



Winter 2010 Quarterly Newsletter

Published February 18, 2010



CHAMPS Celebrates 25th Anniversary!

February 19, 2010 marks the **25th anniversary of the founding of Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States**. Countless individuals and organizations have been instrumental in the success of CHAMPS, contributing their talents, wisdom, resources and vision to enable CHAMPS to serve Region VIII for a quarter of a century. CHAMPS staff celebrates and honors all who have supported and guided CHAMPS over the years.

We especially want to thank and acknowledge the leadership of CHAMPS: CHAMPS' amazing and dedicated Executive Committee who is an integral part of CHAMPS' success; the CHAMPS Board of Directors who have gifted CHAMPS with their commitment and passion, and the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network Steering Committee who ensure the voice of providers is heard. We also extend an enormous amount of gratitude to CHAMPS organizational and individual members who have been steadfast and generous.

Much appreciation is also due to CHAMPS' wonderful partners: our terrific federal partners at HRSA and BPHC, our marvelous State PCA partners in Region VIII as well as nationally, our outstanding Regional PCA partner NWRPCA, our fantastic national partner NACHC, and our many other partners who have collaborated with CHAMPS.

Over the next 25 years CHAMPS will continue to strengthen the Region VIII health center network by offering innovative education and training for CHC staff at all levels, providing effective networking opportunities, and supporting workforce development, promoting best practices in staff recruitment and retention. CHAMPS will also advocate for the health care needs of special populations and work to ensure Mountain/Plains states issues are brought to the forefront of regional and national decision-making.

CHAMPS members recognize that they will always gain more when they work collectively, and to that end, CHAMPS remains committed to ensuring the health of all individuals who reside in the Mountain/Plains states. CHAMPS will continue to develop, expand, and advocate for services and resources that build a stronger health center network in Region VIII; be it education and training, workforce development, or advocacy, CHAMPS will strive to offer services and programs that equally serve large and small, rural and urban health centers, and all in-between. Indeed, CHAMPS is made stronger by the diversity of its membership.

As CHAMPS celebrates 25 years of service to Region VIII, it honors member health centers and SPCAs for their support of and belief in the value of a regional association.

Inside this Issue:

- **CHAMPS: New Executive Committee Members; RVIII Grantee; New RVIII UDS Summary; Year in Review**
- **Workforce: JOB Comparison Report Available; Expanded NHSC Loan Repayment; Online Archived Events; New Onboarding Resources**
- **MPCN: New Steering Committee (SC) Chair/Vice-Chair; Seeking SC Members; Harvard and Spanish Language Trainings; Updated Region VIII Data Summaries Available; RVIII Public Health Listserv**
- **Upcoming Events & Contact Us**

Welcome New CHAMPS Executive Committee Members



The CHAMPS Executive Committee is made up of officers and state representatives elected from the CHAMPS Board of Directors, plus the current Chair of the Mountain Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee. Executive Committee members serve a two year term; the current Executive Committee was elected in October 2008 and will serve until October 2010. Two Executive Committee members have recently stepped down from their duties, Secretary Gina Flanagan of Wayne Community Health Centers in UT and North Dakota Representative Aaron Garman, MD, of Coal Country Community Health Centers. **Donna Singer**, Executive Director of Utah Navajo Health Systems in Montezuma Creek, UT, has been appointed as Utah Representative through October 2010, and **Dawn Berg**, Executive Director of Coal Country Community Health Centers in Beulah, ND, will fill the unexpired portion of Dr. Garman's term. Also, the MPCN Steering Committee recently underwent elections for the Chair and Co-Chair positions of that committee (see page 6 for more details). **Keith Horwood, MD**, Medical Director of Community Health Centers, Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT was elected as the new MPCN Steering Committee Chair, and therefore has a seat on the current CHAMPS Executive Committee, replacing previous Chair Jim Guyer of RiverStone Health in Billings, MT. As a part of the reorganization, **Cathy Keene** of Wind River Health Systems in WY has moved from Wyoming Representative to Secretary.

CHAMPS Welcomes our New Executive Committee Members!

Many thanks to Gina Flanagan, Aaron Garman, and Jim Guyer for their service on the CHAMPS Executive Committee.

For a current list of all CHAMPS Executive Committee members, please visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/About/CHAMPS/Exec_Members.asp.

Funding Supports Region VIII CHCs

In early December 2009 President Obama announced \$600 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds would be awarded to community health centers (CHCs) to support construction and renovation projects, adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR) and other Health Information Technology (HIT) systems, and to promote the medical home model. It is estimated these improvements will help CHCs serve 50,000 more patients nationally in addition to creating new jobs in the healthcare industry.

Congratulations to the following Region VIII Grantee!

Family Healthcare Center of Fargo, ND

To read the full article visit www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-recovery-act-awards-build-renovate-community-health-cente.

2004-2008 Region VIII Uniform Data System Summary

In late November, CHAMPS released the **2004-2008 Region VIII BPHC Uniform Data System (UDS) Summary**. This summary is comprised of a five year regional history of CHC users, staffing, encounters, and income information, and includes a ***new section addressing selected CHC financial performance measures***. The publication includes:



- ★ Comparison of Region VIII and national figures regarding total cost per patient and medical cost per medical encounter over a three year period
- ★ Select factors relating to these performance measures including, special populations, user language preferences, and enabling services, with comparisons to overall encounters, patients, and revenue
- ★ State breakdowns for all of the information described above

To view and download the Summary please visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/PubsMediaDocs/RVIIIUDS2004-2008.pdf.

CHAMPS 2009-2010 Membership Year in Review

CHAMPS thanks the 55 2009-2010 Organizational Member Community Health Centers (CHCs) and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) whose support made it possible for CHAMPS to deliver the following programs and services during the past year.

CHAMPS provided face-to-face and remote learning opportunities for over 800 participants from Region VIII CHCs and PCAs, awarding almost 1,500 hours of continuing education (CE) credit for the events.

★ **CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference:**

- Travel reimbursement for clinicians
- Registration scholarships
- Educational sessions, roundtables, HRSA/NACHC updates
- NEW webcasted sessions

★ **Six live CHAMPS distance learning events:**

- 1 on lifestyle modification for diabetes
- 2 on customer service in CHCs
- 1 on successful recruitment practices
- 1 on treatment of chronic pain
- 1 immunization update

**CLICK ON THE
BRIGHT BLUE
TEXT FOR MORE
INFORMATION!**

★ **Ten archived CHAMPS distance learning events, the above plus:**

- 3 on SBIRT program to address alcohol and substance use
- 1 on oral health basics for primary care providers

★ **CHAMPS Lending Library:**

- Most popular resources: Boot Camps for Medical and Dental Directors and Archived Webcasts

NEW CHAMPS Mission:

The mission of Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) is to provide opportunities for education and training, networking, and workforce development to Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) community health centers so we can better serve our patients and communities.

CHAMPS remained dedicated to advertising career opportunities at Region VIII CHCs while advocating for the CHC model of care and working strategically with regional and national partners to address upcoming workforce issues.

★ **Online Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)**, a free resource for advertising open positions at Region VIII CHCs

★ **Career Fair and Conference Exhibiting** and Advertising of JOB Postings

NEW CHAMPS Vision:

All patients and communities benefit from the impact of the resources that CHAMPS provides to community health centers.

CHAMPS published a variety of reports providing region-wide information and data, allowing Region VIII CHCs and PCAs to maintain an accurate understanding of current trends affecting the health centers of Region VIII.

- ★ **CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletters**
- ★ **2009-2010 Region VIII Health Center Directory**
- ★ **Region VIII Data Summaries** addressing Demographics, Women's Health, Mortality, and Behavioral Health

- ★ **Region VIII UDS Data Summary** with a NEW look at CHC financial performance measures
- ★ **Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) Data Comparison Report**

The CHAMPS website, www.CHAMPSonline.org, remained a vital resource for board members and clinical and non-clinical staff of Region VIII CHCs. Enhancements included:

- ★ NEW sample meeting agendas and bylaws in the **CHC Board of Directors Resources** section
- ★ NEW **Cultural Competency Resources** section
- ★ ENHANCED **Quality Improvement Resources** section
- ★ NEW onboarding resources on the Recruitment and Retention Resources / **Orienting New Staff** page
- ★ ENHANCED surveys and data, national resources, and resources for students in the **Recruitment and Retention Resources** section
- ★ COMING SOON: New Chronic Pain Resources section

The 2010-2011 CHAMPS Membership Year begins April 1, 2010, and membership requests will be sent in late March. Thank you for your ongoing support of these vital programs and services. Please contact CHAMPS if you have any questions about these offerings.

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

Now Available: JOB Data Comparison Report

The CHAMPS online **Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)** is a free resource advertising career opportunities in Region VIII community, migrant and homeless health centers and state Primary Care Associations. Each February, CHAMPS assesses the data submitted by the posting organizations to create comparison reports of the CHC-specific data from year to year. These annual reports illustrate recruitment efforts and trends throughout Region VIII, including types of positions recruited, average recruitment lengths, and successful recruitment resources.



Highlights from the newly released **Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) Data Comparison Report** include:

- ★ Forty-two different Region VIII CHCs advertised 224 career opportunities on JOB during the 2009-2010 period, a **20% decrease in posted CHC positions** from the 2008-2009 period.
- ★ **Average recruitment lengths** for all filled positions at Region VIII CHCs have decreased slightly overall from 8.3 months in the 2008-2009 period to **7.2 months in the 2009-2010 period**.
 - For this report, CHAMPS has added a NEW section looking more closely at recruitment lengths for specific filled clinical positions. During the 2009-2010 time period:
 - Filled Dentist and Dental Director positions were advertised for an average of **9.8 months**.
 - Filled Physician and Medical Director positions were advertised for an average of **13.8 months**.
 - Filled Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Nurse Midwife positions were advertised for an average of **8.1 months**.
- ★ The most commonly cited successful recruitment resources this year were **“Online Listing”, “Local Referral/Word of Mouth”, and “Hired Former Employee/Intern/Extern/Resident”**.

View and download the report at

www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/PubsMediaDocs/JOBComparison0210.pdf

If you would like to post your health center's open positions on the Job Opportunities Bank, please contact andrea@CHAMPSonline.org.

Word-of-mouth advertising is gaining success in Region VIII recruitment!

Read this GuideStar.org article to learn tips for successful word-of-mouth marketing:

www2.guidestar.org/rxa/news/articles/2009/word-of-mouth-marketing.aspx?source=dec09nwsltr

Expanded Availability of Loan Repayment Awards



The **National Health Service Corps (NHSC)**, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), has expanded its program to include loan repayment of up to \$145,000 for five years. This new program requires the two year commitment of the previous program, but then gives the option of adding additional years (up to five total) for additional loan repayment (up to \$145,000 total). The additional years are eligible for those currently enrolled in the two year program, clinicians who are mid-career but still have loans, and clinicians who are new to NHSC. With ARRA funding NHSC is increasing access to loan repayment for clinicians working in NHSC-approved sites with HPSA scores as low as zero. Four thousand new NHSC clinician spots are available, for which applications will be accepted through July 29, 2010. NHSC also has a **Recruitment Training and Support Center (RTSC)** available to assist health centers in recruiting NHSC clinicians.

For information or to apply for loan repayment visit www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment.

To submit a clinician vacancy call NHSC's RTSC at 1-877-313-1823.

Looking for Something You Missed?

ARCHIVED WEBCASTS AND TELECONFERENCES: CHAMPS webcasts are archived online for one year, and recordings of CHAMPS teleconferences are available for at least 90 days. Access is free for staff and board members of CHAMPS Organizational Members (including continuing education credit). Other participants will be charged \$75 per computer link, \$50 per teleconference access, and \$15 per person for credit unless otherwise indicated.

Lifestyle Modification for Prevention and Management of Diabetes Mellitus - Webcast

- Online archive available through 04/14/10
 - CME available through 04/15/09
- www.vcall.com/replay, # 2146003387

Customer Service in Health Centers Series – Teleconference and Webcast

Session 1 – The Culture of Customer Service Teleconference (for HR staff and managers)

- Archived online through 07/21/10
- CME is not available

Contact andrea@CHAMPSonline.org to access this archive

Session 2 – Customer Service: The Art of Caring Webcast (for all staff)

- Online archive available through 07/21/10
- CME available through 07/21/10

www.vcall.com/replay, # 2146003844

Successful Recruitment in Challenging Times – Webcast

- Online archive available through 01/20/11
- CME available through 01/20/11

www.vcall.com/replay, # 2146004736.

Multimodal Approach to the Treatment of Chronic Pain – Webcast

- Online archive available through 02/17/11
- Approval of CME credit is pending

www.vcall.com/replay, # 2146004841

For more details about each archived event, including speakers, topics, and available follow-up materials, visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Distance_Learning.asp.

BORROW OR PURCHASE CHAMPS RESOURCES: Borrow previous training events on CD, DVD, and video for up to four weeks at a time through the **CHAMPS Lending Library!** Resources include past CHAMPS webcasts plus Spanish language, chronic condition, and clinical leadership resources (free for CHAMPS Organizational Members). **Purchase** publications, archived educational events, and reference materials (discounted for members)! Available resources include past CHAMPS webcasts on CD, clinical reference resources, patient education materials, and more.

Learn more about the CHAMPS Lending Library at www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/LendingLibrary/.

Download a CHAMPS Products Order Form at www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/PubsMediaDocs/CHAMPSProductsOrderForm.pdf.

New Onboarding Resources Online

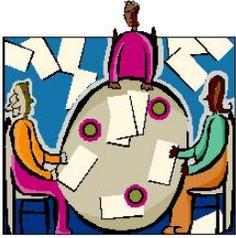
The CHAMPS website has been updated to include new **resources addressing onboarding new employees**. Onboarding is a comprehensive approach to new employee orientation that focuses on integrating the new employee into the organization's culture in addition to following standard new hire procedures. Assimilating the new hire so they are fully "on board" creates an employee that is quickly loyal to the company and an efficient and contributing member of the organization. The resources compiled on the CHAMPS webpage outline the positive results of onboarding and provide tips on effectively onboarding new hires.

To review the new onboarding resources on the CHAMPS website, please visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/RRResources/NewStaff/default.asp.



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



MPCN New Leadership Needs You!

Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) is a program of CHAMPS that includes all health care providers working in Region VIII community health centers and National Health Service Corps (NHSC) participants working in Region VIII. MPCN members are represented by the MPCN Steering Committee.

The MPCN Steering Committee meets by conference call every other month, and also meets face-to-face annually. Most recently the Steering Committee met at the CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference in October to develop a strategic plan for MPCN for the next two years.

During the strategic planning process, Steering Committee members (up to two clinical representatives from each of the six states in Region VIII) decided to expand the Steering Committee membership to provide better representation of all providers in Region VIII. **The Steering Committee may now include up to four representatives from each of the six states in Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) including:**

- ★ Two medical providers
- ★ One oral health provider
- ★ One behavioral health provider

So, the MPCN Steering Committee needs you! All six states have various positions available now on the MPCN Steering Committee. Serving on the Steering Committee is a great chance to give your input into the clinical programs of CHAMPS, represent the needs of your fellow providers, and acquire experience on a steering committee (it also looks great on a resume). Steering Committee members also receive an extra \$100 travel reimbursement to the CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference.

The MPCN Steering Committee voted in a new Chair and Vice-Chair in January 2010. **The new Chair is Dr. Keith Horwood of Community Health Centers, Inc. in Utah, and the new Vice-Chair is Patricia Carrick, FNP, of Butte Community Health Center in Montana.** Congratulations to them both! Also, a **thank you to the out-going Chair, Dr. Jim Guyer, and Vice-Chair, Connie Miller, FNP.** We appreciate your service!

If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee or have questions about MPCN or the Steering Committee please contact Shannon Kolman at 303-861-5165, ext. 236 or shannon@CHAMPSonline.org.

Harvard Managing Ambulatory Care I Training

CHAMPS and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) are hosting the **Harvard School of Public Health's Managing Ambulatory Care I** course, to be held in conjunction with the NWRPCA Spring 2010 Conference May 20-23, 2010 in Portland, OR. The training was developed to enhance the leadership skills of physicians, medical directors, and clinical managers working in community clinics throughout the Western US. Core competencies addressed in this program are:

- ★ Financial management
- ★ Enhanced role of the medical director
- ★ Clinic operations
- ★ Managing people
- ★ Political issues and community leadership

The Harvard case method of instruction will be used to facilitate practical application of the concepts presented and to create a dynamic forum for the exchange of insights and experiences. Tuition is \$1,600 plus a \$100 materials fee if paid before March 1, 2010. A deposit of \$500 per participant is required to reserve a space. The balance of \$1,200 is due by March 1, 2010. Tuition is \$1,700 plus \$100 material fee if paid after March 1, 2010.

For more information visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/default.asp#harvard. Direct registration questions to Sharon Green at 206-783-3004 Ex. 14 or sgreen@nwrpca.org.



Spanish Language Training for Health Professionals

CHAMPS is partnering with Ríos Associates and the Denver Medical Society (DMS) to offer a four-day intensive **Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals training**. This course is designed for physicians, nurses, PAs, NPs, medical assistants, dentists, pharmacists, and other medical personnel and is accredited for 45 continuing medical education (CME) hours. Two skill levels will be offered, with separate classes for each skill level. Both sections will include interactive dialogues, role-plays, colorful visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, “edutainment”, daily practice, and evening study with work-books and CDs. The course is designed to provide an immersion experience, and participants who complete the course will:

- ★ Obtain or enhance their ability to interview patients in Spanish, take a medical history, conduct a physical exam, give prescriptions and follow-up instructions, and intervene with medical emergencies.
- ★ Be exposed to at least 1,500 general and medical Spanish words.
- ★ Communicate confidently in present, future, and past tenses, as well as the command forms.
- ★ Gain awareness of cultural differences and attitudes between Latinos and other Americans regarding time, space, clothing, foods, health, and medical care.
- ★ Develop skills to continue learning Spanish through daily practice and personal experience.
- ★ Intermediate students will be able to do everything above in addition to using additional idioms, complex tenses and moods (conditional, present and past progressive, present and past perfect tenses plus subjunctive mood and its tenses).

The workshop will be held from May 21–24, 2010 in Denver, Colorado. The registration fee is \$499 for CHAMPS and DMS Members and \$599 for Non-Members. Cost includes four days of instruction, course work book and CDs, CME credit, and snacks.

For more information visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/default.asp#spanish.

For other Spanish Language resources offered by CHAMPS visit www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/CrossDiscResources/SpanishLanguage/default.asp.

Updated Region VIII Data Summaries Available

Updated **Region VIII Data Summaries** have been published on the CHAMPS website. For the last several years CHAMPS has compiled tables to track statistics regarding mortality, women’s health, behavioral health, and basic demographics. The latest data summaries were published by CHAMPS in January 2010 and reflect the most recent statistics available.



In order to view the updated tables and other CHAMPS publications click on this link: www.CHAMPSonline.org/Tools/PubsElectronicMedia/Publications/default.asp#data.

Subscribe to Receive Region VIII Electronic Updates

The **Office of the Regional Health Administrator (RHA)**, part of the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has developed an electronic news update system to keep its Region VIII public health partners informed about its activities. The updates will be sent to subscribers no more than twice a month and include information on pertinent conferences, funding opportunities, public commentary and regional news.

RHA works with Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to foster community health. It develops programs focused on emergency preparedness, women and minority health, population affairs, and HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

To learn more about RHA, visit their site at www.hhs.gov/region8.

To subscribe, send an email to LISTSERV@LIST.NIH.GOV with the following text *in the message body*:
subscribe REGION VIII your name.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

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

New Aetna Foundation Funding Focus Areas

The Aetna Foundation has awarded over \$359 million in grants and scholarships since 1980. In the past the focus of these grants has varied, but starting this year the Aetna Foundation has narrowed its funding focus areas to those facilitating improvements in health and healthcare through:

- ★ Addressing the high rate of obesity in the US
- ★ Reducing racial and ethnic disparities regarding infant mortality and common chronic conditions
- ★ Promoting integrated health care that includes good communication between providers and educated/involved patients resulting in high-quality and cost-effective care

Learn more about Aetna Foundation funding opportunities at www.aetna.com/about-aetna-insurance/aetna-foundation/aetna-grants/grants-programs.html.



Should the US Adopt the Dental Therapist Model?

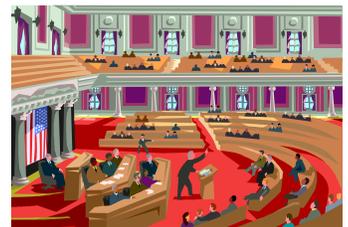
According to a report released by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) in December of 2009 titled **Training New Dental Health Providers in the US**, the United States is beginning to adopt the dental care system that has been implemented internationally to increase access to care and reduce dental costs. This system relies on the work of dental therapists to perform basic and preventative duties formerly performed exclusively by dentists.

The role of a dental therapist is comparable to the role of a nurse practitioner or physician assistant in the medical field. The dental therapist model started in 1920 in New Zealand and has since expanded throughout the world, and now exists in such countries as England, The Netherlands, and Australia; the model is already present in some US communities. In 2003 Alaska piloted a dental therapist model in rural underserved communities, and in early 2009 Minnesota enacted a law allowing for dental therapists. WKKF postulates that the implementation of the dental therapist model would alleviate the gaps present today in dental care.

To read the full report visit www.wkkf.org/knowledge-center/Resources-Page.aspx.

Colorado Workforce Collaborative Prepares for Spring Legislative Session

Funded by The Colorado Trust, the **Health Professions Workforce Policy Collaborative (HPWPC)** has prepared a package of policy recommendations intended for consideration during the 2010 Colorado legislative session. HPWPC is comprised of more than 20 organizations, including Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado's Primary Care Association (PCA), Colorado Rural Health Center – the State Office of Rural Health, and other member associations, foundations, and educational institutions. HPWPC has worked since summer 2008 to develop a strategic agenda to support and advance key health care workforce solutions.



The policy recommendations were presented at the 2nd Annual Colorado Health Professions Workforce Summit on October 22nd, and were a huge success. One bill has been announced that would expand state loan repayment programs for health care providers working in underserved areas of Colorado to include dentists and dental hygienists. The bill would also remove the loan amount minimum of \$35,000 and streamline all existing loan repayment programs into a one-stop-shop structure.

View the recommendations at www.engagepublic.com, or for more information please contact Tanah Wagenseller at tanah@cchn.org or 303-861-5165 x241.

Health Center Site Visit Guide Released



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released the **Health Center Site Visit Guide** in November 2009. This guide is used to evaluate how well organizations adhere to HRSA's section 330 Health Center Program requirements, and can be used as a resource for Health Centers to self-evaluate if they are in compliance with the requirements or improving their performance.

To view both guidelines visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/sitevisitguide/>.

HRSA Reorganizes Offices

In an effort to increase impact and improve efficiency, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has established the **Office of Special Health Affairs (OSHA)** and appointed **Donald Weaver** as the director of this new office. Within OSHA there are three distinct branches: the Office of Global Health Affairs, the Office of Health Equity (formerly the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities), and the Office of Strategic Priorities.

- ★ [The Office of Global Health Affairs](#) has consolidated the global health efforts of the Office of International Health Affairs and the Office of Commissioned Corps Affairs. The new structure was created so that one office can concentrate exclusively on all global health efforts.
- ★ [The Office of Health Equity](#) changed its name to reflect more accurately its current purpose.
- ★ [The Office of Strategic Priorities](#) was developed to deal with up-and-coming issues. It is currently working on HRSA's oral and behavioral health initiatives.



In addition, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights has been changed to the **Office of Equal Opportunity, Civil Rights and Diversity Management**, and the quality and health information technology grants and initiatives are now being overseen by new bureaus.

Read the notice released from HRSA at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/E9-31201.htm>.

NACHC Policy and Issues Forum - February

The **National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)** will hold its **2010 Policy and Issues Forum** February 24-28 in Washington, DC. This year the program will focus on how Community Health Centers (CHCs) can accommodate the rising numbers of patients, and how stimulus money will impact CHCs. During the forum NACHC is also rolling out a new Health Center Booster Program aimed at increasing the networking potential and visibility of CHCs. Interested centers must apply to be considered for the program.

To learn more visit www.nachc.com/policy-and-issues-forum.cfm.

February is American Heart Month

The American Heart Association has sponsored **American Heart Month** as a National Health Observance during the month of February since 1963. Cardiovascular disease including stroke is the number one killer of Americans. Take action this month to increase your heart health.



To find other National Health Observances visit www.healthfinder.gov/nho/default.aspx

To learn more about your heart, visit the American Heart Association's website www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4441

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Visit the interactive online CHAMPS calendar – www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Calendar.asp

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 24th – Sunday, February 28th

NACHC Policy & Issues Forum

Marriott Wardman Park, Washington DC

www.nachc.com/policy-and-issues-forum.cfm



APRIL

Tuesday, April 13th – Thursday, April 15th

Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health

Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND

<http://ruralhealth.und.edu/dakotaconference/>

Thursday, April 29th – Friday, April 30th

AUCH Membership Meeting

Zermatt Resort, Midway, UT

www.auch.org

Daylight Saving Time, March 14th

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th

Vernal Equinox, March 20th

Passover, March 30th

Easter, April 4th

Earth Day, April 22nd

Cinco de Mayo, May 5th

Mother's Day, May 9th

International Nurses' Day, May 12th

Armed Forces' Day, May 15th

Memorial Day, May 31st

MAY

Wednesday, May 5th – Thursday, May 6th

CHAD Annual Conference

Doublewood Inn - Bismarck, ND

www.communityhealthcare.net

Thursday, May 20th – Sunday, May 23rd

Harvard's Managing Ambulatory Care Training

Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Portland, OR

www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/default.asp#harvard

Friday, May 21st – Monday, May 24th

CHAMPS Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals Training

Denver Medical Society, Denver, CO

www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/default.asp#spanish

Tuesday, May 11th – Thursday, May 13th

NACHC National Farmworker Health Conference

Omni San Diego, San Diego, CA

www.nachc.com/farmworker-health-conference2.cfm



Looking Forward

NACHC

Community Health Institute (CHI) & Expo

September 10th-14th, 2010

www.nachc.com/community-health-institute2.cfm

CHAMPS/NWRPCA

Annual Primary Care Conference

October 23rd-27th, 2010

www.CHAMPSonline.org/Events/Conference.asp

Please let us know if your email address has changed.

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Please contact Andrea Martin with any questions or comments about this newsletter.