profit Community Health Centers (CHCs) operating 118 sites across the state. CHCs provide comprehensive primary health care in community, migrant, homeless, and school-based health centers to one in twelve Coloradans. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).*

