2011 CHAMPS Annual Conference Biggest Ever

Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) and Community Health Association of Mountain Plains States (CHAMPS) wrapped up their largest Annual Primary Care Conference to date at the end of October. The event drew more than 500 people from across the country to Seattle, WA, to enjoy four days of educational sessions, networking opportunities, board meetings, and the sharing of best practices. 2011 was the first year that CHAMPS and NWRPCA welcomed presenters and attendees from the Western Clinicians Network (WCN) in Region IX.

Participants gained insights on Patient-Centered Medical Homes, diabetes and hypertension, clinic operations, federal updates, and other valuable topics. The conference take-home message, advocate for CHCs, was echoed throughout the plenary sessions and board meetings.

CHAMPS and NWRPCA partner to host the conference each year in alternating regions. Next year’s Annual Primary Care Conference will be held October 14-17, 2012 at the Westin City Center in Denver, CO.

Visit the CHAMPS Annual Conference webpage to view a photo journal from the event, link to session handouts (participant password required), and review conference highlights.

2011-2012 Health Center Directory Coming THIS Month!

Every two years CHAMPS releases a bound copy of the CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Directory. The 2011-2012 edition is at the printers, scheduled for distribution in late November. Members will receive one free copy and additional printed copies may be purchased from CHAMPS. In addition to staff and site updates, CHAMPS has added a new index of satellite sites, plus several navigation features to make searching for colleagues even easier.

For more information, please visit CHAMPS’ Publications webpage or visit CHAMPS’ Members Only webpage to explore the searchable online directory.
2011 CHAMPS Awards
Each year CHAMPS is honored to recognize community health leaders from the Mountain/Plains states. All Region VIII CHCs and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) are invited to submit nominations, and winners are chosen by the CHAMPS Executive Committee. This year’s award presentations were made at the annual CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting during the NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference.

Congratulations to our 2011 CHAMPS Awardees!

★ Hanz Elzinga, MD (below, right), Director of Medical Services at Salud Family Health Centers in Ft. Lupton, CO, was given the Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award for demonstrating clinical excellence and commitment to providing quality health care for all.

★ Patricia Patrón (right, on the right), Executive Director of Family HealthCare Center in Fargo, ND, was awarded the Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award for demonstrating dedication to the health center mission through exceptional leadership and expertise.

★ Carolyn Shepherd, MD (below, right), Vice President of Clinical Affairs at Clinica Family Health Services in Lafayette, CO, received the Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award for demonstrating clinical excellence and commitment to providing quality health care for all.

★ Donna Singer (above, on the left), Chief Executive Director at Utah Navajo Health System in Montezuma Creek, UT, was awarded the Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved Award for demonstrating dedication to the health center mission through exceptional leadership and service.

Region VIII Staff Honored at 2011 NACHC CHI
The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) recognizes exemplary leaders from across the nation each year. This August, three Region VIII community health representatives were honored at the NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) held in San Diego, CA.

Pictured at right from top to bottom:
★ Lil Anderson, former President and CEO of RiverStone Health in Montana, received the Jessie Trice Excellence in Leadership Award for her lifelong commitment to community health. (Pictured middle with Anita Monoian, left, and Kauila Clark, right)

★ Jerry Brasher, Executive Director of Salud Family Health Centers in Colorado, was honored by current NACHC board chair, Kauila Clark, in appreciation of his commitment, guidance, and support to the NACHC board and executive committee. (Pictured front with Kauila Clark, back).

★ Bette Vierra, former Executive Director of the Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH), received the 2011 Norton Wilson State/Regional Leadership Award for her exemplary health care leadership in her 22 years with the Utah PCA. (Pictured on left with Anita Monoian, right).

Congratulations to these highly deserving Region VIII Representatives!
Don’t Miss Trainings for Health Center Staff

GWU’s Health Policy and Leadership Intensive
Community health center executives have a new training opportunity to prepare them to lead CHCs into the future. The Geiger Gibson Capstone Program in Health Policy and Leadership three-day intensive aims to prepare mid-level and senior safety net staff with a foundation in health policy development and implementation. The training is presented by CHAMPS, Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), and the NACHC Leadership Institute in partnership with the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health at George Washington University’s (GWU) School of Public Health and Health Services.

★ Curriculum: Dialogues with congressional staff; meetings with NACHC, HRSA and other federal officials; presentations by health care policy researchers and policymakers; and additional readings, exercises, and webinars.

★ Location: Washington, DC
★ Investment: Registration fees start at $750 per person for organizational members

Register for the course, download the conference brochure, and learn more about the curriculum on CHAMPS’ Leadership Learning Opportunities webpage. Or, contact Michal McDowell at (202) 994-4196 or michalm@gwu.edu.

Clinical/Operations Team
PCMH Training from Harvard Faculty
Two Harvard faculty, Paul Campbell, MPA, ScD and Robert Hoch, MD, MPH are developing and delivering a new course for community health center clinical and operations teams: Enhancing Collaborative Management in Community Health Centers: Developing Clinical-Operations Teams. This four-day course is open to two-person teams (a clinician and an operations staff member from the same health center) who will partner to strengthen their collaborative management skills within the patient-centered medical home model. This opportunity is a collaborative effort between CHAMPS, NWRPCA, and the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC).

★ Curriculum: Recruitment and retention, provider productivity, performance compensation, strengthening group process, enhancing motivation, negotiation and conflict resolution, and political advocacy

★ Location: Seattle, WA
★ Dates: June 18 – 21, 2012
★ Investment: Registration fees start at $3500 per two-person team for organizational members

Visit CHAMPS' Leadership Learning Opportunities webpage for registration information and course fee details or call NWRPCA (206) 783-3004 ext. 14.

Watch for More Details: Upcoming Mid-Level Management Training Program
CHAMPS and Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) are hard at work developing a Mid-Level Management Training intensive, designed specifically for CHC supervisors at a non-executive level. Look for updates on this exciting opportunity to build your health center team and enhance manager competencies specific to the CHC environment. More details and registration will be available in December.

Visit our Leadership Learning Opportunities webpage for information on these and other upcoming trainings.
Funding for Entry-Level Workforce

RCHN Community Health Foundation (RCHN CHF) is offering **five $200,000 grants to health centers** across the nation in response to a growing demand for entry level health center staff. The “Workforce Initiative” grant focuses on **recruitment, training, and retention of entry level staff** across the spectrum of health center positions. RCHN CHF identifies several challenges that it hopes to address with this grant including limited vocational opportunities, conflicting employer and staff preferences, cost, and resource availability. RCHN CHF is specifically seeking **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and FQHC Look-Alike** applicants who can demonstrate that their local model is sustainable and broadly applicable. Grant applications are due Thursday, November 17, 2011.

*For more information, view the [RCHN CHF Workforce Initiative Grant Request for Proposal](#).*

Corps Community Day Success!

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) hosted the first annual **Core Community Day** with more than 75 events planned in 46 states to promote community health jobs. Region VIII states hosted several activities including “A Comprehensive Networking Event: Connecting Health Education to Service” hosted by the Colorado Primary Care Office, the University of Colorado, the Colorado Rural Health Network, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), Colorado AHEC, and the HRSA Region VIII Office. Medical, dental, behavioral health and nursing students attended the event to learn about safety net clinics and the life of NHSC providers.

*Visit the [NHSC Corps Community Day](#) webpage to view videos of NHSC providers and obtain information and tools to prepare for next year’s Core Community Day.*

8,000 Veterans in Three Years: A Workforce Challenge

The Obama administration is challenging health centers to hire 8,000 veterans by 2014, about one veteran per health center site. The **Community Health Center Veteran’s Hiring Challenge** is an effort to connect veterans to health center jobs where they can translate their military medical training into civilian healthcare careers and benefit their communities. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Veterans Administration are asking health centers to hire and report on the number of veterans they employ. In return, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will provide health centers with resources to recruit veterans and to track and report the data. HRSA will also award Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Nursing and Health Sciences a grant to support a veteran-friendly academic environment and help prepare veterans for the civilian health workforce.

*For more information on the initiative visit [HRSA’s Veteran](#) webpage.*

Grow Your Candidate Pool

**Post Open Jobs with CHAMPSOnline.org**

CHAMPS staff hit the candidate circuit at networking events, job fairs, and conferences to get the word out about opportunities in Region VIII health centers. Post your open positions for administrative, medical, dental, behavioral health, and support staff on the **Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)** by contacting stephanie@champsonline.org and make sure that your CHC is reaching as many candidates as possible.

Last year, CHAMPS made contact with more than **350 potential candidates at 10 events** and posted more than **300 positions** on our Job Opportunities Bank. Post your open positions today!

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”
- Winston Churchill
“Improving Children’s Health” FREE Webinar Series

The Region VIII offices of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are offering a free year-long webinar series titled “Improving Children’s Health through Federal Collaboration.” This monthly series will encourage collaboration and coordination across providers, educators, government agencies, and organizations. The webinars will take place on the second Thursday of every month from 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM Mountain Time (4:00 PM to 4:30 PM Central Time) and will address the following:

- December 8 – Pediatric Environmental Health Resources for Community Health Professionals
- January 12 – Coordinated School Health: Clean, Green and Healthy Schools
- February 9 – Obesity Prevention
- March 8 – Affordable Care Act
- April 12 – Community Working Together for Better Health
- May 10 – Successful Asthma Management
- June 14 – Healthy Homes
- August 9 – Children’s Environmental Health Research
- September 13 – National Children’s Study

Visit the [EPA’s Webinar Series](#) webpage to register for the next event.

**CHAMPS Group Discount for the National Medical Home Summit**

The National Medical Home Summit will be held February 27-29, 2012. This hybrid conference/web event will include an in-depth training program on medical home issues and strategies and an online archive of the events will be available for six months.

CHAMPS Members can view the live and archived webcast at discounted group rates:

- $295 each for groups of three to five members
- $195 each for groups of six or more

Standard registration fees start at $595 each for groups and $795 for individuals.

Visit the [Medical Home Summit](#) webpage for registration information and a detailed description of the program.

To receive the CHAMPS member discount and save hundreds on registration, contact Shannon@CHAMPSonline.org or call (303) 867-9583.

**NEW! CHAMPS Patient-Centered Medical Home Webpage**

CHAMPS’ newest resource, the Patient-Centered Medical Home Information and Resources webpage provides links, guides, and tools to help CHCs build their medical home and guide them down the road to accreditation. Health centers that are new to the concept, those who have started the process of becoming a PCMH, and those who are in the process of accreditation will find helpful resources including:

- **Background** of PCMH and definitions;
- **First steps to becoming a PCMH** including self assessment tools for determining readiness;
- **Resources and links to education and training** opportunities and consultants;
- **Coming soon!** PCMH policy and procedure templates from PCMH health centers

Take a tour of the new CHAMPS’ PCMH Information and Resources webpage!
**TeenScreen: Making Mental Health a Priority**

Adolescent mental health screenings can pose challenges for hectic primary care practices, but resources from the TeenScreen National Center for Mental Health Checkups can streamline the process for both clinicians and their patients. TeenScreen’s mission is to promote routine mental health screenings into standard primary care to help providers identify mental health disorders earlier. CHC providers can find free tools, resources, and support on the TeenScreen website.

The user-friendly website offers evidence-based resources including the Mental Health Screening Starter Kit which contains questionnaires such as the Pediatric Symptom Checklist for Youth (PSC-Y), the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) Modified, and the CRAFFT, along with administration and scoring instructions. Guides are available on screening implementation, coding and payment, referrals, professional education, and post-screening discussion.

TeenScreen also offers a monthly webinar series, an e-newsletter, research and statistics, and a provider registry, open to any primary care provider, which offers clinicians the opportunity to connect with colleagues around the nation and share best practices on adolescent mental health issues.

**For more information, visit TeenScreen’s Resources webpage or call (877)-833-6727.**

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**Building a Strong Dental Program**

The National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) has released a series of new resources for community health dental programs. The box below highlights some of the new resources that health center’s can access to build a strong dental health program.

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**New Resources for Dental Clinics**

Follow the links below to obtain valuable resources for dentists and dental operations in community health centers:

- The NNOHA **Operations Manual for Health Center Oral Programs** includes a newly released chapter on Risk Management. The guidebook can be downloaded as a free PDF; interested parties can also purchase a printed copy.

- The NNOHA **How to Start a Dental Clinic** webpage includes a sample dental budget, a new printable Health Center Oral Health Start-Up Tool Kit, links to webinars, and a needs assessment of CHCs without dental health programs.

- The NNOHA **Health Center Dentistry: A Highly Rewarding Career Opportunity** recruitment toolkit will help your CHC build a strong dental team. Health centers have a remarkably high job satisfaction rate. **80% of dentist indicated they intend to stay in Health Center practices** in NNOHA’s Oral Health Provider Survey. Learn how your CHC can find and recruit solid candidates that will stay!

- The NNOHA **Workforce Resources** webpage includes an Employer Compensation Analysis tool offering a side-by-side comparison of CHC salaries and independent or self-employment salaries illustrating the value of employer-provided benefits.
Region VIII CHCs Participate in PCMH-Medicare Demonstration Project

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Project) recently selected 16 Region VIII health centers to help demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of team-based coordinated care. These Region VIII health centers are among 500 patient-centered medical homes (PCMH) selected to participate in the project that will serve nearly 200,000 Medicare patients over three years. The Innovation Project hopes to demonstrate how the PCMH model can improve quality of care, promote better health, and lower costs for Medicaid patients while evaluating the impact of the advanced primary care practice model. Participating Region VIII CHCs include:

**Colorado**
- Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.
- Denver Health Community Health Services
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Mountain Family Health Centers
- Peak Vista Community Health Center
- Plains Medical Center
- Sunrise Community Health

**North Dakota**
- Coal Country Community Health Center
- Family Practice Center

**South Dakota**
- Falls Community Health

**Wyoming**
- Community Health Center of Central Wyoming

Montana
- Community Health Care Center
- Community Health Partners
- Cooperative Health Center
- Lincoln County CHC: Libby
- Partnership Health Center

**Congratulations, Region VIII!**

$50,000 Awarded to Colorado Safety Net Collaborative

The Colorado Nonprofit Association recently awarded $50,000 to the Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership (Partnership), the first ever Colorado Collaboration Award. The award recognizes the Partnership’s collaboration to serve uninsured and underinsured residents of Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties in Colorado. This group includes seven safety net organizations and government agencies including a Region VIII health center grantee, the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (NCVNA).

“This is a wonderful affirmation of five years of work as a community partnership. The award will go a long way in helping us continue the work of improving the lives of residents in Northwest Colorado,” said Diane Miller, Director of Clinical and Quality Services at Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association in a press release August 8, 2011.

Since 2005, the Partnership has established a health center serving 3,000 patients, served an additional 1,000 patients in its behavioral health program, developed a sliding fee system, and implemented a medical transportation system through collaborative efforts.

Read the NCVNA’s blog post about the award.

Funding to Prevent Violence Against Women

The US Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that almost one-third of women murdered in the US each year are killed by their current or former partner. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women’s Health (OWH) is offering $2,500 grants to projects that aim to prevent violence and trauma against women and girls in the U.S.

Download the Prevention of Violence and Trauma of Women and Girls Request for Proposal. For more information, visit OWH’s Violence Against Women webpage.
November 17: Celebrating the Power of Rural

Nearly 62 million Americans live in rural communities, providing invaluable economic resources such as agriculture and energy. Yet, rural communities face economic and health disparities their metropolitan counterparts do not.

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) is hosting the first ever National Rural Health Day on Thursday, November 17, 2011 to showcase the power of rural America and to highlight the unique healthcare challenges that rural communities face. NOSORH provides a list of ideas for events and activities that organizations can use to celebrate National Rural Health Day on their website.

“Rural communities must tackle accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens,” notes NOSORH Director Teryl Eisinger. “Meanwhile, rural hospitals are threatened with declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels that makes it challenging to serve their residents.”

To learn more about National Rural Health Day and share your celebration, visit www.celebratepowerofrural.org


The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy and Issues Forum (P&I) is an event focusing on the latest state and federal government policies impacting health centers and health care. This year’s P&I will be held March 21-24, 2012 at the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference aims to inform attendees about the impacts of the midterm election, health center appropriations and health reform rule making, new delivery models under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid expansion, State budgetary climates, and more. Registration is not yet open for the P&I Forum.

For more information visit the NACHC 2012 P&I webpage.

BPHC Launches Web Guide for New Grantees

Rookie and veteran health centers alike now have a new web guide to help them assess their quality of operations, improve performance, and prepare for site visits. The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) recently launched the New Start Web Guide resource containing information on the 340B Drug Pricing Program, the Federal Tort Claims Act, questions and issues on Health Information Technology, and other key health center program requirements. The web resource also houses document templates, printable questions, and reference documents useful for recently granted CHCs and even vetted health centers.

Visit the Health Resources and Services Administration’s BPHC New Start Web Guide to learn more!
“Find a Health Center”: Smart Phones Connect to CHCs

Health happens when you are on the move, so finding a health center and accessing health information should move with you. Now, locating the nearest federally qualified health center is as easy as checking email or playing Angry Birds on a smart phone. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently launched a “Find a Health Center” smart phone application (app) to help people connect to health centers near their zip code. HRSA Mobile’s app is a free download that works on Androids, iPhones, and other smart phones. The app provides a list of health centers and connects with Google Maps to help users find affordable treatment, check-ups, dental care, mental health and other health center services as conveniently as technologically possible.

The “Find a Health Center” app joins the ranks of other Federal mobile Health media, “mHealth,” that use mobile phones to improve health outcomes, services, and research. Other applications in the mHealth collaborative include the “Medwatch” app for reporting problems with medical devices, a database of toxicology from the National Library of Medicine, and many more.

Download the “Find a Health Center” app. Learn more about mHealth and browse the complete list of Federal mHealth apps.

Speak Up Now to “Save Our CHCs”

Last week, the Campaign for America’s Health Centers (the Campaign) delivered more than 110,000 signatures and letters asking representatives to save their health centers. The goal of the petition drive was to make health center’s voices heard before a congressional “Super Committee” reaches a November 23rd deadline to identify $1.5 trillion in budget cuts.

The petition drive follows last month’s ‘call-in’ campaign that prompted more than 10,000 calls to congress on behalf of health centers. The campaign blog, a project of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), pointed out that these events were just the first few. The Campaign has set a long term goal to collect one million signatures by the start of the NACHC Policy and Issues Forum in March (see story on page 8), and two million signatures by the Campaign’s first anniversary next July.

The Campaign recently launched a website, Facebook page, mobile texting initiative, and Twitter social media platform in an effort to mobilize clinic staff, board members, and clients to vote and petition against community health funding reductions and policy threats. The website, SaveOurCHCs.org, has resources to help community health advocates learn more about the issues and policies that impact CHCs, share their personal stories, contact congress, and engage local media.

To voice your support for community health centers and learn more, visit www.saveourchcs.org. Click the social media buttons to the left to connect directly to the Campaign’s social media.
UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Follow this link to visit the interactive online CHAMPS calendar

November

Thursday, November 17, 2011
National Rural Health Day
www.celebratepowerofrural.org

December

Friday, December 2, 2011
Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH) UDS Training
Salt Lake City, UT
Contact amy@auch.org

Wednesday, December 7-8, 2011
Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference
Daytona Beach, FL
National Rural Health Association Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) UDS Training
Colorado Springs, CO
Contact angela@cchn.org

February

Monday, February 13 – Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Geiger Gibson Capstone Program in Health Policy and Leadership
Leadership Learning Opportunities from CHAMPSOnline

Wednesday, February 15 – Friday, February 17, 2012
21st Annual Western Migrant Stream Forum
NWRPCA’s Western Migrant Stream Forum

Monday, February 27 – Wednesday, February 29, 2012
The Fourth Medical Home Summit
The National Medical Home Summit

Looking Ahead

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