



# Summer 2019 Quarterly Newsletter

Published August 2019

## Registration is Open! 2019 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference

Join CHAMPS and Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) for the 2019 Fall Primary Care Conference **Saturday, October 5 through Tuesday, October 8, 2019 in Seattle, WA.** The conference will include behavioral health, clinical, community health, fiscal, governance, integrated services, operations/IT, policy/environment, population health, and workforce/HR tracks and will provide national updates as well as numerous networking opportunities. The 2019 conference theme, **"The Future is Now: Advancing Community Health and Wellbeing,"** reflects the power of health centers in positively impacting and propelling the health and wellness of the communities they serve. Registration reimbursement is available to participants from CHAMPS Organizational Member health centers in good standing as of October 4, 2019. Organizational Members are entitled to reimbursement for one registration fee; employees eligible for this reimbursement include line staff, medical support staff, and mid-level managers and supervisors (providers and Executive Directors/CEOs are not eligible). Travel reimbursement - up to \$700 per clinician - is also available to clinicians working 0.5 FTE or greater as providers (medical, behavioral, or dental) in health centers that are CHAMPS Organizational Members; Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee members are eligible for additional reimbursement.



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*For more information about the conference and link to registration, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.*

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## National Health Center Week 2019

This year, the [National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\)](#) and [Health Center Advocacy Network](#) encouraged health centers and Primary Care Associations to take part in [National Health Center Week \(NHCW\)](#) from Sunday, August 4 to Saturday, August 10, 2019. This annual celebration aims to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's health centers. Health centers serve 28 million patients - 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.

This year's NHCW theme, "Rooted in Communities," celebrated the work and services health centers provide, with highlights related to special populations and key issues on specific focus days during the week:

- ★ Sunday, 8/4: [Social Determinants Day](#)
- ★ Monday, 8/5: [Healthcare for the Homeless Day](#)
- ★ Tuesday, 8/6: [Agricultural Worker Health Day](#)
- ★ Wednesday, 8/7: [Patient Appreciation Day](#)
- ★ Thursday, 8/8: [Stakeholder Appreciation Day](#)
- ★ Friday, 8/9: [Health Center Staff Appreciation Day](#)
- ★ Saturday, 8/10: [Children's Health Day](#)



CHAMPS staff (top) joined Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) staff (above) to honor CHCs and celebrate NHCW.

To learn more, visit the [NHCW](#) website.

## Coming Soon: 2019-2020 Health Center Directory

CHAMPS would like to sincerely thank all of the health centers and Primary Care Associations that have worked with us to update our contact information for the 63 health centers in Region VIII. The **CHAMPS 2019-2020 Region VIII Health Center Directory** will provide a comprehensive listing of all Community, Homeless, and Migrant Health Centers in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The directory also includes contact information for each organization's main and satellite sites, along with the leadership and clinical staff at those sites.

Printed copies will be available this fall and a searchable online version of the health center portion of the directory is always available in the [Members Only](#) Section of the CHAMPS website. Health centers that have submitted updated information will receive one free printed copy of the directory and all CHAMPS Organizational Members will receive an additional free copy.

*If you have any questions about the 2019-2020 Region VIII Health Center Directory, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).*

## 2018 UDS Statistics Now Available

2018 Uniform Data System (UDS) information is now available on the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) [National Health Center Data](#) webpage. Available statistics include patient data, staffing and utilization information, performance measures, and more. A one-page flyer highlighting Region VIII 2018 UDS information is now available on the CHAMPS website and, in the coming months, CHAMPS will utilize additional aggregated UDS data from each Region VIII state to develop the **2018 Region VIII Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) UDS Summary** which will 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.

*To view national 2018 UDS Statistics, visit the [HRSA](#) website.*

*Click [here](#) to download the CHAMPS 2018 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet.*

*To view multiple years of Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries, visit 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](#).*

### Download Now: CHAMPS 2019 Recruitment & Retention Survey Report

CHAMPS is pleased to announce the release of the [2019 CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Recruitment & Retention \(R&R\) Survey Report](#). This resource provides an analysis of data collected in February 2019 from over 1,000 staff members from 94% of the health centers across Region VIII; it provides those health centers and the region's Primary Care Associations (PCAs) with information vital to strengthening and enhancing successful recruitment and retention strategies already in place, and to developing new and innovative ways to support successful recruitment and retention of staff.



This free and publicly available electronic report:

- ★ **Identifies workforce characteristics** within Region VIII health centers (e.g., 83% of the respondents were female, 10% were ages 60 and above, and 4% identified as Veterans);
- ★ **Provides valuable recruiting information** (e.g., almost 62% of respondents chose to work at their health center because of its mission to the underserved, almost 60% indicated that "word of mouth" advertising was a useful job seeking resource, and just over 16% indicated plans to leave their organization within the next three years);
- ★ **Identifies factors influencing satisfaction and engagement at work**, to support health center successes and identify areas for possible support with the goal of increasing retention rates (e.g., the top two factors influencing satisfaction were "Relationships with other co-workers" and "Quality of care that patients/clients receive"; the top two factors influencing engagement at work were "Mission of the organization" and "Quality of care that patients/clients receive"); and
- ★ **Includes respondent quotes** detailing what they believe their health center does well to impact their satisfaction and engagement at work (e.g., "I love what I do and truly care for my patients. My health center is very up and coming with new technology and trying to meet the needs of our patients." – Clinical Support Staff, North Dakota).

*To access the 2019 CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center R&R Survey Report, visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) webpage.*

### New CHAMPS Staff Wellness and Resiliency Resources

Check out the new CHAMPS [Staff Wellness and Resiliency Resources](#) available now on the CHAMPS website. This new section of the CHAMPS [Retaining CHC Staff](#) webpage discusses the positive influences of incorporating staff wellness programs and activities in the workplace and how to build a strong and resilient workforce. Resources include sample staff wellness plans and policies, tools for different levels of staff, studies on engagement, articles on building resiliency, and more!

*Click [here](#) to view the new CHAMPS Staff Wellness and Resiliency Resources. For questions about these materials or if you would like to share any other useful resources, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).*

### Post Your Openings on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)

This fall, CHAMPS will be attending the 2019 Health Professions Career Fair hosted by Regis University, the Career MD Denver Healthcare event, and the A.T. Still University 2019 NACHC Campus Recruitment Fair. 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 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) health centers.

*Visit the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#) to review all active postings. Need to post a new job or update a currently listed opening? Contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#).*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### Now Available: First CHAMPS Staff Wellness Podcast

Check out the first episode in the CHAMPS 2019 Staff Wellness Best Practices Podcast Series. This series will highlight interesting and innovative ways that Primary Care Associations and health centers in Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) are addressing staff wellness and promoting employee satisfaction, engagement, and retention. In the first episode, CHAMPS interviews Becky Wahl, Director of Quality and Innovation at Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD). The conversation provides details on CHAD's staff wellness program, barriers they faced, and future goals. This and future episodes may be downloaded as MP3 files from the CHAMPS website, and typed transcripts are also available.



*To learn more and download episode one of the CHAMPS Staff Wellness Best and Promising Practices Podcast Series, please visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage. Interested in sharing what your health center is doing to address Staff Wellness? Contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications](#) to discuss participation in the series.*

### Continuing Education on Your Schedule

CHAMPS' live 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**
  - [2019 Immunization Update](#) (Available through 6/13/2020)
  - [Childhood Healthy Weight Online Workshop](#) (Available through 3/20/2020)
  - [Addressing Stigma Against Patients with Substance Use Disorders: Individual and Institutional Strategies](#) (Available through 1/17/2020)
  - [The Opioid Crisis in Region VIII: Everything You Wanted to Know but were Afraid to Ask](#) (Available through 1/10/2020)
- ★ **2019 Care Coordination Essential Distance Learning Series**
  - [Motivational Interviewing for Care Coordinators](#) (Available through 5/21/2020)
  - [Navigating Families in Conflict](#) (Available through 6/4/2020)
  - [Caring for Yourself When You're a Care Coordinator](#) (Available through 6/18/2020)
- ★ **CHAMPS/CCHN 2019 Outreach and Enrollment Distance Learning Series**
  - [Social Determinants of Health 101 for Community-Facing Staff](#) (Available through 5/21/2020)
- ★ **CHAMPS/CCHN 2018 Outreach and Enrollment Distance Learning Series**
  - [Supporting O&E in Your CHC](#) (Available through 9/10/2019)
  - [Preparing for Open Enrollment 6](#) (Available through 9/24/2019)
- ★ **Special and Vulnerable Populations Distance Learning Events**
  - [CHAMPS/MPCA Webcast: Understanding and Serving Patients who are Veterans](#) (Available through 4/17/2020)
- ★ **Workforce Distance Learning Events:**
  - [CHAMPS 2018 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data Webcast: Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Project](#) (Available through 3/21/2020)

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

**Stay up to date with all the latest news and CHAMPS offerings and resources through the CHAMPS [LinkedIn Company Page!](#)**

# MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

*Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians who 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](#).*

## New CHAMPS Team-Based Care Resources

CHAMPS has launched a new webpage of [Team-Based Care Resources](#). This page is designed with materials that have been selected to help health centers and Primary Care Associations pursue this model of care, and includes an [introduction](#) to the Team-Based Care Model, [articles and reports](#), [education and training](#), [tools for implementation](#), [Motivational Interviewing resources](#), and more.

*Please contact the CHAMPS [Clinical Quality Improvement Director](#) if you have any questions about these materials or would like to share any other useful resources.*

## CCHN/CHAMPS Community Health Center Dental Programs: Strategies for Success

Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) and CHAMPS hosted Community Health Dental Programs: Strategies for Success August 1-2, 2019 in Golden, CO. Forty-five participants from 17 different health centers representing all six Region VIII states (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) attended the day and a half



*Participants and staff from all six Region VIII states during the training in Golden, CO.*

training facilitated by Dr. Irene Hilton and Candace Owen of [National Network for Oral Health Access](#) (NNOHA). Participants listened to informational sessions, shared health center program examples, and discussed case studies on a wide variety of topics including characteristics of a successful dental program, the spectrum of oral health integration, strategies for effective dental leadership, and many more.

*For other resources related to oral health, visit the CHAMPS [Oral Health Resources](#) webpage.*

## Don't Miss: Newly Updated CHAMPS Wellness Pages

The CHAMPS website hosts colorful and informative Wellness Pages which were developed, and recently updated, to support the preventive care provided by health centers. These educational tools allow patients to anticipate what may be discussed at a wellness visit and encourages them to select the items that they wish to discuss with their care team. Health centers are encouraged to copy and distribute these Wellness Pages for patients to complete at home or in the waiting room prior to an appointment.

*To view the newly updated pages, visit the CHAMPS [Wellness Pages](#) webpage.*

## Have You Seen the CHAMPS 2019 Immunization Update? Watch the Archive Today!

CHAMPS hosted the 2019 CHAMPS Immunization Update on June 13, 2019, and a recording of the event is now available. This annual distance learning event featured JoEllen Wolicki, RN, BSN, Nurse Educator, 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 clinicians, clinical support staff, and other interested healthcare professionals at health centers in Region VIII.

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

### New Educational Resource from Farmworker Justice

Submitted by Alexis Guild, Farmworker Justice

Farmworker Justice is excited to share a new diabetes educational resource for agricultural worker patients, "[Life of the Party: Making Healthy Choices with Diabetes](#)." The illustrated brochure tells the story of Ricardo, a worker recently diagnosed with diabetes, as he and his friend get ready to attend a party. The friend shares with Ricardo information about how to eat healthy with diabetes. The brochure is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole on the [Farmworker Justice](#) website.

For more information, contact Alexis Guild at [aguild@farmworkerjustice.org](mailto:aguild@farmworkerjustice.org).

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## 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](#).

### CHAMPS/CCHN O&E Distance Learning Series

The [CHAMPS/CCHN 2019 Outreach & Enrollment Distance Learning Series](#) is under way! The three-part series is intended to highlight effective outreach and enrollment strategies, discuss specific issues affecting health center enrollment staff, and look ahead to the seventh open enrollment period. Join for any one session or the whole series.



- ★ Webinar 1 - Social Determinants of Health 101 for Community-Facing Staff  
Thursday, August 8, 2019 (archive available; see below)
- ★ Webinar 2 - Preparing for Open Enrollment 7: Outreach to Specific Populations  
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 11:00AM-12:00PM MT / 12:00-1:00PM CT
- ★ Webinar 3 - Self-Care: Resiliency and Burnout Prevention  
Thursday, September 19, 2019, 11:00AM-12:00PM MT / 12:00-1:00PM CT

To watch the first session, visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.  
To learn more and to register for the future events, visit the [CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

### Reminder: CAC Applications

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Open Season to apply to be a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO) began June 12, 2019 and ends September 16, 2019. In the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM), these organizations oversee certified application counselors (CACs) who are trained and able to help consumers seeking health coverage options through the Marketplace.

Any organization seeking to provide CAC enrollment assistance to consumers for Plan Year 2020 must be a certified CDO. To be designated as such, organizations must submit an online application and enter into an agreement with CMS. If your organization completed the CDO refresh process last year and received a new CDO identification number and a welcome packet, then you do not need to reapply.

The CDO application link is now live and can be accessed on the [CMS](#) website. CDO Application technical assistance webinar recordings, user guides, and more can be found on the CMS [Technical Assistance Resources](#) webpage. For additional questions, email [CACQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CACQuestions@cms.hhs.gov).

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## OUTREACH & ENROLLMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### 2020 Open Enrollment



Open Enrollment 7 (OE7) is around the corner. The 2020 Open Enrollment Period (OEP) will run from Friday, November 1 to Sunday, December 15, 2019 for the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Plans sold during this OEP will start January 1, 2020. Region VIII's only [State-Based Marketplace](#) (SBM), Colorado, will have Open Enrollment from Friday, November 1, 2019 to Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Plans selected between December 16 and January 15 will take effect no later than February 1, 2020.

*To learn more, check out CHAMPS' [Outreach & Enrollment Tips and Tools](#) webpage.*

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## 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](#).*

### Title X: New Rules in Effect

After much back-and-forth with the courts and the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#), the new requirements contained in the [Title X Final Rule](#) published in March 2019 are currently in effect and Title X Grantees and subrecipients must start demonstrating compliance by mid-September. On July 20, HHS issued [guidance](#) indicating that organizations that receive Title X funds - either as direct grantees or as subrecipients - must submit an action plan for coming into compliance by August 19, 2019, and evidence of compliance with all requirements (except for those involving physical separation) by September 18, 2019. Under the new rules, health centers that receive Title X funds - either directly or as a sub-recipient - are prohibited from referring a pregnant woman for an abortion and are required to refer all pregnant women for prenatal care.

To better understand the implications of this rule for women and family planning providers, see this [Issue Brief](#) from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

*For related information, visit the CHAMPS [Health Equity Resources](#) webpage.*

### New Resources for Communicating about Public Charge

The recently [finalized proposed change](#) to the Public Charge Rule expands the list of benefits considered to be inadmissible on public charge grounds rulings to include [Medicaid](#), [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), [Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy](#), and Federal Public Housing assistance such as [Section 8 housing vouchers](#).

In an effort to help frontline staff, enrollers, Community Health Workers (CHWs)/Promotoras, service providers, and others respond to concerns presented by immigrant communities, the Protecting Access to Public Benefits Workgroup has created [Public Charge Training Modules for Advocates & Service Providers](#). This is a package of train-the-trainer style presentations to help service providers and Community-Based Organizations discuss public charge with patients and the community. Each module includes a script to help guide presenters. All together the modules comprise a full-day workshop, but organizations are encouraged to build a unique agenda that best suits their audience from the menu of modules.

*To better understand the "chilling effect" the proposed rule is already having, see this [Brief](#) from the [Urban Institute](#).*

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## SPECIAL & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS, *Continued*

### New Resources from Health Outreach Partners

*Submitted by Sonia Lee, Health Outreach Partners*

**Health Equity Starter Kit:** To best support health centers that are committed to serving vulnerable and underserved populations, Health Outreach Partners (HOP) created the [Health Equity Starter Kit](#). The Starter Kit contains resources to help health centers better understand health equity as a broader framework to explain and address structural factors, social determinants of health, and health disparities. The Starter Kit includes a collection of innovative strategies as well as examples of data and measures to track and evaluate health equity efforts.

**Innovative Outreach Practices Reports:** Health centers have made great strides towards improving patient access to care through the rapid uptake of health information technology (HIT). Despite the growing prevalence of HIT within the U.S. health sector, there is still limited understanding of the variety of ways health centers are using technology for patient engagement. This [resource](#) from HOP describes examples of how technology is being used to support or complement outreach services nationwide and suggests opportunities for replication.

*To view these resources, visit the [HOP](#) website.*

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## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

### Region VIII Leader Awarded at NACHC CHI

During the August 2019 NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) & Expo in Chicago, IL, Kevin Maddox, MBA, Chief Financial Officer of Sunrise Community Health in Evans, CO was recognized at the 2019 Community Health Care Awards of Excellence ceremony. Maddox was honored with the 2019 Jeffrey T. Latman Leadership in Health Care Finance Award for serving at a senior level finance position and exemplifying excellence, leadership, and integrity in strengthening health center fiscal operations. Maddox expressed the joy he has for “being a part of a movement that is so important to the fabric of our society.” Congratulations, Kevin!



*Kevin Maddox, second from right, with NACHC leadership and other awardees during the CHI.*

*To learn more, visit the [NACHC](#) website.*

### NACHC Board of Directors

Congratulations to John Santistevan, President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Salud Family Health Centers in Fort Lupton, CO, for being elected to serve as Treasurer of the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC). Santistevan was elected NACHC Treasurer at the NACHC House of Delegates on August 18, 2019; NACHC Executive Committee Office terms are two years.

The NACHC Board includes two representatives from each of the ten regions as well as two nationally elected Clinician Representatives and two Health Center Board Member Representatives. Currently, John Mengershausen, CEO of Horizon Health Care, Inc. in Howard, SD and John Santistevan serve as Region VIII Representatives to the NACHC Board. On October 1, 2019, Lucy Loomis, MD, Director of Family Medicine for Denver Health in Denver, CO, will be joining Mengershausen as a Region VIII Representative to the NACHC Board.

*To learn more, visit the [NACHC](#) website.*

*To learn more about the Region VIII representatives, visit the CHAMPS [Region VIII NACHC Board of Directors Members](#) webpage.*



### HHS Announces 2019 Quality Improvement Awards

On August 20, 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced nearly \$107 million in Quality Improvement (QI) Awards to 1,273 health centers nationwide. Funded through HRSA, these awards will be used to improve the quality, efficiency, and value of the health care these health centers provide. The QI Awards recognize the work health centers have been doing to address health priorities as well as achievements in improving cost-efficient care deliver, while also increasing quality of care, reducing health disparities, increasing the number of patients served and patients' ability to access comprehensive services, advancing the use of health information technology, and delivering patient-centered care.



*Learn more by visiting the HRSA [Quality Improvement Awards](#) webpage.*

### Health Center Controlled Network Funding

In late July, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded almost \$42 million in funding to Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs). These awards enable HCCNs to further support health centers and improve the use of health information technology. New awardees from Region VIII were Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) in partnership with Wyoming Primary Care Association, as well as Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH). Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA) and Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) also received renewal of their HCCN funding.

*To learn more about the HCCN funding and to view all the awardees, visit the [HRSA](#) website.*

*To learn more about HCCNs, visit the HRSA [Health Center Controlled Networks](#) webpage.*

### HHS Awards Nearly \$400 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis

In early August, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded nearly \$400 million to combat the nation's opioid crisis. These investments will enable HRSA-funded health centers, rural organizations, and academic institutions to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services. Over 1,000 health centers were awarded more than \$200 million to increase access to high quality, integrated behavioral health services, including the prevention or treatment of mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders, along with opioid use disorder through the Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) program.

*To learn more about the IBHS program and view the awardees, visit the [HHS](#) website.*

***Congratulations to all awardees!***

### NIMAA Announces New Offering: UpSkillMA

*Submitted by Ali Murray, NIMAA*

National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) is proud to announce their partnership with the [Weitzman Learning Academy](#) in the development of a new offering, UpSkillMA, which offers courses designed to build next level medical assisting skills for existing MAs. The current training options include:

- ★ Interprofessional Team-Based Care
- ★ Quality Improvement and Making the Data Count
- ★ Immunizations
- ★ Professionalism and Effective Communication

*To learn more about UpSkillMA offerings, visit the [Weitzman Learning Academy](#) website.*

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

### 2019 CCHN Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series

Register today for the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series. In this four-part series, participants will be presented with opportunities to learn the fundamentals of credentialing and privileging, identify opportunities for optimizing processes, deep dive on staff files to ensure compliance, and address challenges with peer review of various staff types. The four webinars will be held on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT in August, September, October, and November. The series also includes office hours enabling participants to ask questions and talk to the presenters. The entire series is \$50 per person, which allows access to all four live webinars, recordings of the events, and the dedicated office hours.

To learn more and to register, visit CCHN's [2019 Credentialing and Privileging Training](#) webpage.

### NIMAA: Preparing for 2019-2020 School Year

Submitted by Ali Murray, NIMAA

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) was created to train the next generation of medical assistants to work effectively in today's high-performing primary care settings. NIMAA is gearing up for the 2019-2020 school year, which will start September 3, 2019. NIMAA is proud to welcome this year's partner health centers that host NIMAA students for their clinical experience:

- ★ Centura Hospital - CO
- ★ St. Thomas More Hospital (part of Centura) - CO
- ★ Clinica Family Health - CO
- ★ Clínica Tepeyac - CO
- ★ High Plains Community Health Center - CO
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Center - CO
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers - CO
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic - CO
- ★ Sunrise Community Health - CO
- ★ Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. - CO
- ★ Community Health Center, Inc. - CT
- ★ Kokua Kalihi Valley - HI
- ★ Waianae Cost Comprehensive Health Center - HI
- ★ Erie Family Health Centers - IL
- ★ HealthLinc - IN
- ★ Butler Health Systems - PA

To learn more about NIMAA and its partners, visit the [NIMAA](#) website.

### Corps Community Connection Training and Celebration

On Friday, October 11, 2019, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC), National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Colorado Rural Health Center, and CHAMPS will host **Corps Community Connection** at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, CO. This training and celebration for the National and Colorado Health Service Corps (CHSC) Programs will be an opportunity for job seekers and students to learn and network with representatives of Colorado's safety-net health care facilities, as well as providers, residents, health care workers, and students pursuing careers in primary health care for the underserved. Health care students, residents, job seekers, NHSC/CHSC alum, and health center staff are invited to attend this event which will include an awards ceremony, networking, food, and celebration for those dedicated to serving the Corps. Registration will open in early September.

For titles of trainings, award nomination details, and more, visit the [CCHN](#) website.

### National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education \(THCGME\) Program](#) (August 30)
- ★ [Service Area Competition](#) (September 30)
- ★ [Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program](#) (October 28)
- ★ [Rural Health Network Development Program](#) (November 25)

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

### Region VIII in the News

- ★ PureView Health Center: [Christina Keener: PureView Health Center](#) (*Independent Record*, May 12)
- ★ Valley-Wide Health Systems: [Woman of Year Award to Darricades For Work in Health Care Field](#) (*Valley Courier*, May 21)
- ★ Spectra Health: [Valley Community Health Will Change its Name to Spectra Health](#) (*Grand Forks Herald*, May 31)
- ★ Coal Country Community Health Center: [Kevin Cramer Visits Mercer County Health Professionals](#) (*Beulah Beacon*, June 5)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [Vice President Pence: Stopping Montana's Drug Problem Will Take More than Arrests](#) (*Billings Gazette*, June 12)
- ★ Horizon Health Care and Wyoming Primary Care Association: [Student Debt is Keeping Doctors from Rural Areas](#) (*Washington Examiner*, June 20)
- ★ STRIDE Community Health Center: [STRIDE Community Health Center Awarded \\$75,000 to Improve Patient-Centered Technology](#) (*STRIDE*, June 24)
- ★ Stout Street Health Center-Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [A Denver Walk-In Clinic Finds Success Providing Addiction Treatment for People Experiencing Homelessness](#) (*Denverite*, June 25)
- ★ Northwest Colorado Health: [Public Health Director Role Transitions from Northwest Colorado Health to County](#) (*Steamboat Pilot & Today*, June 30)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Team at Axis Health System to Focus on Young Patients with Psychosis](#) (*The Durango Herald*, July 5)
- ★ Bighorn Valley Health Center: [Home Visiting Program Helps Parents Where They Are](#) (*Ravalli Republic*, July 5)
- ★ Montana Community Health Centers: [Community Health Centers to Share \\$520K Grant, Tester Says](#) (*Great Falls Tribune*, July 5)
- ★ Montana Primary Care Association and RiverStone Health: [HHS Grants MT Community Health Centers \\$520K for EHR Operations](#) (*EHR Intelligence*, July 9)
- ★ Bighorn Valley Health Center: [Montana Health Clinic Receives Federal Grant To Expand Telemedicine Addiction Treatment](#) (*Montana Public Radio*, July 11)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Axis Health to Offer Free Smart Recovery Classes](#) (*Durango Herald*, July 12)
- ★ Salud Family Health Centers and Sunrise Community Health: [Larimer Commissioners OK Service Provider for Mental Health Center, Grants for Community Programs](#) (*Loveland Reporter-Herald*, July 23)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion Health Withdraws from Contract Negotiations with Cascade County](#) (*Great Falls News*, July 25)
- ★ Colorado Community Health Network, Montana Primary Care Association, and Wyoming Primary Care Association: [DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement Invests \\$2.8 M in Oral Health Initiatives During Second Quarter of 2019](#) (*Yahoo Finance*, July 29)
- ★ Denver Health: [How a Safety Net System Maximizes Its Value](#) (*AHRQ*, July 30)
- ★ Mountain Family Health Centers: [Medical Membership Plan Aims to Help Fill Coverage Gap](#) (*Public News Service*, August 1)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health Cares for Community](#) (*Billings Gazette*, August 3)
- ★ Community Health Partners: [Community Health Center Provides Whole-Person Care](#) (*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, August 4)
- ★ Sunrise Community Health: [Tuesday Event will Celebrate Sunrise Loveland Community Health Center](#) (*Loveland Reporter-Herald*, August 4)
- ★ Axis Health System, Clinica Family Health, High Plains Community Health Center, STRIDE Community Health Center, and Sunrise Community Health: [Community Health Centers Planting Trees to Deepen Roots in Communities](#) (*Public News Service*, August 5)
- ★ Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas and South Dakota Community Health Centers: [Community Healthcare Week, August 4-10](#) (*CapJournal Bureau*, August 6)
- ★ Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, Community Health Center of the Black Hills, Falls Community Health, Horizon Health Care, and Rural Health Care: [State Community Health Centers' Economic Impact Tops \\$91 Million](#) (*Capital Journal*, August 6)
- ★ MarillacHealth: [Marillac Health Celebrating National Community Health Center Week](#) (*KJCT8*, August 7)
- ★ Flathead Community Health Center: [Flathead Health Center Gets Behavioral Health Grant](#) (*Daily Inter Lake*, August 18)
- ★ Sapphire Community Health: [Sapphire Community Health Receives Grant to Combat Substance Abuse](#) (*Ravalli Republic*, August 18)
- ★ Community Health Partners, Flathead Community Health Center, Glacier Community Health Center, and Northwest Community Health Center: [Health Center Receives \\$167K Grant for Behavioral Health](#) (*The Western News*, August 20)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August

**CHAMPS/CCHN O&E Distance Learning Series - Preparing for Open Enrollment 7: Outreach to Specific Populations**

Thursday, August 29, 2019  
11:00AM-12:00PM MT / 12:00-1:00PM CT

**2019 CCHN Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series - Steps for Success**

Thursday, August 29, 2019  
12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

### September

**NHCHC Medication-Assisted Treatment and Recovery Symposium**

September 16-17, 2019  
Portland, OR

**MPCA Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) University Training**

September 18-19, 2019  
Bozeman, MT

**CHAMPS/CCHN O&E Distance Learning Series - Self-Care: Resiliency and Burnout Prevention**

Thursday, September 19, 2019  
11:00AM-12:00PM MT / 12:00-1:00PM CT

**WYPCA Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training**

September 23, 2019  
Casper, WY

**NACHC Managing Ambulatory Health Care I (MAHC1)**

September 23-26, 2019  
Seattle, WA

**2019 Midwest Stream Forum**

September 25-27, 2019  
Denver, CO

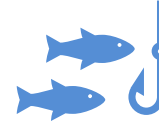
**WYPCA Board Governance Training**

September 26-27, 2019  
Casper, WY

**2019 CCHN Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series - Who Gets What**

Thursday, September 26, 2019  
12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

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### Looking Ahead

**CHAD Fall Quality Conference - Next Level Integration: Building on the Foundation of Care**

October 1-2, 2019  
Sioux Falls, SD

**2019 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference**

October 5-8, 2019  
Seattle, WA

**2019 NNOHA Annual Conference**

October 13-16, 2019  
Las Vegas, NV

**MPCA Population Health & Enabling Services Summit**

October 16-17, 2019  
Helena, MT

**NACHC 2019 Financial, Operations Management/Information Technology Conference (FOM/IT)**

October 24-25, 2019  
Chicago, IL

**2019 CCHN Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series - Let's Review Some Files**

Thursday, October 31, 2019  
12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

**NACHC PCA & HCCN Conference**

November 18-20, 2019  
San Diego, CA

**2019 CCHN Credentialing and Privileging Webinar Series - How to Conduct Peer Review**

Thursday, November 21, 2019  
12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT

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