



Spring 2007 Quarterly Newsletter

High Poverty Counties Initiative

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently released program guidance for the **New Access Points in High Poverty Counties New Limited Grant Competition** and **Planning Grants in High Poverty Counties New Limited Grant Competition**. The goal of these programs, two components of the President's High Poverty Counties Initiative, is to increase access to primary health care in the nation's poorest counties through the support of a comprehensive health center. HRSA projects to award a minimum of \$24 million for up to 25 planning grants and up to 120 new access points in FY 2007.

Seven counties in Region VIII are eligible to apply for planning grants and new access point funding through this initiative, including Elbert County in Colorado, Granite County in Montana, McHenry and Sargent Counties in North Dakota, and Hanson, Jackson, and Moody Counties in South Dakota.

Applicants for these opportunities must apply electronically through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>). Planning Grant applications are due May 16, 2007, and New Access Point applications are due May 23, 2007. Please visit <http://www.grants.gov> for more information.

Changes on the CHAMPS Executive Committee

CHAMPS would like to thank **Dan Euell** of Denver Health in Denver, Colorado for his many years of service on the CHAMPS Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Since 2004 Dan has served as CHAMPS' Treasurer, Vice President, and President, and will now move forward to new projects at Denver Health. We wish him much success in his new endeavors!

Please welcome the updated CHAMPS Executive Committee for 2006-2008:

President: Kate McIvor, Cooperative Health Center

Vice-President: John Mengenhauen, Horizon Health Care, Inc.

Immediate Past President: Pam Locken, Prairie Community Health

Treasurer: Stanley J. Brasher, Salud Family Health Centers

Secretary: Gina Flanagan, Wayne Community Health Center

North Dakota Representative: Aaron Garman, MD, Coal Country Community Health Center

Wyoming Representative: Sharon Montagnino, Cheyenne Health and Wellness Center

Clinical Representatives: Jim McNeely, CFNP, Rural Health Care, Inc., and Luke Casias, MD, Valley-Wide Health Services

Inside this Issue:

- New CHAMPS Staff, '07-'08 Membership Year, 2007 Annual Conference, NACHC CHI
- Workforce Development: Webcasts, Compiled JOB Data
- MPCN: Spanish Language Training, Clinicians' Listserv, Recruiting Steering Committee Members
- Regional & National News
- Upcoming Events
- CHAMPS Contacts

Welcome New CHAMPS Staff



CHAMPS is pleased to introduce our newest staff member, **Development Officer Erin Cummings**. Erin will be working to identify CHAMPS growth opportunities to ultimately enhance the quality of care for underserved populations throughout Region VIII. She has many years of public health experience, most recently focusing on tobacco cessation prevention and education in North Carolina. Erin graduated magna cum laude from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Promotion and Education, and has a Master of Arts in Health Science from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Welcome to the Region VIII Community Health Center family, Erin!

Erin can be reached at 303-861-5165 x225 or erin@CHAMPSonline.org.

2007-2008 CHAMPS Membership Year Has Begun

The 2007-2008 CHAMPS Membership Year began April 1, and we thank the Region VIII Community Health Centers and Primary Care Associations that have already joined CHAMPS as Organizational Members. Your continued support ensures the maintenance and growth of our services and activities, and provides free and discounted access to CHAMPS publications, products, and trainings as well as access to the Members Only section of the CHAMPS website and the opportunity to guide CHAMPS' future. **Thank you for allowing CHAMPS to serve Region VIII.**

To learn more about CHAMPS, please visit <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/About/CHAMPS/default.asp>.

If you have any questions about CHAMPS membership, please contact julie@CHAMPSonline.org.

Mark Your Calendars: NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Conference

The **10th Anniversary Edition of the NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference** will be held October 20-24, 2007 at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Don't miss this chance to network with your peers from Regions VIII and X while learning more about current events and best practices for your discipline. Multiple tracks are designed to meet the needs of staff and board members at all levels.



*Would you like to help plan this year's offerings?
Contact julie@CHAMPSonline.org.*

Hotel reservation information and a summary of the 2006 Annual Conference in Denver can be found at <http://www.champsonline.org/Events/Conference.asp>.

Visit <http://www.seattle.gov/html/visitor/> for Seattle travel and tourism information.

Looking Forward: NACHC Community Health Institute

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is hosting the **2007 Convention & Community Health Institute (CHI) and Expo** August 24-28 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas. For more details, please visit <http://www.nachc-chi.com/>. During the CHI, **Lil Anderson**, Executive Director of the Deering Community Health Center in Billings, Montana will take the reins as **Chair of the NACHC Board of Directors**.

Congratulations, Lil! We wish you the best during your leadership year.

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

Free Continuing Education at Your Convenience



The **CHAMPS Distance Learning Program** is designed to give Community Health Center personnel remote avenues for meeting their continuing education needs. Our webcasts for clinical and non-clinical staff and board members are presented live by national-recognized experts, and are available online for one year past the original presentation date as well as on CD-ROM. Most are also available for 1.5 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit for one year. Currently available online archives include:

Dealing with the Cranky, Crusty, & Crabby: Serving the Difficult Customer

Presented by Kevin R. Miller
Online through May 2007
CME available

Gestational Diabetes: New Concepts, New Guidelines

Presented by Linda Barbour, MD, MSPH
Online through February 2008
CME available

Practical Approaches to Managing Your Overweight & Obese Patients

Presented by Victoria Catenacci, MD
Online through October 2007
CME available

Promoting Successful Tobacco Cessation: Treatment Recommendations & Systems

Changes for CHCs
Presented by Jeffrey J. Cain, MD
Online through March 2008
CME available

Click here or visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp for more details and log-on instructions for each online archived webcast.

*CD-ROMs of these events may be purchased or borrowed through the **CHAMPS Lending Library**. Visit <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/VideosCDROMsDVDs/> for more information about buying or borrowing one of these archived webcasts on CD-ROM.*

Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) Data Comparison Report

CHAMPS has been supporting the **Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)**, and interactive online site posting clinical and non-clinical career opportunities at Region VIII Community Health Centers and Primary Care Associations, for almost three years. We recently took a closer look at the data submitted by our posting organizations during that time, and a comparison of the data from year to year provides an interesting look at recruitment efforts throughout the region, including types of positions recruited, average recruitment lengths, and successful recruitment resources.

The **Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank Data Comparison Report** compares 02/05-01/06 data with 02/06-01/07 data from the site. Here are a few highlights:

- **Average recruitment lengths** have remained steady from year to year; for example, Clinical Medical positions were open for an average of 6.8 months, while Administrative/Management positions were open for an average of 3.4 months.
- The most commonly cited **successful recruitment resource** each year was "online listings".



Learn more about these recruitment efforts by downloading this free report from the CHAMPS Publications webpage, <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/tools/PubsElectronicMedia/Publications/>.

View currently available JOB positions by visiting <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/JobBank>.

Region VIII CHCs and PCAs are welcome to recruit open positions on this site at no charge.

To post a position on JOB, please contact andrea@CHAMPSonline.org.

Most Physician-Friendly States

Physicians Practice, an online practice management journal, recently published **The Best States to Practice: America's Physician-Friendliest States**. The article summarizes results from the Physicians Practice analysis of the friendliness of states (conducted every other year since 2003), and emphasizing factors such as malpractice climate, physician-patient ratios, reimbursement, and cost-of-living.

Which states rank as the friendliest? Kansas, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Indiana, & Texas

Read the entire article at

<http://www.physicianspractice.com/index/fuseaction/articles.details/articleID/934.htm>

Employee Onboarding Best Practices

Welcoming a new employee to your organization isn't just about "orientation" any more. Successful **onboarding** can increase your new hire's ability to make a significant contribution immediately and over time, which can lead to increased satisfaction and retention – all through an initial process to make that person feel welcome, comfortable, prepared, and supported. This requires preparation before the new employee arrives, and continues from the first day to several months or more into the position. **Ensuring a New Employee's Success: Best Practices for Employee Onboarding** is a GuideStar.org article providing tips for creating a strong onboarding program.

Visit <http://www.guidestar.org/DisplayArticle.do?articleId=1121> to read and print this article.

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

Communication Opportunity for Region VIII Clinicians

CHAMPS is pleased to offer an email listserv for Region VIII Community Health Center clinicians interested in joining a free discussion forum for exchanging important patient care, clinical quality and other useful information. The **Region VIII CHC Clinicians' Listserv** is an effort to improve communication strategies between Region VIII providers, as well as to advance the clinical needs of the region and to improve care for the underserved. The Listserv allows providers the opportunity to share or seek advice about topics critical to their work.



The benefits of this Listserv include sharing best practices, learning more about an emerging health issue, and discussing quality improvement efforts. Currently there are close to 40 Listserv subscribers. Members may post articles, questions, announcements, and discussion items on the Listserv, and are free to unsubscribe at anytime.

Would you like to enroll in the Region VIII CHC Clinicians' Listserv?

Contact stephanie@CHAMPSonline.org.

Register Now: Spanish Language Immersion Training

Registration is now open for this three-day course targeted to Community Health Center physicians, nurses, PAs, NPs, dentists, pharmacists, and other medical personnel interested in an immersion language experience. The training will be held September 20-22, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Select Denver Cherry Creek, where RIOS Associates will provide instruction at levels matching the abilities of the participants, allowing all to acquire and/or strengthen their ability to interview patients, take a medical history, conduct a physical exam, give prescriptions and follow-up instructions, and intervene in medical emergencies. CHAMPS is applying for 24 hours of CME credit through AAFP for the course; determination of credit is pending. Fees for the training are \$400 for CHAMPS members and \$550 for nonmembers.



For registration and hotel information, please visit <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/events> or email stephanie@CHAMPSonline.org.

MPCN Steering Committee Recruitment

CHAMPS is recruiting additional MPCN Steering Committee members from Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming to help guide CHAMPS' clinical programs to ensure that these programs and other clinical activities meet the needs and challenges of Region VIII. These positions are open to any interested clinician practicing in a federally-funded Community, Migrant, or Homeless Health Center in these states.

MPCN Steering Committee members are asked to participate on conference calls every other month and at least one face-to-face meeting annually. In recognition of your contribution to the health of Region VIII, CHAMPS will reward your service with professional acknowledgements, and participation on the committee is a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with colleagues throughout the region.

For more information about MPCN programs and activities, please visit <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/about/MPCN>.

If interested in serving, or if you have questions, please contact stephanie@CHAMPSonline.org.

Community Health Centers Prove HDC Success

The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently published the first ever study of the effects of the Health Disparities Collaboratives (HDC) on the quality of care. The study found that patients treated through HDC models have significantly improved processes of care for asthma and diabetes.



The study, conducted by Harvard researchers, focused on diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, which affect more than 25 percent of the US adult population. Overall, centers that participated in the quality improvement interventions showed considerably greater improvement than ones that did not on such measures as the rate of foot exams for diabetics and the use of anti-inflammatory medications for asthma patients.

To read more about the Commonwealth Fund supported study, please visit http://www.cmf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=470594.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

To submit an article about state, regional, or national news, please contact andrea@CHAMPSONline.org.

Colorado Scholarship Winners

Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) recently announced **fourth round Health Professions Initiative (HPI) scholarship awards**. The HPI scholarship program provides qualifying high-achieving, entry-level Community Health Center staff with scholarships up to \$3,000 to further clinical education in a health professions support staff position. CCHN received 29 applications, making round four the most successful for scholarship awards thus far. Awardees include:



Rebecca Anderson, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (Bachelors of Science in Nursing)

Bernice Almanza-Pereyra, Denver Health (Associates of Science in Nursing)

Elizabeth Danowsky, Denver Health (Dietitian/Nutritionist Registration)

Irmalinda Gomez, Denver Health (Licensed Practical Nurse Certification)

Yasmin Abdelsalam, Denver Health (Dietitian/Nutritionist Registration)

Erica Saldana, High Plains Community Health Center (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Michelle Fisher, High Plains Community Health Center (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Cassey Roush, Metro Community Provider Network (Medical Assistant Certification)

Leah Peterson, Metro Community Provider Network (Bachelors of Science in Nursing)

Alma Rodriguez, Peak Vista Community Health Center (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Maria Sulzer, Peak Vista Community Health Center (Associates of Science in Nursing)

Rebecca McCay, Peak Vista Community Health Center (Bachelors of Science in Nursing)

Roxanne Upshaw, Plains Medical Center (Certified Addictions Counselor III)

Adrienne Martinez, Pueblo Community Health Center (Medical Assistant Certification)

Adria Wichterman, Salud Family Health Center (Bachelors of Science in Nursing)

Leticia Chavez, Salud Family Health Center (Associates of Science in Nursing)

Elida Ramirez, Sunrise Community Health Center (Medical Assistant Certification)

Cherri Lyons, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Certified Dental Assistant Certification)

Cheryl Archuleta, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Christina Rodriguez, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Certified Dental Assistant Certification)

Jessica Sparks, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Certified Dental Assistant Certification)

Rhonda Terry, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Associates of Science in Nursing)

Roland Martinez, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Susan Vogel, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant Certification)

Violet Martinez, Valley-Wide Health Systems (Certified Dental Assistant Certification)

Round five scholarship applications will be accepted in July 2007. For further information, please contact Amber Galloway at amber@cchn.org or 303-861-5165 x234.

Encouraging Women's Health



The US Department of Health and Human Services is celebrating **National Women's Health Week** May 13-19 and **National Women's Health Check-Up Day** on May 14, 2007. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is urging as many national, state, and local organizations as possible to become involved by encouraging women to utilize the high-quality preventive care services available at our Community Health Centers. Free promotional and educational materials are available at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw>, while supplies last.

Report: CHCs & Reducing Emergency Department Visits

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the Association of Community-Affiliated Plans (ACAP) recently released **The Impact of Health Centers and Community-Affiliated Health Plans on Emergency Department Use**, a report describing how having a health care home eases Emergency Department (ED) overcrowding and generates cost savings. For example, patients served by health centers have fewer preventable ED visits than patients in underserved areas without health centers, and health centers could save Medicaid approximately \$4 billion annually by reducing avoidable ED visits.



Access this report online at <http://www.nachc.com/research>.

Quick Access to HRSA Information

Are you searching for information from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)? Visit the **HRSA News Room** at <http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/> for a chronological list of past press releases and newsletters. The News Room will link you to information about recent awards, opportunities, trends, and more. The most recently available **Inside HRSA** newsletter highlights Black History Month observances, living organ donors, newborn screening during disasters, and the dramatic expansion of health centers under the President's Health Center Initiative ending in FY 2007. Link directly to this edition at <http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/inside-hrsa/march07/>.

EHR Assistance for Health Centers

Community Health Centers are invited to refer to the new **Electronic Health Records (EHR) Selection Guidelines**, released by HRSA's Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT), when evaluating EHR products and developing requests for proposals or requests for information. These customized guidelines, available at <http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/>, were developed in collaboration with health center IT staffers and clinicians. As Health Information Technology is a constantly evolving field, the guidelines will continue to evolve based on market trends and demands.

RESOURCE: Heart Truth

The Office on Women's Health's National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) collaborated to produce the **Heart Truth Professional Education Campaign**, containing professional development materials as well as consumer resources.

For Providers:

Presentation materials for educating and training health care providers and students, including slide sets, problem-based learning cases, provider pocket cards, and guidelines can be found at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/hearttruth>.



Related Medscape modules are linked to the CME section of the site, <http://www.womenshealth.gov/hearttruth/cme.cfm>.

For Consumers:

Consumer materials addressing heart health can be found at <http://www.hearttruth.gov>.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Visit the interactive online CHAMPS calendar - <http://www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Calendar.asp>

MAY

Friday, May 4th

Colorado Health Institute 2007 Safety Net Symposium

Denver Marriott West, Golden, CO

http://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/eblast/safetynet/safetynet_agenda.html

Wednesday, May 9th – Friday, May 11th

NACHC 2007 National Farmworker Health Conference

Newport Beach Marriott Hotel, Newport Beach, CA

<http://www.nachc.com/farmworker/FW2007.asp>

Thursday, May 10th – Friday, May 11th

AUCH 2007 Annual Meeting

Zermatt Resort and Spa, Midway, UT

<http://www.auch.org/newsnotes/upcomingevents.html>

Sunday, May 13th – Saturday, May 19th

8th Annual National Women's Health Week

<http://www.4woman.gov/whw/>



Sunday, May 13th
Mother's Day

Monday, May 28th
Memorial Day

JUNE

Thursday, June 14th – Saturday, June 16th

2007 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

<http://www.nhchc.org/2007conferenceevents.html>

Wednesday, June 27th – Saturday, June 30th

National School-Based Health Care Convention

The Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC

<http://www.nasbhc.org>



Sunday, June 17th
Father's Day

Thursday, June 21st
First Day of Summer

Looking Forward

National Health Center Week

August 5-11, 2007

<http://www.healthcenterweek.com/>

2007 Rural Women's Health Conference

August 13-15, 2007

<http://www.esi-bethesda.com/ruralfrontier2007/>

NACHC 2007 Convention & Community Health Institute

August 24-29, 2007

<http://www.nachc.com>

Please let us know if your email address has changed.

CONTACT US

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The CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletter is supported by Grant Number 5 H68CS00150-20-00 from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of CHAMPS and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA/BPHC. Please contact Andrea Martin with any questions or comments about this newsletter.