



Summer 2018 Quarterly Newsletter

Published August 2018

Registration is Open!

CHAMPS/NWRPCA 2018 Fall Primary Care Conference

Join CHAMPS and [Northwest Regional Primary Care Association](#) (NWRPCA) at the 2018 Fall Primary Care Conference, **Saturday, October 20 through Tuesday, October 23, 2018** in Denver, Colorado. This year's theme is "Region 18: Elevation Through Innovation in 2018," and the event will provide education and training, information and resource sharing, coalition building, and program and policy development for like-minded community health professionals and partners of Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY) as well as Region X (AK, ID, OR, and WA). The conference will include a variety of additional events, including a pre-conference **New Clinical Directors Training**, October 19 to 20, a **Welcome Reception**, October 20 from 5:15PM to 7:15PM, the **CHAMPS Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Awards Presentation** on October 21 from 4:30PM to 6:30PM, a **CHC Tour** to two [Denver Health Community Health Services](#) sites on October 22, and the **2018 Region VIII Meet & Greet Networking Event and CHC Job Fair** on October 22 from 6:00PM to 8:30PM.

[CHAMPS Organizational Member](#) health centers may qualify for **Registration Reimbursement** (for one eligible individual: line staff, medical support staff, or mid-level managers and supervisors) and **Travel Support** (for clinicians working 0.5 FTE or greater as medical, behavioral, or dental providers).

Visit the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage for more information and to register. Contact Julie@CHAMPSonline.org for details about the CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting. See page 7 for information about the New Clinical Directors Training. See page 5 for information about the Region VIII Meet & Greet.

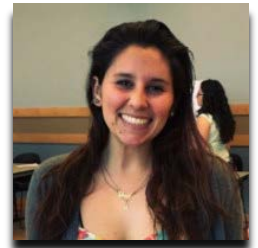
Business Innovations	Clinical Care & Innovations	Healthy Communities	Operational Excellence	Quality Transformation
Effective Governance	Integrated Care	Policy & Environment	Strategic Leadership	Workforce Optimization

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Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinators

CHAMPS is pleased to welcome two new staff members, **Helen Vernier** and **Yael Holzman Castellands** (pictured at right). Helen is the Programs Coordinator, Population Health, responsible for CHAMPS' Outreach and Enrollment and Special and Vulnerable Populations programs, implementing CHAMPS' advocacy plan, supporting clinical quality improvement efforts, and otherwise assisting CHAMPS with trainings, data projects, and networking for Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations. Yael is the Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications, responsible for facilitating communications between CHAMPS and the health centers of Region VIII, supporting health center staff recruitment, planning distance learning events, and promoting the organization through the CHAMPS website and social media. To contact Helen about CHAMPS' Outreach and Enrollment and Special and Vulnerable Populations Programs, please email Helen@CHAMPSonline.org or call (303) 867-9544. To contact Yael about CHAMPS' communications or activities related to health center staff recruitment and retention, please email Yael@CHAMPSonline.org or call (303) 867-9584.



Welcome, Helen and Yael!

National Health Center Week 2018

This year, the [National Association of Community Health Centers'](#) (NACHC's) [Health Center Advocacy Network](#) encouraged health centers and Primary Care Associations to take part in [National Health Center Week](#) (NHCW) August 12 to August 18. This annual celebration aims to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's health centers.

Health centers serve 27 million patients annually, a number that continues to grow along with the demand for affordable primary care. In addition to their long history as health care homes to millions, health centers produce innovative solutions to the most pressing health care issues in their communities and reach beyond the walls of conventional medicine to address the social determinants of health affecting special patient populations. Each year NHCW celebrates the work and services health centers provide to special populations within their community on designated days during the week.

This year's designations included:

- ★ Sunday, 8/12: [Legislative Appreciation Day](#)
- ★ Monday, 8/13: [Honoring Health Center Heroes Day](#)
- ★ Tuesday, 8/14: [Public Housing Health Centers Day](#)
- ★ Wednesday, 8/15: [Healthcare for the Homeless Day](#)
- ★ Thursday, 8/16: [Agricultural Worker Health Day](#)
- ★ Friday, 8/17: [Patient Appreciation Day](#)
- ★ Saturday, 8/18: [Children's Health Day](#)



This year's National Health Center Week theme was "Celebrating Health Centers: Home of America's Health Care Heroes." CHAMPS staff (pictured at left) celebrated [Honoring Health Center Heroes Day](#) on Monday, August 13 to recognize that individuals are what make health centers so valuable. This dedication to the Community Health Center Movement deserves recognition, as staff members provide high quality care to patients every day, advocate for health centers, keep programs running smoothly, and much more, ensuring community health centers continue to thrive.

CHAMPS salutes all Region VIII Health Care Heroes!

CHAMPS Region VIII Annual Measure of Finance, Operations, and Productivity (AMFOP) Survey – Deadline Extended to August 31

Each year CHAMPS works with CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) and CHAMPS Organizational Member health centers to create an Annual Measure of Finance, Operations, and Productivity (AMFOP) report. The purpose of the project is to provide health centers insight on their individual, state, and regional financial, operational, and productivity measures. The goals of data collection, analysis, and reporting are to give health centers strategic tools with which to measure the health and viability of their business against that of their peers' businesses, begin to establish regional business data benchmarks over time for the purpose of evaluating operational strengths and weaknesses, and inform long-range training plans for CHAMPS. This members-only report is available as an electronic file only. CHAMPS member Health Centers are encouraged to participate, and the **submission deadline has been extended to August 31, 2018**.

Contact Juile@CHAMPSonline.org for more information and questions. Visit the [CHAMPS AMFOP Reports](#) webpage to view past and current reports.

Check out the [CHAMPS LinkedIn Company Page](#) to find out about upcoming events, recent news, and new resources!

In Memoriam: Alan Strange

Alan Strange, PhD, one of the founding board members of CHAMPS in 1985, passed away on May 26, 2018. Dr. Strange served in the U.S. Army at West Point, then completed a master's degree in psychology and a PhD in public health before relocating to Montana in 1975. He spent his long career helping to improve health care access for rural and underserved populations through his involvement in the founding of many Montana health centers, and policy development and implementation. Dr. Strange served as CEO of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), CEO of the Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA), and as chair of many National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) committees as well as on the CHAMPS Board of Directors. CHAMPS honors Dr. Strange's memory and his innumerable contributions to CHAMPS, Region VIII, and the health center movement.

Don't miss the new CHAMPS [Strategic Planning Resources](#) webpage with information intended to help health center board members understand their responsibilities and guide their centers into strong and successful futures.

Funding Strengthens Health Centers Nationwide

On August 15, 2018, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced \$125 million in **Quality Improvement (QI) Awards** to over 1,300 health centers nationwide to recognize efforts in expanding access to comprehensive care, improving care quality and outcomes, increasing comprehensive care delivery in a cost-effective way, addressing health disparities, advancing the use of health information technology, and delivering patient-centered care. Awardees will use these funds to continue to improve quality, efficiency, and the effectiveness of healthcare delivery in their communities. The 64 health centers of Region VIII received over \$4.9 million in Quality Improvement awards.



Congratulations to all of the Region VIII awardees!

Learn more by reading the [HHS QI Awards news release](#).

2017 UDS Statistics Now Available

In mid-August, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the release of 2017 Health Center Program national-level grantee data from the Uniform Data System (UDS). Visit the [HRSA 2017 National Health Center Data](#) webpage to review patient data, staffing and utilization information, performance measures, and more. In the coming months, CHAMPS will utilize the aggregated UDS data from each Region VIII state to develop the 2017 Region VIII Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) UDS Summary to provide two, three, and five-year trends of selected Region VIII and national data, plus breakdowns of data by state, Region VIII, and the nation for the current year.

See Region VIII [BPHC UDS Summaries](#) from prior years on the CHAMPS Publications webpage.

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](#).

Coming Soon: CHAMPS 2018 Salary Survey Reports

Almost 86% of Region VIII Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers participated in the **CHAMPS 2018 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, and Turnover Survey**, reporting valuable workforce data for over 8,200 employees working at over 360 sites across all six Region VIII states. Beginning in October 2018 CHAMPS will release three reports based on this survey data:

- ★ The **2018 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Report** will provide a regional snapshot of salary and benefits structures and workforce trends across the Mountain/Plains region, including a **NEW in 2018 look at voluntary versus involuntary turnover**.
- ★ The **2018 Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing Report** will provide staffing ratios related to medical, dental, and behavioral health provider and support employees for Region VIII as a whole and by Region VIII state.
- ★ The **2018 Region VIII Health Center Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health (New in 2018) Provider Productivity Expectations Report** will provide information about health center expectations for weekly hours, ratio of administrative vs. patient contact hours, and complete visits for full-time medical, dental, and behavioral health providers, as well as a look at the standard panel size for these providers.

For more information about this valuable project, please email Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) have access to electronic copies of all past reports in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (member log-in required).

CHAMPS and CCHN Host Free Region VIII CHC Job Fair

All Region VIII health centers are invited to join CHAMPS and [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) on Monday October 22, 2019 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM, for the **Region VIII Meet and Greet Reception** where health center and PCA representatives will have the opportunity to meet health professions students, residents, and faculty to share their experiences and offer insight into what it's like working at health centers in Region VIII states (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming). Each health center in Region VIII is invited to display materials at an exhibit table and discuss job opportunities with students and residents. The event will be held in conjunction with the CHAMPS/NWRPCA [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) at the Westin Denver Downtown in Denver, CO, in the Augusta Room. Appetizers and drinks will be served.

To reserve an exhibit table and RSVP, email Yael@CHAMPSonline.org by Friday, September 14. All Region VIII PCAs are invited and encouraged to send a representative to the event.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Continuing Education on Your Schedule...

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:

- ★ **Clinical and Quality Distance Learning Events:**
 - [CHAMPS 2018 Immunization Update](#)
 - [SAMHSA Region VIII 42 CFR Part 2: Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records](#)
- ★ **CHAMPS/CCHN 2017 Outreach and Enrollment Distance Learning Series:**
 - [Preparing for OE5: Addressing Changes in the Marketplace](#)
- ★ **CHAMPS/CCHN 2018 Outreach and Enrollment Distance Learning Series:**
 - [The Silent Crisis: Engaging Immigrant Populations in your Health Center](#)
- ★ **CHAMPS/NWRPCA Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers (MSAW) and their Families Uniform Data System (UDS) Reporting Series:**
 - [It's Not Too Early to be Thinking About 2018 UDS Reporting for Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers and their Families](#)
 - [Nuts and Bolts to Identifying Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers and their Families in Your Health Center](#)
- ★ **CHAMPS/Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) Workforce Development Series:**
 - [Recruiting Behavioral Health and Oral Health Staff in an Integrated Care Model](#)
 - [Assessing Organizational Readiness for Change](#)
 - [What You Need to Know About Area Health Education Centers \(AHECs\)](#)
- ★ **CHAMPS/CCHN Team-Based Care Distance Learning Series:**
 - [Understanding and Implementing Foundations of Team-Based Care](#)
 - [Strategies for Maximizing Use of the Care Team](#)
 - [Effective Team Communication with the Patient in Mind](#)
 - [Integrating Motivational Interviewing into Clinic Workflows](#)
 - [Spreading and Sustaining Team-Based Care](#)
 - [The Role of Place in Team-Based Care](#)
 - [Utilizing Data Effectively to Advance Team-Based Care](#)
- ★ **Additional Workforce Development Events:**
 - [CHAMPS Best Practices for Supporting Veterans in Your Organization](#)
 - [CHAMPS/CCHN Strategies for Developing Community Partnerships](#)
 - [CHAMPS/CCHN Staff Retention through Workplace Wellness](#)

Visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details.

See page 8 for more information about the archived [2018 Immunization Update](#) and the [2018 Outreach & Enrollment Distance Learning Series](#).

Don't Forget: CHAMPS Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank



Did you know the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank](#) (JOB) receives **over 2,000 views** each month? CHAMPS advertises career opportunities at Region VIII health centers not only through JOB posts but also by advertising those JOB postings at local, regional, and national career fairs. Upcoming fairs that CHAMPS will attend include the **2018 Health and Professions Career and Graduate School Fair** hosted by Regis University and the **Career Fair for Physicians** hosted by Career MD. Make sure CHAMPS is representing your most current openings by updating your health center's JOB openings today. Posting is **FREE** for all Region VIII health centers.

Visit the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank](#) to review all active postings.
Need to post a new job, or update a currently listed opening? Contact Yael@CHAMPSonline.org

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](#).

Meet the New MPCN Steering Committee Officers

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) is excited to announce two new officers of the MPCN Steering Committee. **Chasity Dolbec, RN**, is the new Chair of the MPCN Steering Committee. Chasity is Director of Patient Care & Innovation at Coal Country Community Health Centers in Beulah, North Dakota. She has been on the Steering Committee since 2012. **Ken Davis, PA-C**, is now serving as Vice Chair. He joined the Steering Committee in 2015 as the quality improvement consultant. Ken is Executive Director of the Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership, the network of community and safety net organizations, health care providers and government agencies in Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties of Colorado. Ken comes to this role as a clinician at Northwest Colorado Health where he still practices. To learn more about MPCN or if you are interested in joining the MPCN Steering Committee, please visit the CHAMPS [MPCN Steering Committee](#) webpage for more information or contact Jen Anderson at Jen@CHAMPSonline.org.

Click [here](#) to download a flyer with more information about MPCN.

Enroll Today in the DynaMed Plus Preferred Pricing Program

CHAMPS is pleased to offer a 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. Providers receive CME for every clinical search they conduct through DynaMed Plus. Subscribers will receive access to DynaMed Plus through July 31, 2019 at a cost of \$250 per provider from CHAMPS organizational member health centers; for non-members from Region VIII health centers the cost is \$300 per provider. The final enrollment deadline for the CHAMPS DynaMed Plus PPP is October 31, 2018. To learn more, visit the CHAMPS [DynaMed Plus PPP](#) webpage, or view this four-minute [video introduction](#) about the features of DynaMed Plus. Health centers may purchase subscriptions for any or all their providers by contacting Jen Anderson, CHAMPS Clinical Quality Improvement Director, at Jen@CHAMPSonline.org.

Have You Seen the CHAMPS 2018 Immunization Update? Watch the Archive Today!

CHAMPS hosted the [2018 CHAMPS Immunization Update](#) on Thursday, June 7, 2018. This annual distance learning event featured Andrew Kroger, MD, MPH, Medical Officer, Immunization Services Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who addressed the 2018 vaccine schedules and the latest Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. The webcast was developed for clinical leadership, clinicians, clinical support staff, and other interested healthcare professionals at community health centers in Region VIII.

For more information on this and other CHAMPS archives, visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Mobile Apps for Providers

[Figure1](#) allows healthcare professionals from specializations including medicine, nursing, paramedicine, and dentistry to connect to discuss and share medical cases with a global community.

Not sure where to start when it comes to mobile applications? Review the Health Information Technology, Evaluation, and Quality Center's (HITEQ's) new [Health App Decision Tree](#).

New to Your Role as a Health Center Clinical Director?

Join CHAMPS and Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) in Denver October 19 to 20, 2018 for the **Regional Training for New Clinical Directors** hosted by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). This 1.5-day training, offered immediately before the [2018 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference](#), provides the core knowledge and competencies that



all health center Clinical Directors need to function as effective managers, leaders, and advocates for their health centers and communities. In addition to providing contextual knowledge regarding the history, terminology, political evolution, and regulatory expectations of the Health Center Movement, the course content also focuses on developing competencies in evolving healthcare issues. Participants will benefit from self-paced eLearning, didactic learning, small group case study discussions, networking opportunities, follow-up resources, and access to the [Self-Directed Learning Engine](#) (SDLE) for one year. Conference attendees qualify for a registration discount.

Download a [complete course agenda](#) now. Visit the [NWRPCA website](#) to register and learn more!



Don't Miss these New CHAMPS QI Webpages!

Check out these new webpages containing tools, articles, and guides on implementing health equity initiatives:

- ★ [Health Equity Resources](#)
- ★ [Health Literacy Resources](#)
- ★ [Social Determinants of Health Resources](#)



Register for the Upcoming ECHO Learning Community

Register now for [Team-based Patient Engagement to Support Diabetes Management](#), a CHAMPS Project ECHO Learning Community offered in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC). In this series, health center Quality Improvement (QI) professionals will discuss behavioral health theory and apply it to policies for clinical support staff roles to improve patient engagement across the continuum of care. QI professionals from Region VIII health centers who are seeking ways to develop patient engagement policies grounded in behavioral health theory at various touch points within the patient visit are encouraged to participate, and are encouraged to invite the following staff members each week:

- ★ Session 1 (September 20): Front Desk staff or their leadership
- ★ Session 2 (September 27): MA, RN, LPN staff or their leadership
- ★ Session 3 (October 4): Specialist roles (patient educator, certified diabetes educator, registered dietitians, or other educator roles within the health center) or their leadership
- ★ Session 4 (October 11): Care Coordinators, Case Managers, Patient Navigators, or their leadership
- ★ Session 5 (October 18): Providers who wish to be involved in this overview/policy creation session

The sessions in this series will occur each Thursday from 11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT beginning September 20 through October 18, 2018.

Visit the [CHAMPS Project ECHO Learning Communities](#) webpage for more information. Questions? Please contact Jen@CHAMPSonline.org.

Don't miss the new [CHAMPS Clinical Podcasts!](#)

These brief audio files feature conversations with Dana Abby, a medical librarian from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) highlighting better ways to find reliable clinical information online.

OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS

Assisting Primary Care Associations and health centers in maximizing health insurance coverage for health center patients and communities across Region VIII. Learn more [here](#).

Outreach & Enrollment Webinars

CHAMPS and [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) recently launched the **2018 Outreach & Enrollment Distance Learning Series** with an August 20 webinar addressing “The Silent Crisis: Engaging Immigrant Populations in Your Health Center,” presented by Liam Spurgeon and Kristen Stoimenoff from [Health Outreach Partners](#) (HOP). Other topics covered in this three-part series will be “Supporting O&E in Your CHC” and “Preparing for Open Enrollment 6.” Each event will be available as an online archive for one year past the live presentation date.



Learn more about future events in the series, including speakers, dates/times, registration, etc. by visiting the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage. Once an event has been broadcast, download handouts and view the recording by visiting the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Preparing for Open Enrollment 6

Open Enrollment 6 (OE6) is fast approaching. Like last year, Open Enrollment will take place between November 1 and December 15, and these six weeks will be crucial for engaging health center patients. Consider these tips for launching OE6 with as much success as possible:

- ★ Set a Strategic Timeline; create and communicate your plan for the remaining months leading up to OE6 as well as for the enrollment time itself.
- ★ Access and Engage Your Volunteer Populations; with diminished funding for Navigators, health care professionals must look to their advocates and champions to reach into vulnerable and medically underserved communities.
- ★ Use Social Media Effectively; with fewer funded individuals to spread the word and communicate important information about Open Enrollment, consider utilizing social media to your advantage.
- ★ Access National Partners; these contacts can help reach specific constituencies on the ground.

Visit the [CHAMPS Outreach & Enrollment Tips and Tools](#) webpage for additional resources to help ensure an effective Outreach & Enrollment program.

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](#).

2018 National Health Care for the Homeless Council Training

The [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) (NHCHC) recently opened registration for their [Medical Respite Training Symposium](#) which will take place in Phoenix, AZ Monday, October 1 and Tuesday, October 2. This training will include two full days of intensive workshops featuring renowned speakers and experts from across the U.S. addressing medical respite care – from forging hospital partnerships and securing funding for fledgling programs to fostering consumer engagement and establishing proper clinical policies and procedures. The event also will feature an in-depth look at the National HCH Council's [Medical Respite Standards](#) and [Toolkit](#).

Visit the NHCHC [Medical Respite Training Symposium](#) webpage to learn more and register.

SPECIAL & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS, *Continued*

New Toolkit Addresses Social Determinants of Health in Rural Areas

The CHAMPS and [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) inter-office collaborative Cultural Competency Team has developed the **Rural Social Determinants of Health Game Toolkit** to educate healthcare professionals about the ways that social, cultural, economic, environmental, and other factors impact the health and well-being of rural patients. The game is appropriate both for staff who are already familiar with the social determinants of health, health disparities, and other related concepts, and for staff who are new to these terms and ideas. Ultimately, the goal of this game is to broaden players' understanding of rural patient experiences and the many factors inside and outside of the health center that can lead to better or worse health, as well as to foster productive discussions about these effects.



Visit the CHAMPS [Social Determinants of Health Resources](#) webpage for more information about the game toolkit, instructions on how to play, and free downloadable resources.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Updated Health Center Program Compliance Manual Now Available

To align with the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#) (BBA) that amended certain sections of the Health Center Program Statute, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released the [HRSA Health Center Program Compliance Manual](#) to serve as a streamlined and consolidated resource to assist health centers in understanding and demonstrating compliance with the Health Center Program and Federal Tort Claims Act deeming requirements. HRSA also updated the [Site Visit Protocol](#), and created a consolidated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page that provides answers to common questions regarding Health Center Program requirements, compliance, and oversight.

Review the amended [Health Center Program Statute](#).
Visit the HRSA [Health Center Program Requirements](#) webpage for additional related resources.

New Innovative Outreach Practices Resource

Submitted by Diana Lieu, Health Outreach Partners

Diabetes affects more than 30 million people in the United States. Check out Health Outreach Partner's newest report, *Addressing Diabetes Through Outreach: Innovative Outreach Practices from the Field*, which features eight health centers that are using outreach to provide diabetes prevention and management.

Visit the [Health Outreach Partners](#) webpage to learn more about their *Innovative Outreach Practices Reports on Diabetes and more*.

Funding Opportunities

- ★ NIH [Technologies for Improving Minority Health and Eliminating Health Disparities](#) (due October 1)
- ★ HHS/NIH [Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Training](#) (due October 11)
- ★ HRSA [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) (due November 30)
- ★ NRACC [Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative](#) (ongoing)



REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

The VA MISSION Act and Care for Veterans

The Veterans Administration (VA) [MISSION Act](#), signed into law earlier this summer, consolidates VA's community care programs – including the Veterans Choice Program – into a new Veterans **Community Care Program**. The Community Care Program is intended to make it simpler for both Veterans and community providers, including health centers, to navigate the VA system and access quality care. Over the coming months, VA will begin implementing updates and developing regulations and policies to implement this new program. For example, as of October 1, 2018, VA will take over all activity previously performed by HealthNet Federal Services (HNFS). Health centers that are an existing VA community care provider in the HNFS network will have HNFS provider agreements transitioned to a Direct Provider Agreement with the nearest VA facility. These health centers can continue to see Veterans under the Choice program, but instead will work directly with VA medical facilities for authorizations, care coordination, and billing.

View the [VA MISSION Act and New Veterans Community Care Program](#) fact sheet to learn more. To learn more about the HealthNet transition and how this might impact your health center, visit VA's [transition website](#) or HNFS's [transition website](#).

Updated Health Center Program Disaster Relief Page

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently refreshed its [Health Center Program Disaster Preparedness and Recover Resources](#) webpage, bringing together guidance about Change in Scope for Temporary Sites, FTCA coverage, and 340B enrollment during an emergency.

Region VIII in the News

- ★ **Sapphire Community Health Center:** [Sapphire Community Health board member honored with statewide award](#) (*Ravalli Republic*, April 27)
- ★ **Valley-Wide Health Systems:** [Valley-Wide to resume renovations Wednesday](#) (*Canon City News*, May 1)
- ★ **Community Health Center of the Black Hills:** [Community Health Center of the Black Hills partners with Suzie Cappa Arts Center](#) (*KEVN Black Hills FOX*, June 7)
- ★ **Family HealthCare Center:** [Family HealthCare Receives Grant from FM Area Foundation](#) (*Inforum*, July 13)
- ★ **Coal Country Community Health Center:** [Coal Country Community Health Center treats addiction in a rural area](#) (*AgWeek*, July 16)
- ★ **Sapphire Community Health Center:** [Sapphire Community Health Center holds summit on drug abuse](#) (*NBC Montana*, July 27)
- ★ **Rock Springs Community Health Center:** [Rock Springs Community Health Center Makes Health Care Accessible to All](#) (*SweetWater NOW*, August 1)
- ★ **RiverStone Health:** [Health centers save lives, reduce care costs and serve communities](#) (*Billings Gazette*, August 7)
- ★ **Southwest Montana Community Health Center:** [Partnership brings non-criminal, legal services to Southwest Montana Community Health Center patients](#) (*Montana Standard*, August 9)
- ★ **River Valley Family Health Center:** [Saving costs, saving lives](#) (*Montrose Press*, August 12; requires subscription)
- ★ **Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas:** [Daugaard proclaims this as Community Health Center Week](#) (*Aberdeen News*, August 16; requires subscription)
- ★ **Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:** [The Unsung Heroes of Stout Street Health Center](#) (*Health Center Advocacy Network*, August 15)
- ★ **Clinica Family Health, Salud Family Health Centers, and Sunrise Community Health:** [National recognition could help boost health center workforce](#) (*Public News Service*, August 20)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Session 1](#)

September 4
12:15-1:15PM MT / 1:15-2:15PM CT

[CHAMPS/CCHN 2018 OE DL Series Part 2: Supporting O&E in Your CHC](#)

September 10
10:00AM-11:00AM MT / 11:00AM-12:00PM CT

[Annual Midwest Stream Forum for Agricultural Worker Health](#)

September 10-12, New Orleans, LA

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Session 2](#)

September 18
12:15PM-1:15PM MT / 1:15PM-2:15PM CT

[CHAMPS/RMPHTC Diabetes Management ECHO Session 1](#)

September 20
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

[CHAMPS/CCHN 2018 OE DL Series Part 3: Preparing for Open Enrollment](#)

September 24
10:00AM-11:00AM MT / 11:00AM-12:00PM CT

[CHAD Fall Quality Conference](#)

September 25-27, Bismarck, ND

[CHAMPS/RMPHTC Diabetes Management ECHO Session 2](#)

September 20
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 2:30PM-1:30PM CT

November

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Session 5](#)

November 6
12:15PM-1:15PM MT / 1:15PM-2:15 PM CT

[CHAMPS Region VIII Healthcare for the Homeless Grantee Collaborative Call](#)

November 7

[NNOHA Conference](#)

November 11-14, New Orleans, LA

[NACHC PCA & HCCN Conference](#)

November 14-16, New Orleans, LA

Newsletter Contributors:

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Please contact Yael Holzman Castellands at Yael@CHAMPSonline.org with questions or comments about the CHAMPS newsletter, to sign up to receive the newsletter, to change your subscription email address, or to submit articles for publication.

October

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Session 3](#)

October 2
12:15PM-1:15PM MT / 1:15PM-2:15PM CT

[CHAMPS/RMPHTC Diabetes Management ECHO Session 3](#)

October 4
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

[CHAMPS/RMPHTC Diabetes Management ECHO Session 4](#)

October 11
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Session 4](#)

October 16
12:15PM-1:15PM MT / 1:15PM-2:15PM CT

[Cover Montana Summit: Outreach and E3](#)

October 16-17, Fairmont, MT

[CHAMPS/RMPHTC Diabetes Management ECHO Session 5](#)

October 18
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30PM-1:30PM CT

[CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference](#)

October 20-23, Denver, CO

Looking Ahead

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative Sessions 6, 7, 8](#)

December 4, January 8, February 5
12:15PM-1:15PM MT / 1:15PM-2:15PM CT

[NACHC P&I Forum](#)

March 26-April 2, Washington, D.C.

[Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#)

May 6-8, Albuquerque, NM

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