



Spring 2005 Newsletter

Congratulations! New Access Points Awards in Region VIII

In early April, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced plans to award 105 new health center grants during 2005. Seventeen of these grants will be made in May, and the remaining 88 in December as funds for FY 2006 become available. Including these new awards, the Health & Human Services Department has funded more than 700 new or expanded health centers since the beginning of President Bush's five-year healthcare initiative in 2002.

Please congratulate these Region VIII awardees:

Trenton Indian Service Area

Trenton, ND
(May Award)

Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Colorado Springs, CO
(December Award)

Bureau of Primary Health Care All-Grantee Meeting

The 2005 Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Primary Health Care (PHC) All Grantee Meeting is fast approaching. The meeting, to be held June 21-24 at the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC, will provide grantees with program and policy updates, networking, and learning opportunities, and will include times to meet with project officers. For more information, visit www.psava.com/phc2005/main.asp.

New and Improved CHAMPS Website!



The CHAMPS website has undergone some exciting changes in honor of our 20th Anniversary. The home page address remains www.champsonline.org, but you'll quickly notice a new look and fresh organization. All of your favorite CHAMPS materials are still there, but we've reorganized the site to make it more user-friendly and have enhanced it with new resources and interactive features. Visit the home page, take a look at the **Site Map** for a quick overview of the entire site, and be sure to visit the new **Calendar of Events** (click on "Events & Trainings") for an expanded view of upcoming conferences, meetings, trainings, and more. We'll be introducing new and improved areas of the site throughout this newsletter – just look for the smaller versions of the colorful CHAMPS logo (above) marking these highlights.

*Members, your usernames and passwords for the new **Members Only** section of the site have been mailed to your Executive Director.*

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- HDC: Learning Session II, South Carolina Study
- MPCN: Staff Changes, Spanish Language Training, Steering Committee & Strategic Planning, Lending Library
- Regional and National News
- Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars – Annual Primary Care Conference

The 9th Annual CHAMPS/NWRPCA Primary Care Conference will be held October 22-26, 2005 at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. This conference will offer a variety of tracks and sessions of continuing education for CHC board members and staff of all types; don't miss this opportunity to learn about current issues and strategize with your peers about how to respond to changes in the health care industry.

For hotel reservation details, and for a summary of last year's conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, please visit www.champsonline.org/Events/Conference.asp.



Region VIII NHCHC Board of Directors Members

Two of our Region VIII colleagues have been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC). The NHCHC is a membership organization dedicated to providing advocacy, research, training, publishing, and collaboration to bring about reform of the health care system to best serve the needs of the homeless and to work with others to eliminate homelessness.

Please congratulate:

Allan Ainsworth, PhD: Allan is the Executive Director of Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is the Vice-President of the Board for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and has been living and working in Region VIII for 30 years. Allan has worked at a health center for 17 of those years, has been actively involved in CHAMPS for the last eight years, and has been a presenter at several CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conferences.

Visit www.nhchc.org for more information about the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

Dennis Royal, MA: Denny is the Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Natrona County based in Casper, Wyoming. In addition to being a NHCHC Board of Directors member, he is also the NHCHC Membership Committee Chair, the Chair of the Wyoming Homeless Continuum of Care Collaborative, and serves on the Wyoming Homeless Advisory Council. Denny has been living in Region VIII for thirteen years, working with Community Action Partnership the entire time. He has been a CHAMPS Executive Committee Member on several occasions, as Wyoming Representative and currently as Secretary.

Region VIII Doctor Elected to AAFP Board of Directors

Dr. Virgilio Licon, MD, FAAFP, the Medical Director at Salud Family Health Centers based in Fort Lupton, Colorado, was elected to a three year term on the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Board of Directors in October 2004. The AAFP represents more than 93,700 physicians and medical students nationwide.

Dr. Licon is also an assistant clinical professor of family medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, and has served as chair of the board of directors, president, and vice president of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP). Licon has had a distinguished career in community, farmworker, and public health. For more details about Dr. Licon and his career, please visit www.aafp.org/x24617.xml.

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

Salary Survey Report Now Available

The CHAMPS 2004 Region VIII Salary Survey Report is now available to CHAMPS Organizational Members in print and online at the **Members Only** page of the newly redesigned CHAMPS website. This report includes compiled salary data on over 85 different clinical and administrative positions at 29 health centers throughout Region VIII. The data analysis is intended to help health centers determine if their salaries and benefits packages are competitive in comparison to similar organizations in Region VIII. 2005-2006 CHAMPS Organizational Members have been sent one complimentary copy of the report.



Upcoming Live CHAMPS Webcast

CHAMPS is pleased to announce our first CHC-board related webcast, coming up in mid-July. "CHC Boards: Legal Roles and Responsibilities" will be presented by Henry Granger, a popular speaker at past CHAMPS conferences. Make note of the details below:

CHC Boards:

Legal Roles & Responsibilities

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Mountain Time)

Target Participants:

CHC Board Members and Executive Staff

To obtain information about this upcoming webcast, send an e-mail with your full name and phone number to Webcast@championline.org or call (303) 861-5165 x285.



Archived CHAMPS Webcasts

All past CHAMPS webcasts are available online and/or on CD-ROM for those interested in viewing the archived versions of the events.

Interested in *Introduction to CPT Coding* presented by Maureen Hong?

Visit www.communicast.com/replay

and enter replay number **1286131011** to begin watching the webcast.

CME Credit is available through April 2006.

Please visit www.championline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp for descriptions of all other available archived CHAMPS webcasts and for details about viewing the events online, or for purchasing or borrowing a CD-ROM.

Colorado Workforce News



In May 2005 The Colorado Trust awarded Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) the Health Professions Initiative Grant to increase the number of health professionals in underserved areas across the state of Colorado. CCHN plans to address the need for skilled health professionals by identifying high-achieving entry-level staff at Community Health Centers who are interested in receiving education to further their careers to serve their communities' uninsured and underinsured. Education grants will be provided to the qualifying individuals to further their careers in order to move into support staff positions such as medical assistants, lab technicians, dental hygienists, and pharmacy technicians among many others. This Project will be led by Amber Galloway, the CCHN Workforce Development Coordinator.



Website Focus: About Workforce Development, Distance Learning

- ★ New **Workforce Development** page listing programs and peer support activities (Click on "About Us")
- ★ Improved **Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)** listing open positions at CHCs across Region VIII (Click on "Job Bank")
- ★ New **Distance Learning** page that not only details CHAMPS' upcoming live and archived webcasts but also provides a list of like-minded organizations providing web-based continuing education opportunities, often for CE credit (Click on "Events & Trainings")

National Health Service Corps Site Application Process

Would your health center like to post vacancies on the NHSC Online Job Opportunities List? If so, you must submit a Recruitment and Retention Assistance Application; once approved, you can post your vacancies on the NHSC site for up to three years, as long as you remain in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and continue to meet NHSC requirements. Visit <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rraa.asp> for an application.

Urban vs. Rural Physician Incomes

A new report from the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC) indicates that there is little difference between the incomes of urban and rural physicians after accounting for differences in physician work effort, specialty, and other physician and practice characteristics. The study's authors indicate that this equates to greater purchasing power on the part of the rural physicians, and that there may be an adequate number of physicians in most rural areas. To read the report, visit <http://hschange.org/CONTENT/725/>.

HEALTH DISPARITIES COLLABORATIVES (HDC) NEWS

Excelling in patient self-management, clinical decision support, positive delivery system redesign, clinical information systems, and strong partnerships with local and community organizations in order to delay or decrease the complications of chronic diseases

Recap: HDC 2005 Learning Session II

HDC 2005 Learning Session II, held May 12-14 in Atlanta, Georgia, brought together health centers from around the nation to share ideas, stories, barriers, and successes. There currently are 24 West Central Cluster (WCC) health centers participating in the initial "Learning Year"; nine of those are from Region VIII. The hard work of the WCC Phase 1 teams is clearly evident in the fact that 12 of the teams have already reached an assessment score of 3 (on a 5 point scale)--meaning that these teams have:

- 1) Initial test cycles completed in at least two components of the Care Model
- 2) Implementation begun in at least one component of the Care Model
- 3) Evidence of modest improvement in one or more required measures
- 4) Registry size of 90% of anticipated Population of Focus, or 90 patients (whichever is smaller)



Congratulations to these teams for work well done! And as always, congratulations to all West Central Cluster teams for your continued work in providing quality care to our underserved populations and becoming the model for primary health care in America.



Website Focus: About HDCs, Clinical Information Systems

- ★ New **Health Disparities Collaboratives** section providing HDC organizational information, resources, support tools, and contacts (Click on “About Us”)
- ★ Enhanced **Clinical Information Systems** page of printable technical information and tools as well as a list of other online resources (Click on “Tools & Products”, then on “Clinical Resources”, then on “Quality Improvement Tools”)

HDC Results in Medicaid Savings – a South Carolina Study

The South Carolina Primary Care Association worked closely with the state’s Budget and Control Board to study the costs associated with caring for diabetic Medicaid patients at health centers and other primary care providers. Thus far, a comparison of one of South Carolina’s largest health centers participating in a diabetes Collaborative with other state providers between 2000 and 2003 indicates that the health center diabetics had lower hospitalization rates and ED visits than patients treated by other family physicians. These numbers led to significant cost savings, especially when combined with lower costs for specialists, labs, and other services. For more information about this study, email Lathran Woodard at lathran@scphca.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

Staff Changes

Gina Astorino, the CHAMPS Clinical Programs Director for eight wonderful years, has decided to embark on a new adventure – fulfilling a long-held dream to live and work in Antarctica. We wish her well and will miss her smile, energy, and dedication to CHAMPS.

CHAMPS is fortunate to welcome **Katie Henderson**, the new Clinical Programs Director. Katie is a registered nurse with a Bachelor’s degree in Business and Marketing from Regis University. Her previous work experience includes Director of a Home Health and Hospice Agency, obesity grant work with University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and OB/GYN hospital and clinic work.

Spanish Language Training for Healthcare Professionals

There’s still room! If you are a health care professional interested in an intensive, individually tailored, conversational and medical Spanish Language workshop, CHAMPS’ upcoming three-day course (to be held in Denver, Colorado June 9-11) is for you.

**For details and a registration form,
contact katie@championonline.org or visit www.championonline.org/events.**

Recap: MPCN Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting

The MPCN Steering Committee held a Strategic Planning Meeting May 9, 2005 at the CHAMPS office in Denver, Colorado. During this meeting, participants reinforced the MPCN mission to be a resource to Region VIII CHC clinicians and a bridge between the Bureau of Primary Health Care and CHCs. Topics of discussion included the future of electronic health records, resources for “what works” in clinics, quality of care, and CME opportunities. The committee also outlined a plan for CHAMPS clinical programs for 2005-2006.

MPCN Steering Committee Recruitment

CHAMPS is recruiting additional MPCN Steering Committee Members to represent Colorado, Wyoming, and North Dakota. These positions are open to any interested clinician practicing in a federally funded Community, Migrant, or Homeless Health Center, or National Health Service Corps site within these states. MPCN is also looking for a Dentist from a Region VIII clinic to serve on the committee. Please contact katie@championline.org if you have an interest and want to know more about the responsibilities of an MPCN Steering Committee Member.

CHAMPS Lending Library

CHAMPS has a selection of clinical and non-clinical reference materials for CHC staff and board members, available for purchase or on loan through the CHAMPS Lending Library. Please visit the **Tools and Products** section of www.championline.org for a complete list and description of available videos, DVDs, and CD-ROMs.



Website Focus: About MPCN, Clinical Resources

- ★ New **Mountain/Plains Clinical Network** section providing details about MPCN goals, leadership, and programs (click on “About Us”)
- ★ Improved **Clinical Resources** section of easy to use provider training resources, clinical products, and provider and patient reference materials (click on “Tools & Products”)

Online Prescription/Supply Resources

Do you have patients that struggle to pay for their prescriptions? The following three websites provide information about various patient assistance programs:

- Partnership for Prescription Assistance** – www.pparx.org
- Needy Meds** – www.needymeds.com
- Rx Hope** – www.rxhope.com



Bayer (www.pharma.bayer.com/en/home.html) will provide free Glucometers for patients without insurance. Contact the Bayer representative in your area to obtain them, and a small amount of strips. Here are a few resources for additional test strips:

www.diabetic-testing-supplies.com
www.medplususa.com

www.hocks.com
www.walgreens.com

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

New Food Pyramid

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released a newly designed Food Pyramid, intended to encourage not only balanced food intake but also personal exercise to support a healthy lifestyle. The well-known pyramid of horizontally stacked food groups has been tipped on its side, with the major food groups now running from base to peak, and includes a figure walking up its edge. The interactive website released with the pyramid, www.mypyramid.gov, provides healthy-eating resources for patients, clinicians, and educators.

Medicaid Commission to Report to HHS Secretary Leavitt

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt has established an advisory commission tasked with identifying the reforms necessary to stabilize and strengthen Medicaid and will be appointing up to 15 people to serve. The first report this commission will create, due in September, will outline recommendations for ways to save \$10 billion over the next five years and for long-term enhancements that will better serve beneficiaries, as well as consider possible performance goals. A second report, due out at the end of December, is intended to provide recommendations to ensure the long-term viability of the Medicaid program and consider how various possible funding futures will effect basic Medicare issues. Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/mc/default.asp for a copy of the commission's charter.

Health Information Technology Leadership Panel: Final Report

In April of 2004, President Bush called for personal electronic health records for most Americans within 10 years. A Health Information Technology Leadership Panel made up of corporate executives in large companies purchasing substantial amounts of health care for their employees has issued a report identifying imperatives for Health Information Technology (HIT), conclusions to guide HIT, and themes regarding the benefits and costs of HIT. A copy of "Health Information Technology Leadership Panel: Final Report" is available at www.hhs.gov.

Looking Forward: National Health Center Week

National Health Center Week 2005 will be Sunday, August 7 through Saturday, August 13. Health centers are encouraged by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) to plan events and invite their Members of Congress and other elected officials. (The week falls during the August Congressional recess.) If you'd like to download sample press materials, sample resolutions, event planning ideas, and/or Health Center fact sheets, please visit www.healthcenterweek.com.

Trying to Implement an Effective Communications Campaign?

Cause Communication has released ***Communications Toolkit***, a guide to navigating communications for the nonprofit world. Based off of national qualitative and quantitative audits of what nonprofits need in the area of communications, the book offers an overview of all the possible tools used to develop smart communications, and much practical communications information - from how to develop and budget a communications plan to the tools needed to help raise awareness and funds. To order your free copy of the toolkit or download a PDF version, visit http://www.causecommunications.org/CC/CC_news06_1.html.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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Thursday, June 2nd – Saturday, June 4th

National Health Care for the Homeless Conference

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

www.bphc.hrsa.gov/hchirc/

Thursday, June 9th – Friday, June 10th

Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH) Annual Meeting

Marriott Park City, Park City, UT

www.auch.org

Thursday, June 9th – Saturday, June 10th

CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals

Courtyard by Marriott, Denver, CO

www.champsonline.org

Tuesday, June 21st – Thursday, June 23rd

Colorado Rural Health Conference

Radisson Hotel, Longmont, CO

www.coruralhealth.org

Tuesday, June 21st – Friday, June 24th

2005 HRSA Primary Health Care All Grantee Meeting

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC

www.psava.com/phc2005

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Monday, July 11th

CHAMPS Executive Committee & Strategic Planning Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel Missoula/Edgewater, Missoula, MT

www.champsonline.org

Wednesday, July 20th

CHC Boards: Legal Roles & Responsibilities

CHAMPS Live Online Webcast

www.champsonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp

Looking Forward

**National
Health Center Week**
August 7-13, 2005
www.healthcenterweek.com

**NACHC
Community Health Institute**
September 18-20, 2005
Miami Beach, FL

**CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary
Care Conference**
October 22-26, 2005
Seattle, WA

Please let us know if your email address has changed.

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