Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award
Tracy Johnson, PhD, Colorado State Medicaid Director,
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, CO

Most of Dr. Tracy Johnson's career has focused on bringing thoughtful solutions to the challenge of providing coverage and care to Colorado's low-income residents. She has more than 20 years of experience in health policy, data analytics, population health, and program development and evaluation.

Dr. Johnson was appointed as the Medicaid Director for the State of Colorado in August 2019, and here she oversees the Health Programs Office which administers public health insurance programs for Coloradans. During her relatively short tenure in this position, Dr. Johnson has worked tirelessly with Colorado's FQHCs to understand the barriers that they face in providing access to high-quality care and has helped to develop tools and processes to overcome those barriers.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, Dr. Johnson worked swiftly to ensure that FQHCs were able to bill for telemedicine visits throughout the Public Health Emergency. As the use of telemedicine was adopted by FQHCs, Dr. Johnson worked with Colorado Community Health Network and other stakeholders on a path to ensure that telemedicine is here to stay – always taking into account the importance of patient and provider safety, as well as sound stewardship of tax-payer dollars.

Dr. Johnson has had a profound impact on Medicaid policy in her brief time as the state Medicaid Director. She understands local, state, and federal health policy at both a detailed and human level. She has worked incredibly hard to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on Medicaid recipients and Medicaid providers, and has been highly effective at impacting state policy and budgets.

We are pleased to present Dr. Tracy Johnson with the
CHAMPS Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award for
championing accessible, affordable, quality health care for all.