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# Fall 2017 Quarterly Newsletter

Published November 2017

## NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference Highlights

Last month in Seattle, WA close to 400 members of the health center community attended the 2017 Annual Primary Care Conference, jointly hosted by the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) and Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS). The conference theme, "Together Toward Tomorrow: Celebrating 20 Years of Region 18," reflected the remarkable strides we have made throughout our many years of regional partnership, and our ongoing commitment to collaboration. In addition to the many sessions, meetings, and roundtable lunches, this year's conference featured both welcome and networking receptions, a health center tour, a Seattle Wine Tasting and Dinner event, and several other opportunities to laugh and learn together. Notable speakers included Tonya Bowers and Dr. Luis Padilla from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Dan Hawkins from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC); and keynote speakers Chris Jenson and Paul Huschilt. Each fall CHAMPS, NWRPCA, and the Western Clinicians Network (WCN) partner to host this conference in alternating regions. Next year's Annual Primary Care Conference will be held October 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO.

Explore the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage to review conference highlights, link to session handouts (participant password required), view a photo journal, and stay updated on plans for the 2018 conference in Denver, CO.



Above: The CHAMPS Executive Committee gathers to discuss future plans and strategies.

Below: HRSA's Dr. Padilla and Tonya Bowers and NACHC's Dan Hawkins listen to an audience question at the Keynote Plenary.



Above: CHAMPS staff enjoy the Welcome Reception.

Below: Conference attendees share ideas in a session.



### Inside this Issue:

- ★ **CHAMPS News (pg. 2-4):** CHAMPS 2017 Award Winners, CHAMPS Executive Honored, 2016 RVIII UDS Summary, HHS/HRSA Funding, 2017-2018 RVIII Health Center Directory, Reframing to Move Mountains, CHAMPS Online Resources
- ★ **Workforce News (pg. 4-5):** CORE Training 2018, Upcoming Distance Learning Series on Team Based Care, Upcoming Workplace Wellness Webinar, Archived Distance Learning Events, Assessing the Effectiveness of Staff Compensation Programs
- ★ **MPCN News (pg. 6-7):** DynaMed Plus Preferred Pricing Program, Colorectal Cancer Screening ECHO, Spanish Language Training 2018, Flu Season Resources
- ★ **Outreach & Enrollment News (pg. 7-8):** OE5, Healthcare.gov Maintenance, Archived O&E Distance Learning Events, New ACA Impact Infographic, CKF's O&E Promising Practices Report
- ★ **Special & Vulnerable Populations News (pg. 9-10):** Online Resources, Ag Worker 2020 Campaign Progress, NACHC Food Insecurity Initiative, Native American Heritage Month, Webinars on Post-Disaster Worker Safety
- ★ **Regional & National News (pg. 10-12):** RVIII Center for Health Progress Awardee, Health Center Funding Cliff Impact, Scenario Planning, RVIII Health Centers in the News, Funding Opportunities
- ★ **Events Calendar & CHAMPS Contacts (pg. 12)**

## Congratulations to the 2017 CHAMPS Award Winners!

Each year CHAMPS recognizes community health leaders from across the mountain and plains states. All Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) are encouraged to submit award nominations, and winners are selected by the CHAMPS Executive Committee. The 2017 awards were presented at the CHAMPS Board of Directors meeting during the Annual Primary Care Conference in October.

**Eileen Flaherty**, FNP (pictured at right), Clinic Medical Director at Salud Family Health Centers' Estes Park Clinic, was awarded the **Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award** for dedicating her career to promoting health equity and community-based care for all.



**Linda Hughes** (pictured at left), Board Member at Salud Family Health Centers, received the **Exceptional Board Leadership Award** in recognition of her service to Salud Family Health Centers and to her community.

**Rebecca McCay** (pictured below right with David Pump), Chief Nursing and Clinical Officer at Peak Vista Community Health Centers, was given the **Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award** for demonstrating dedication to the health center mission through inspirational leadership and service.



**Alan Pruhs** (pictured below), Executive Director of the Association for Utah Community Health, received the **Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved Award** for demonstrating dedication to the health center mission through innovative and visionary leadership.



**David Pump** (pictured at right with Rebecca McCay), Deputy Director of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, was awarded the **Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award** for championing accessible, affordable, quality health care for all.

**Ricardo Velasquez**, MD (pictured at right with Gigi Darricades, CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.), Medical Consultant for Valley-Wide, was honored with the **Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award** for demonstrating clinical excellence and commitment to providing quality health care for all.



### CHAMPS' Julie Hulstein Receives 2017 NACHC Leadership Award

In August the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) honored CHAMPS Executive Director **Julie Hulstein** as a co-recipient of the **2017 Norton Wilson State/Regional Leadership Award**. This accolade is presented annually in recognition of excellent leadership in the health care association arena. Julie has spent more than two decades at CHAMPS, where she has been unwavering in her dedication to the health center mission, working in collaboration with the five state Primary Care Associations and more than 60 Community Health Centers to promote health equity and social justice throughout Region VIII. Thank you, Julie, for your incredible work!

### Annual Summary of Region VIII UDS Figures

Each year CHAMPS compiles a report of Uniform Data System (UDS) information for Region VIII Health Center Program grantees. The [2016 Region VIII BPHC Uniform Data System Summary](#) (released in September 2017) includes valuable trend data about health center grantees, sites, staffing, visits, income, patients, medical productivity, tenure, and clinical and fiscal performance. The summary was updated this year to include **NEW** information providing a greater focus on comprehensive services and Region VIII quality improvement efforts while incorporating new and updated UDS topics.

*Please visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage to download the full 2016 annual summary and a two-page 2016 Region VIII UDS Highlights flyer, as well as summaries and flyers from prior years.*

*Questions? Please contact [Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org).*

#### Region VIII Health Center Quick Stats

##### Between 2012 and 2016:

- ★ Grantees increased 8.3%
- ★ Staff FTEs increased 41.8%
- ★ Visits increased 21.0%
- ★ Patients increased 20.7%
- ★ Patients receiving mental health services increased 81.5%

##### In 2016:

- ★ 67.7% of health centers were considered rural, compared with 44.3% nationally
- ★ 21.4% of family physicians were reported as locum, on-call, etc., compared with 18.7% nationally
- ★ 330 funds made up 22.4% of total income, compared with 18.2% nationally
- ★ 78.4% of prenatal patients were served in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester, exceeding the Healthy People 2020 goal of 77.9%

### FY 2017 Funding Strengthens Health Centers Nationwide

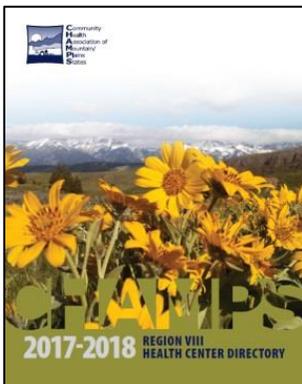
In August and September 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced nearly \$105 million in FY 2017 **Quality Improvement (QI) Awards** and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced over \$200 million in FY 2017 **Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (AIMS) Awards** to health centers across the nation. Altogether, Region VIII health centers received over \$14.5 million in FY 2017 QI and AIMS awards, which will be used to continue improving services in recognition of high levels of past performance and to increase personnel, leverage health information technology, and provide training to support the expansion of mental health services and substance abuse services focusing on the treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse, and their integration into primary care.

***Congratulations to all of the Region VIII awardees!***

*Read the QI Awards news release at [www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/08/15/hhs-awards-nearly-105-million-improve-health-center-quality.html](http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/08/15/hhs-awards-nearly-105-million-improve-health-center-quality.html).*

*Read the AIMS Awards news release at [www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/09/14/hrsa-awards-200-million-to-health-centers-nationwide.html](http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/09/14/hrsa-awards-200-million-to-health-centers-nationwide.html).*

### 2017-2018 Region VIII Health Center Directories Arriving Soon



The **2017-2018 Region VIII Health Center Directory** provides a comprehensive listing of all Community, Homeless, and Migrant Health Centers in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as contact information for each organization's main and satellite sites, and for the leadership and clinical staff working at those sites.

Printed copies of the Directory will be mailed this month. All health centers that have submitted updated information will receive one free copy, and all CHAMPS Organizational Members will receive an additional free copy. As a reminder, a searchable online version of the health center portion of the Directory is always available in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website.

*Questions? Please contact [Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org).*

### Reframing to Move Mountains

*Submitted by Paul Huschilt, 2017 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference Plenary Speaker*

When I spoke at the recent NWRPCA/CHAMPS conference in Seattle, we talked about perspective. It's an important concept, because we all come up against roadblocks in our daily life – at work and at home. If you are reading this I'm sure you've had to deal with something – like a change in rules or policy – that turns your world on its side.

When things seem immovable, it's often helpful to look at the situation from a different angle. By stepping away and de-personalizing the problem, you'll more likely be able to see what is in your control and how you might move forward. From here you can strategize and decide on your best path to climb beyond the issue.

For example, on a hike up a mountain, gravity is not a suggestion, it's the law. You can't change it no matter how hard you try. But, if you take one step away from the steep trek and think about what you can change, you may be able to lessen its impact. Maybe choose a different path. A wider but less steep route may be the answer. The trip may take longer and you won't burn any fewer calories, but it's all easier to deal with and easier to make progress. So, the next time you find yourself overcome by a problem, take a step back and change your perspective.



### Don't forget about these online CHAMPS resources!



The CHAMPS website, [www.CHAMPSonline.org](http://www.CHAMPSonline.org), provides data, documents, tools, resources, products, and links to other great resources, including the following:

- ★ **About Us**
- ★ **Events & Trainings**
- ★ **Tools & Products**
- ★ **Job Opportunities Bank**
- ★ **Links**
- ★ **Contact Us**
- ★ **Members Only**

*Want to be the first to know about new CHAMPS resources?*

**Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or join our [Discussion Group](#) to stay updated on all the latest CHAMPS offerings!**

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

*Encouraging successful careers and strong, cutting-edge organizations by providing live and archived continuing education, recruitment and retention tools, and the latest information on current trends and statistics. Learn more [here](#).*

### CHAMPS 2018 CORE Competency Training for (Relatively) New CHC Supervisors and Managers

This two-day course for new (or relatively new) supervisors and managers at community health centers will offer intensive, hands-on, and immediately applicable skill-building to successfully navigate management and supervisory roles in the fast-paced health center environment. Designed for health center supervisors and managers who have been in their positions for 18 months or less, this training will offer a balance of face-to-face, virtual, group, and one-on-one educational and networking components. CHAMPS will hold this training in April 2018 – check back soon for exact dates!

*To learn more about this training, visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### Coming Soon: CHAMPS/CCHN Distance Learning Series to Address Team Based Care

CHAMPS and Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) are pleased to announce an upcoming distance learning series focusing on the specific skills that clinical support staff, providers, and others need to be effective in implementing team based care and health equity focused initiatives. The **2018 Team Based Care Series** will begin in January, and each event will be offered with optional Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit through American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP); determination of credit is pending. Participation in any combination of events is FREE for Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations. Registration is separate for each individual event, and participants from the same site are encouraged to share a computer.

#### **Please Mark Your Calendars – Registration for the January Event is Now Open!**

*All events are on Wednesdays, held at 12:00-1:30PM Mountain Time / 1:00-2:30PM Central Time.*

- ★ January 24, 2018: **Understanding and Implementing Foundations of Team Based Care**
- ★ February 21, 2018: **Strategies for Maximizing the Team**
- ★ March 14, 2018: **Effective Team Communication with the Patient in Mind**
- ★ April 18, 2018: **Integrating Motivational Interviewing into Clinic Workflows**
- ★ May 23, 2018: **Sustaining Team Based Care**

*Visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details. Questions? Please contact [Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org).*

#### **CCHN/CHAMPS Staff Retention through Workplace Wellness Programs Webinar**

*January 17, 2018 from 12:00-1:30PM – Registration Coming Soon*

*Visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details!*

### Continuing Education on Your Schedule...

Live CHAMPS Distance Learning Events are recorded to give health center staff extra opportunities to enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. Current offerings include:

- ★ **2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data**
- ★ **Building an Effective Physician Recruitment Strategy**
- ★ **2017 Immunization Update**
- ★ **From PINs to Procedures: Ensuring Credentialing and Privileging Practices are Operational Site Visit Ready**
- ★ **Institutional Strategies for Promoting Resilience and Reducing Burnout**

*Visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details. See page 8 for information about archived CHAMPS Outreach & Enrollment Distance Learning Events.*

### Assessing the Effectiveness of Staff Compensation Programs

*Submitted by Mariah Blake, Star<sup>2</sup>Center*

Join the [STAR<sup>2</sup> Center](#) this fall for a four-part series tackling the use of a defined compensation strategy to improve recruitment and retention of clinicians at a high-functioning health center. This program is designed to acquaint participants with the elements of an effective compensation program, both in design and execution. Beyond simply looking up competitive rates in a salary survey, we will look at how health care organizations can establish pay structures that recognize the differences between jobs, additional duties and responsibilities, and how the philosophy the organization takes toward pay will impact the ability to recruit and retain talent. [Sign up today](#) to begin the journey with our experts! [One registration](#) saves you a spot at all four sessions in this series, and each event will be recorded for future use.

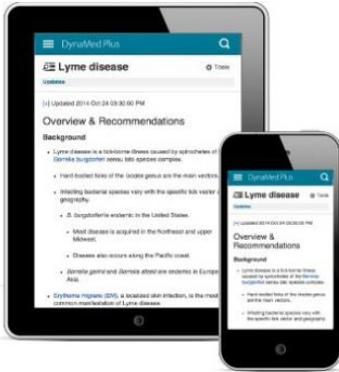
Don't forget about the CHAMPS **Employment Screening Preferred Pricing Program!**

Did you know that CHAMPS Organizational Member CHCs can take advantage of discounted ScreeningOne employment screening services? [Click here](#) to learn more!

# MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians that practice in Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to poor and underserved populations. Learn more [here](#).

## Enroll Today in the DynaMed Plus Preferred Pricing Program!



CHAMPS is pleased to offer a new Preferred Pricing Program (PPP) for DynaMed Plus, a clinical decision support tool to provide clinicians with evidence-based, peer-reviewed information via both computers and mobile devices. DynaMed Plus can also be integrated into health center EHR systems at no additional cost. Each subscription includes one year of DynaMed Plus access, with a service year end date of July 31, 2018. DynaMed Plus is \$250 per year per provider from CHAMPS Organizational Member CHCs; for nonmembers from Region VIII health centers, the cost is \$300 per year per provider.

To learn more, visit the CHAMPS [DynaMed Plus PPP](#) webpage, or view this 25-minute [video introduction](#) on the features of DynaMed Plus. Health centers may purchase subscriptions for any or all of their providers by contacting [Jen@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Jen@CHAMPSonline.org).

## Care Coordination Strategies for Improving Rates of Colorectal Cancer Screening: A CHAMPS Project ECHO Learning Community

In this series, health center care coordination and patient navigation professionals will develop key skills and strategies to improve patient outcomes related to colorectal cancer screening rates in support of the [80 by 18](#) goal set by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT). This series will feature experts from the NCCRT, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, Patient Navigation Training Center, and Region VIII health centers.

The sessions in this Care Coordination Strategies for Improving Rates of Colorectal Cancer Screening series will occur each Tuesday from 11:30AM-12:30PM Mountain Time / 12:30PM-1:30PM Central Time beginning January 23 through February 20, 2018. Registration is free, and will open in late November.

For more information about CHAMPS' Project ECHO Learning Communities, please visit <http://champonline.org/events-trainings/distance-learning/projectecho>. Questions? Please contact [Jen@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Jen@CHAMPSonline.org).

## Save the Date: CHAMPS Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals Training

Mark your calendars for the annual CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals, to be held April 20-23, 2018 in Denver, CO. This popular event, offered in partnership with Denver Medical Society (DMS), provides medical Spanish language training for clinicians and clinical support staff at Region VIII health centers. The four-day course is an intensive and conversational Spanish workshop consisting of medical dialogues, roleplays, visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. Participants will experience an immersion learning curriculum, an approach that is highly suitable for those with limited time and who must use their new language skills immediately with their Spanish-speaking patients.



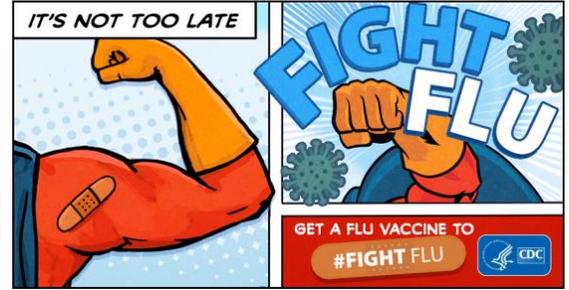
Beginner and intermediate skill levels will be offered, with separate classes for each level. The cost of the course is \$649 per person for CHAMPS and DMS member organizations and \$799 for non-members. Registration will open after the New Year's holiday.

For more information, visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage. Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage to see if your organization is a current member.

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Influenza Vaccine Week 2017

National Influenza Vaccine Week 2017 will be held December 3-9, 2017. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners are reminding people that it is not too late to get a flu vaccine, noting that:

- ★ Flu vaccination coverage estimates from past seasons have shown that few people get vaccinated against influenza after the end of November.
- ★ Last season only about 40% of the U.S. population recommended to get a flu vaccine reported having been vaccinated by the end of November.
- ★ As long as flu viruses are spreading and causing illness, vaccination should continue throughout the flu season in order to protect as many people as possible against the flu.
- ★ Even if you haven't yet been vaccinated and have already gotten sick with flu, you can still benefit from vaccination since the flu vaccine protects against three or four different flu viruses (depending on which flu vaccine you get).



To learn more about this campaign and to download free flu campaign resources, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/nivw/index.htm>.

## OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS

*Assisting health centers and Primary Care Associations with outreach and enrollment efforts to increase patients accessing care at health centers across Region VIII. Learn more [here](#).*

### 2018 Open Enrollment Period is in Full Swing



Wednesday, November 1 marked that start of the 2018 Open Enrollment Period (OE5), during which consumers will be able to shop for health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace. OE5 is shorter than previous open enrollment periods, making the work of enrollment assisters more vital than ever. In-person enrollment assistance to health center patients and community members is critical all year, as this service helps consumers obtain, utilize, and understand their health insurance coverage. During OE5, however, it is especially important for all health center staff to share the following information with patients:

1. Financial and in-person assistance for consumers is available.
2. The ACA is still law. Consumers must prove they have health coverage for the full calendar year of 2018 or risk paying a fine.
3. Do not wait until the last minute to enroll in healthcare coverage. The enrollment deadline is December 15, 2017 for Federally-Facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), which includes MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY. State-Based Marketplaces (SBMs) determine their own OE5 start and end dates; in CO, the enrollment deadline is January 12, 2018.
4. Consumers should be proactive in re-enrolling in health coverage. Consumers who are auto re-enrolled in a plan by the Marketplace *will not* be able to switch plans after January 1, 2018.

Consumers in FFM states can shop for healthcare coverage on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and locate in-person assistance via the [Find Local Help](#) feature on HealthCare.gov.

Consumers in CO can shop for health coverage on [Connect for Health Colorado](#) and locate in-person assistance via the [Free Expert Help](#) feature on Connect for Health Colorado's website.

## OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### HealthCare.gov 2017 Maintenance



During OE5, [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) will be shut down for scheduled maintenance each Sunday from 10:00AM-10:00PM Mountain Time / 11:00AM-11:00PM Central Time, except on December 10, 2017. Maintenance outages are regularly scheduled on [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) during the lowest-traffic time periods every year during open enrollment periods. To receive alerts when [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) is undergoing maintenance, contact Paul Schnegelberger at [Paul.Schnegelberger@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Paul.Schnegelberger@cms.hhs.gov) and request to be added to the "XOC Marketplace Notice/Alert List."

### Archived CHAMPS O&E Distance Learning Events

For the past three summers CHAMPS has partnered with Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) to offer webcasts about outreach and enrollment. These events are archived on the [CHAMPS YouTube channel](#) to allow for ongoing learning on topics including:

- ★ **Engagement and Advocacy for O&E Staff**
- ★ **Habits of Highly Effective Assisters**
- ★ **A Guide to Storytelling: Unleashing the Power of Personal Narrative**
- ★ **Leveraging O&E Assisters in Community Health Centers**



*For more information, visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage. See page 5 for information about other archived CHAMPS webcasts.*

### ACA Impact on Region VIII Community Health Centers

Each year CHAMPS uses Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) [Uniform Data System \(UDS\)](#) information to create a Region VIII Affordable Care Act (ACA) Impact Infographic comparing the uninsured rates and related information for health center grantee patients in Region VIII states (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY) between 2012, one year before the first open enrollment period implemented by the ACA, and the most currently available year of health center UDS information. Between 2012 and 2016:

- ★ There was a 20.2% decrease in uninsured patients seen at Region VIII CHCs.
- ★ Four out of six states increased the number of insured patients seen.
- ★ Region VIII CHCs saw 167,942 new patients, including 166,683 more patients with Medicaid and 56,375 more patients with private insurance.

*To access the Region VIII ACA Impact Infographics for 2016 and for previous years, please visit the CHAMPS [Health Centers and Healthcare Reform](#) webpage.*

*See page 3 for information about the [2016 Region VIII BPHC Uniform Data System \(UDS\) Summary](#).*

### Report Showcases Promising Practices in Outreach & Enrollment

A new report from Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) and the Colorado Health Foundation showcases the most promising outreach and enrollment practices in Colorado based on the work of the 10 organizations that participated in the Colorado Health Foundation's Community Approach to Outreach and Enrollment (O&E) funding opportunity. *Promising Practices in Outreach and Enrollment: Lessons Learned from Colorado's Outreach and Enrollment Learning Collaborative* is designed to assist organizations and communities that are beginning their own O&E programs, and offers suggestions for new approaches to those already engaged in this work. The report highlights five key O&E practices:

1. Collaborate with community partners.
2. Co-locate programs and services.
3. Create an O&E work plan to guide efforts.
4. Hire or build relationships with trusted members of target communities.
5. Use data to find the eligible but not enrolled.

*To learn more and to access the full report, please visit the CKF [Promising Practices](#) webpage.*

## SPECIAL & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS

*Increasing the ability of Region VIII health centers to effectively serve populations with limited access to health care by increasing knowledge and enhancing collaborations. Learn more [here](#).*



### CHAMPS Special Populations Online Resources

Did you know that CHAMPS has [six webpages](#) designed to help Region VIII CHCs address the needs of culturally diverse populations? These webpages offer tips and tools for providers treating patients experiencing homelessness and those living in public housing; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) patients; Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFWs); and veterans. These resources are developed and enhanced based on feedback from Region VIII CHC staff. Please contact [Valerie@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Valerie@CHAMPSonline.org) regarding new needs, suggestions, or resources to share.

### Region VIII and Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign Progress

During the 2017 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference, Regions VIII and X health center and Primary Care Association (PCA) staff working with migrant and seasonal farmworker communities discussed the challenges and opportunities presented by the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign's goal to serve not less than two million agricultural workers and family members nationally by 2020. Much of the conversation focused on regional progress toward meeting the campaign's goal, which is captured in the [Regions VIII and X Ag Worker 2020 Infographic](#), as well as different challenges and opportunities for the states in each region.



*To learn more about the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign, visit [www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access-2020.html](http://www.ncfh.org/ag-worker-access-2020.html).*

### NACHC Initiative Focuses on Health Center Programs Fighting Food Insecurity



In July 2017, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), with support from the Medtronic Foundation, completed a project on food insecurity. Food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable nutritious food. The *Community Health Centers as Food Oasis Partners: Addressing Food Insecurity for Patients and Communities* project sought to understand what health centers do every day to ensure that their patients and communities have access to nutritious food. This project aimed to identify innovative and promising practices, to collect and share examples of replicable, sustainable program designs, and to understand ways in which food security interventions are impacting health outcomes in target populations.

One of the health centers featured in this report is Region VIII's own RiverStone Health, a community health center located in Billings, Montana. RiverStone Health uses the PRAPARE Tool to screen patients for social factors that affect their health, including food insecurity, and then works with community organizations to respond to those needs. Interventions have included partnering with several community organizations to coordinate a weekly gardener's market, as well as organizing a greenhouse project that brings together students and senior center residents to grow and harvest fresh produce together.

*To read the full project report, visit NACHC's [Food Insecurity](#) webpage. See pages 32-33 of the report to learn more about RiverStone Health's food insecurity programs.*

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## SPECIAL & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS, *Continued*

### November is National Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month recognizes the diverse cultures, languages, and histories of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in the United States. This month is also an opportunity to raise awareness of AI/AN health disparities, particularly type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity, and to provide a platform for AI/AN health organizations to share their expertise and promote health equity.

In observance of National American Heritage Month, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have revised the [American Indian and Alaska Native Health Web Portal](#), which provides a wealth of resources for both patients and health professionals, such as access to technical literature in the PubMed database and the Knowledge Center online catalog. Health topics lead to easy-to-read information on major health conditions, as well as traditional healing resources. The Office of Minority Health (OMH) [National Native American Heritage Month webpage](#) also offers many useful resources, including information on AI/AN health disparities and graphics to use on social media.



### New Archived Webinars on Keeping Post-Disaster Workers Safe

*Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network*



From coast to coast, Americans are recovering from terrifying disasters. Floods, hurricanes, and fires have damaged homes, altered landscapes, and changed lives. Many parts of Region VIII suffered through a devastating wildfire season this last year. As climate change progresses, extreme weather events like megafires are expected to be more frequent and more severe. Health centers around the country are reevaluating their disaster response plans in light of recent major events – and vulnerable workers who step up to complete the recovery efforts should be included in those plans.



In recent Migrant Clinicians Network webinars, experts returning from the field presented lessons learned after recent storms, and discussed how we can apply them in our own health centers. While the disaster, its location, and its severity may vary, many of the stories of cleanup – and the hazards involved – are the same. With resilience and determination, communities try to rebuild, but the rebuilding necessitates an immediate workforce ready for strenuous and dangerous jobs. Post-disaster recovery, cleanup, and reconstruction operations present numerous risks and dangers to workers. Many do this work without proper safety equipment or training on hazard mitigation. These webinars cover important information to protect workers and provide plentiful resources for health centers. View the free archived webinars, presented in English and Spanish, at <http://www.migrantclinician.org/archived-webinars.html>.



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## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

### Region VIII Leader Honored by Center for Health Progress



At its annual HEALTHtalks fundraiser luncheon in Denver, CO in September 2017, the Center for Health Progress recognized the achievements of **Ross Brooks**, Chief Executive Officer of Mountain Family Health Centers in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado (pictured at left). Ross received the **Advocate of the Year Award** for his tireless championing of health equity in rural and mountain communities, and as an advocate for high-quality, patient-centered, integrated health care for all Coloradans. Ross is driven by the simple principle that access to health care is a human right. Congratulations, Ross!

### Health Center Funding Cliff Impact on 2018 Funding

As Congress continues to work to fix the health center funding cliff, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) has begun to plan for 2018 funding. In early November, HRSA sent an automated email to all health center awardees whose current project periods end on December 31, 2017 with information on how to close out their grants, which has caused confusion about whether 2018 funding would still be provided. BPHC has since clarified that if Congress fails to pass legislation to fund the Health Center Program before the end of the year, **BPHC will fund all Budget Period Renewals (BPRs) and Service Area Competitions (SACs) with January 1, 2018 start dates on a month-to-month basis.** Awardees whose current grant period ends on January 31, 2018 will not receive an automated email from HRSA, as HRSA has discontinued these notices in order to prevent additional confusion. Grant recipients should expect to see their Notices of Award (NOAs) on or about December 1, 2017. For more information about upcoming health center funding awards, please contact the National Association of Community Health Centers' (NACHC's) Colleen Meiman at [cmeiman@nachc.org](mailto:cmeiman@nachc.org).

While the health center funding cliff continues to receive media attention, it is key that the health center community maintain the public's attention to this issue. To do so, NACHC is continually updating its repository of stories about the impact of the funding cliff in different communities. NACHC is especially interested in stories that relate to workforce shortages, staff freezes, and reductions in services to treat opioid and other substance addiction. Please send stories to NACHC's Amy Simmons at [asimmons@nachc.org](mailto:asimmons@nachc.org).



### Scenario Planning: Being Proactive in a Changing Environment

*Submitted by Meredith Tzouros, Capital Link*

In light of the challenging events of the past few months, many health centers are wondering what they can do to become better prepared for the future. Whether it is a natural disaster or a policy change, preparing as much as possible for an adverse event is critical to being able to respond quickly and remain resilient. Scenario planning is a strategic planning method that can help you establish assumptions about the future to inform decision-making and long-term strategic business plans. Estimating the impacts of potential future events, provides you with an opportunity to proactively plan for change, reducing reactionary responses and conserving resources in the long run. The key to scenario planning is understanding that your assumptions do not have to be precise to give you a better idea of the consequences to certain events, and often it's helpful to limit variables so you don't end up with "paralysis by analysis." Visit [caplink.org](http://caplink.org) to access scenario planning tips, tools, and more.

### Region VIII Health Centers in the News

- ★ **Family HealthCare:** [Navigator Lori Kinn offers advice on finding health insurance that fits your needs](#) (*KFGO Radio*, October 31)
- ★ **Community Health Center of the Black Hills:** ["Open enrollment for 2018 health coverage begins Nov. 1"](#) (*INFORUM*, October 30)
- ★ **Community Health Partners:** ["Community Health Partners Prepares for Open Enrollment"](#) (*The Livingston Enterprise*, October 27)
- ★ **Wayne Community Health Centers, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic, and Association for Utah Community Health:** ["Community health centers anxiously await congressional action on expired funding"](#) (*Deseret News*, October 11)
- ★ **Clinica Family Health and Denver Health:** ["Coverage for Colorado Kids, Pregnant Women and Others Will End Without Action"](#) (*The Colorado Trust*, October 5)
- ★ **Community Health Center of Central Wyoming:** ["As summer ends, flu season begins"](#) (*Oil City News*, October 3)



## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

### Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program](#) (applications due December 6, 2017)
- ★ [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C HIV Early Intervention Services Program](#) (applications due January 2, 2018)
- ★ Ford Family Foundation [Good Neighbor Grant](#) and [Community Building Spaces Grant](#) (applications accepted on a rolling basis)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the interactive [Online CHAMPS Calendar](#) for continuing updates!

2017



#### **MPCA 2017 UDS Training**

November 29-30, 2017

#### **Bureau of Primary Health Care All Programs Webcast**

November 30, 2017

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2018



#### **CCHN/CHAMPS Staff Retention through Workplace Wellness Programs Webinar**

January 17, 2018  
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

#### **CHAMPS/RMPHTC Care Coordination Strategies for Improving Rates of Colorectal Cancer Screening ECHO Learning Community**

Tuesdays from January 23-February 20, 2018  
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT



#### **CHAMPS/CCHN Distance Learning Series to Address Team Based Care**

January 24, February 21, March 14,  
April 18, and May 23, 2018,  
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

#### **NACHC Policy & Issues Forum**

March 13-18, 2018  
Washington, D.C.

#### **CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals**

April 20-23, 2018  
Denver, CO

#### **NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health**

May 1-3, 2018  
San Antonio, TX

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