CHAMPS Website Evaluation

CHAMPS is pleased to provide a large selection of tools and resources appropriate for health centers across our region through our website, www.CHAMPSonline.org. We hope you have been able to benefit from this carefully curated clearinghouse. CHAMPS is currently undertaking a thorough review of our entire website with a short survey. All questions are optional, and all responses are anonymous. Individuals who complete the evaluation by Friday, June 4, 2021 will be entered in a drawing to win one of several $35 Amazon.com gift cards.

Please take a few minutes to evaluate the CHAMPS website. Thank you for your time and consideration; your opinions and ideas are extremely valuable and greatly appreciated.

CHAMPS Website Updates

CHAMPS has recently added and updated several webpages on the CHAMPS website, including:

★ Enhanced Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources and Community Health Center Board Resources webpages. Learn more on page 3.
★ Six new Pipeline Development Resource webpages. Learn more on page 5.
★ A new Resources for Screening and Addressing Social Determinants of Health webpage. Learn more on page 7.

NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference

The NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference is scheduled to be held in Seattle, WA October 23-26, 2021. Please note that the format for the 2021 Fall Conference has not yet been determined (e.g., in-person, virtual, etc.), and the location and dates may change based on that determination. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference webpage.

Inside this Issue

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CHAMPS MEMBERSHIP YEAR IN REVIEW
FROM APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021, CHAMPS...

Published **Region-Wide Data, Trends, and Communications** to assist with future planning and to facilitate sharing of best practices:
- BPHC UDS Summary, Fact Sheet, and Workforce Infographic
- CHAMPS Board of Directors Digests
- CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletters
- COVID-19 Data Summaries and Infographics
- CHCT/TA Needs Assessment
- Demographics, Health Behaviors, Mortality, and Women’s Health Data Summaries
- Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Report
- Job Opportunities Bank Data Comparison Report and Infographic

Maintained and enhanced the **CHAMPS website** which remains a vital resource for staff and board members of Region VIII health centers:
- New Resiliency Resources webpage
- Overhauled CHAMPS COVID-19 Resource webpage to create 7 new webpages addressing Health Center Operations, Health Equity, Vaccines, Staff Wellness, Telehealth, and more
- Updated Patient Education Handouts addressing Depression treatment

Provided professional, administrative, and educational support to clinicians through the **Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN)**:
- MPCN Minute e-bulletins (formally the Clinicians Listserv)
- MPCN Steering Committee
- Oral Health Learning Collaborative
- Resiliency Collaborative

Supported **Health Equity** efforts through resources, trainings, and communications:
- Healthcare for the Homeless Learning Collaborative
- New Health Equity Digests

Addressed workforce needs through promotion of **Health Center Career Opportunities** and collaboration with regional and national partners:
- 400+ positions advertised via the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)
- More than 700 job seekers received monthly JOB Highlights emails
- 7 recruitment events attended
- New Workforce Focus e-bulletins

Offered over 80 hours of remote **learning opportunities** to 2,659 participants:
- The Annual Primary Care Conference, with 31 educational sessions
- A CHC Supervisor/Manager Training Course
- 2 ECHO Learning Communities addressing Childhood Healthy Weight and Suicide Prevention
- 9 Live Webcasts addressing Region VIII Workforce Data, Health Equity, Pandemic Lessons, Immunizations, and more
- 2 Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals Courses
- 2 Substance Use Disorder Podcast Episodes

**The 2021-2022 CHAMPS Membership Year began April 1, 2021.**

Learn more on page 3.

CHAMPS has accomplished a lot in the first two months of the new Membership Year; keep reading the newsletter to see what CHAMPS has been up to!
CHAMPS 2021-2022 Membership

CHAMPS sincerely thanks the health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) that have recently become 2021-2022 CHAMPS Organizational Members. The CHAMPS membership year corresponds with our fiscal year, April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022.

The benefits of CHAMPS Organizational Membership include:

- Two seats on the CHAMPS Board of Directors.
- Free access to all CHAMPS live and archived webcasts, podcasts, Project ECHO Learning Communities, Communities of Practice, etc. developed in 2021-2022.
- Two free copies of the 2021-2022 CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Directory.
- Option to join the CHAMPS Employee Screening Preferred Pricing Program (PPP).
- Option to participate in the CHAMPS/CliftonLarsonAllen Financial Benchmarking Project.
- Discounted registration fees for CHAMPS-sponsored intensive trainings, including Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals and Supervisor/Manager Trainings.
- Discounted registration plus opportunities for registration reimbursement for the CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference.
- Access to the Members Only section of the CHAMPS website, including a searchable Region VIII health center directory and printable CHAMPS salary survey reports.
- Direct advertising of new CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB) posts to job seekers.
- Quarterly CHAMPS Board of Directors Digests, containing CHAMPS, HRSA, NACHC, and other updates relating to upcoming trainings, new resources, and more.

2020-2021 Organizational Members enjoy a 60-day grace period in the new membership year. Member benefits for 2020-2021 members that have not paid 2021-2022 dues will expire on June 1, 2021.

Visit the CHAMPS Organizational Members webpage for a list of current members.
Questions about membership?
Contact the CHAMPS Workforce Development and Member Services Director.

Now Available: Region VIII Data Summaries

CHAMPS is pleased to offer a series of documents summarizing Region VIII demographic and health data pulled from numerous sources including census data, national surveys on health behaviors, and vital statistics.

The summaries provide a region-wide compilation of population-based health trends. By offering state, regional, and national side-by-side data on socio-economic information, lifestyle issues, and morbidity and mortality rates, the summary charts can be used for community needs assessments, program and service development, and quality improvement efforts.

To access the Demographics, Health Behaviors, Mortality, and Women’s Health Data Summaries, please visit the CHAMPS Publications webpage.
Please take a few minutes to evaluate the Region VIII Data Summaries.

CHAMPS Website Updates

- Visit the CHAMPS Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources webpage to explore newly added information addressing the CMS Emergency Preparedness (EP) Rule, EP and special and vulnerable populations, wildfires, mass violence, continuity of business, Ebola, and more.
- Explore the CHAMPS website section of Community Health Center Board Resources, recently enhanced with new materials addressing recruiting and retaining board members, roles and responsibilities, executive compensation, board meetings, and more.

Do you use the CHAMPS website? Please evaluate the resource here, and enter yourself into the participation prize drawing by Friday, June 4, 2021!
BHW Health Professions Education Learning Series

Join HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), and CHAMPS for a free three-part webinar series designed to introduce participants to BHW programs. Speakers will provide information about how to successfully apply for BHW grants to increase access to behavioral health services and enhance health centers’ capabilities to recruit, develop, and retain their staff by exposing them to education and training programs.

Dr. Luis Padilla and Andrea Knox will present at the first session, Learn About BHW Health Programs, on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 1:00 -2:00PM MT / 2:00- 3:00PM CT. The second and third sessions are to be held at the same time: BHW Grant Application Guidance on Thursday, June 10, and An Overview of HRSA's Health Professions Education and Training (HP-ET) Initiative on Thursday, June 24.

For more information, please visit the CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events webpage.

Archive Available: Workforce Data Webcast

The CHAMPS 2020 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data: Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Project webcast took place on March 24, 2021. The presenter, Andrea Martin, CHAMPS Workforce Development and Member Services Director, explained the history and methodology of the survey and highlighted findings relating to salaries and benefits for all health center staff, including a look at base versus additional pay and the structure of health center benefits packages. The event also addressed trends in additional workforce metrics including vacancies, turnover, challenging areas of recruitment and retention, clinical staffing, productivity expectations, and more.

To view the recording from this webcast, please visit the Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events webpage.

Archive Available: Medical Assistant Webcast

On March 16, 2021, CHAMPS hosted the Developing Your Medical Assistant Workforce to Support Team-Based Primary Care webcast with presenters Elena Thomas Faulkner, Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) and Mary Blankson, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, Chief Nursing Officer for Community Health Center, Inc. This session explored the importance of the Medical Assistant (MA) in advanced primary care practices and described the characteristics of one MA training program that leads to a high-functioning MA workforce. The presenters shared opportunities for building an MA ladder program that incorporates team-based care competencies and made a case for how health centers can create a “grow your own” health career pathway from non-clinical support roles to medical assisting, nursing, or provider roles.

To view the recording from this webcast, please visit the Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events webpage.

Deadlines Approaching: NHSC Loan Repayment Programs

The application deadlines for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs were extended to Thursday, May 27, 2021. Due to additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, NHSC is granting a record number of awards this year. Click here for more information.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, Continued

Now Available: Pipeline Development Resources

CHAMPS has published a new section of webpages to support health centers as they engage in health professions education and training (HP-ET). The new pages contain program examples, tools, articles, academic studies, and guides that prepare future health center workforce and/or support current staff advancement. Explore an Introduction to Pipeline Programs as well as Early Pipeline Resources, Support Staff Pipeline Resources, Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Pipeline Development Resources, Doctorate-Level Provider Pipeline Resources, and Pipeline Resources for Advancing Health Equity. These materials have been designed and selected to help health centers and Primary Care Associations pursue pipeline programs in their communities.

Are you aware of an exemplary HP-ET program that should be highlighted on these pages? If so, contact the CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, Health Professions Education. Please take a few minutes to evaluate the CHAMPS website.

CHAMPS 2021 CORE Competencies Training Highlights

The CHAMPS 2021 CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training took place virtually throughout April 2021. CHAMPS hosted this five-week training with support from Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH), Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA), and Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYP), bringing together forty-six participants from twenty health centers to learn best practices for hiring, training, developing, engaging, and retaining health center staff. In addition to weekly sessions, participants took on homework assignments to implement their learning in their health centers. Evaluators reported the lead facilitator, Lisa Mouscher, the peer learning, and the immediately useable exercises and tools as some of their favorite aspects of the course.

For more information about CHAMPS health center supervisor and manager trainings, please visit the CHAMPS Leadership Learning Opportunities webpage.

CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank

Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring? Post your open positions on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB). JOB is a free resource, and CHAMPS staff attend job fairs to promote open positions and send a monthly email to prospective employees highlighting positions recently posted by CHAMPS Organizational Members.

To post an opening, please contact the CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, Workforce and Communications. To sign up for the monthly JOB email, visit the CHAMPS Job Bank webpage.

NIMAA Accreditation

Submitted by Stephanie Ivers Heine, NIMAA

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) recently received institutional accreditation by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). This designation recognizes the quality of NIMAA’s education, and NIMAA’s institutional and programmatic accountability to national standards. NIMAA holds the unique distinction of being the only ABHES-accredited program combining full distance learning with a robust in-clinic experience. The ABHES accreditation allows NIMAA graduates to meet eligibility requirements for credentialing examinations administered by various recognized certifying agencies, including the American Association of Medical Assistants and the American Medical Technologists. Graduation from an accredited program provides NIMAA students with a solid foundation for future educational and career advancements. Medical Assistants are vital contributors to high-quality healthcare and are in high demand across the country. With accreditation, NIMAA will continue to expand its educational offerings to underserved communities nationwide.

To learn more, visit the NIMAA website.
CHAMPS 2021 Immunization Update Webcast

On Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 11:30AM-1:00PM MT / 12:30-2:00PM CT, CHAMPS will host its annual Immunization Update webcast. Dr. Patricia Wodi, Public Health Physician with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will address the 2021 vaccine schedules and the most recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for adults, children, and adolescents. In addition, information on improving routine vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic will be presented. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits have been applied for. Clinical leadership, clinicians, clinical support staff, and other interested healthcare professionals at health centers in Region VIII are encouraged to attend this free event.

To learn more and register, visit the CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events webpage.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Addressing Suicide in Primary Care ECHO

Each Thursday in March, a multidisciplinary group of Region VIII providers met to learn more about addressing suicide in primary care settings. This series was offered in partnership between the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RMPHTC) and CHAMPS, to support primary care team members by addressing evidence-based practices for suicide screening and treatment in the primary care setting. Over the course of four free live sessions, thirty-seven primary care staff participants discussed clinical and operational strategies for addressing suicide and providing suicide safe care for health center patients. Practical tools and resources were discussed and shared by content experts and peers. Continuing Education credits were offered.

For more information, please visit the CHAMPS Project ECHO Learning Communities webpage.

CHAMPS/DMS Spanish Language Training Highlights

For the second time, CHAMPS and the Denver Medical Society (DMS) hosted the annual Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals as an online event. Throughout April 2021, CHAMPS hosted four different Spanish Language trainings, including three new two-day courses. Sixteen participants joined the inaugural Spanish Language for Oral Health Providers offering, four participants attended the first Spanish Language for Behavioral Health Providers training, and there were 10 participants for the new Medical Spanish for Advanced Speakers sessions. Twenty-five learners joined the traditional four-day course that CHAMPS has held for over 30 years, including both beginner and intermediate skill levels.

Each of the courses contained content related to medical diagnosis, and included roleplays, visual aids, and cross-cultural diagnosis. Attendees also engaged in discussions on cultural humility and awareness. Participants reported that the immersive and joyful teaching style, conversations and discussions, practice scenarios, and the opportunity to get to know other Region VIII health center staff were the best aspects of the training. CHAMPS plans to offer these trainings again in Spring 2022.

For more medical Spanish resources, visit the CHAMPS Spanish Language Resources webpage.

Region VIII Oral Health Peer Learning Network

CHAMPS, in collaboration with the Region VIII State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs), hosts a quarterly meeting with Region VIII health center oral health professionals including dentists, hygienists, dental operations staff, and others working to support oral health efforts. This meeting provides a place to share best practices, discuss challenges, hear from experts in their field, and identify desired training/technical assistance; meeting topics and direction are determined by session participants with CHAMPS and SPCA support. The next meeting will take place in August 2021. Pre-registration is not necessary to join.

Please contact the CHAMPS Clinical Quality Improvement Director to receive a meeting invitation.

For more information, visit the CHAMPS Oral Health Resources webpage.
Now Available: Resources for Screening and Addressing SDOH

CHAMPS has published a new webpage to support health centers as they engage in more universal screening of Social Determinants of Health. The CHAMPS Resources for Screening and Addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) webpage contains tools, articles, and guides on screening for and addressing needs created by the SDOH. These resources have been designed and selected to help health centers and Primary Care Associations offer culturally appropriate services to the populations they serve.

For additional information, visit the CHAMPS Social Determinants of Health Resources webpage. Please take a few minutes to evaluate the CHAMPS website.

Open Enrollment Extended

In March, President Biden announced that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) extended access to the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) until August 15, 2021. This allows new and current enrollees an additional three months to enroll or re-evaluate their coverage needs with increased tax credits available to reduce premiums. As a result of the American Rescue Plan, additional savings became available on April 1, 2021, decreasing premiums an average of $50 per person each month. In Colorado, Region VIII’s only State-Based Marketplace (SBM), an SEP ran from February 8 through May 15, 2021.

As with a traditional Open Enrollment period, it is important to make sure folks know about this opportunity to get covered. Some vital messages to emphasize include: discounts based on income and tax credits are available to keep health plans affordable; plans offered at HealthCare.Gov cover comprehensive benefits like preventive care, check-ups, prescriptions, hospitalizations, mental health care, and more; and health centers have years of experience in connecting people to affordable health care regardless of income.

To view marketing materials, toolkits, and other relevant resources, visit the CHAMPS Health Center Operations Resources for COVID-19 and Outreach & Enrollment webpages.

SDOH Academy Breakthrough Series Recordings

The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Academy is a HRSA-funded virtual training series designed to help staff from health centers, Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs), and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) develop, implement, and sustain SDOH interventions in their clinics and communities. The SDOH Academy offered a “Breakthrough Series” of webinars and office hours in 2021. During the series, SDOH Academy faculty helped participants “break through” the clutter to find resources, experts, and peer linkages. Each webinar was designed to equip participants with the tools needed to increase their competency in four core SDOH response strategies and was immediately followed by an optional, half-hour office hours session.

To view the archived webinars, visit the SDOH Academy 2021 Breakthrough Series Recordings webpage.
Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Update

Health centers have established themselves as leaders in COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts and are always striving to provide more equitable access. Region VIII health centers have given out 484,891 doses of COVID-19 vaccine since January 8, 2021 according to the May 7, 2021 HRSA Health Center COVID-19 Survey. In addition to state vaccine distribution, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) launched the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program in February, and they have invited every health center to participate and receive direct allocation of vaccines from the federal government; currently 27 Region VIII health centers participate in the program.

For details about vaccinations administered by health centers, visit HRSA’s Health Center COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients webpage. For similar information specifically for Region VIII states, visit CHAMPS Combined Health Center Weekly COVID-19 Data Summaries webpage.

Recent COVID-19 Regulatory Program Changes

The Biden Administration has focused on creating programs and making regulatory and policy changes to support health centers’ tremendous efforts and make it easier to get vaccines into every arm. Some of the most recent changes include:

★ The Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) COVID-19 public education campaign We Can Do This is a national initiative to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures. The campaign is run by a grassroots nationwide network of trusted messengers of 275 founding organizations that is referred to as the COVID-19 Community Corps.

★ The Department of Defense (DOD), in partnership with HHS, has developed two programs to provide free supplies to health centers. Health centers will receive free point-of-care rapid tests and analyzers from the Health Center COVID-19 Testing Supply Distribution Program. This program is expected to provide health centers with rapid testing supplies to last through the end of summer 2021. Similarly, free high-quality, washable cloth masks in youth and adult sizes will be delivered to health centers via the HHS Mask Distribution Program. Health centers should distribute the masks free of charge to patients, health center staff, and other individuals within the community.

★ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an updated document on May 5, 2021 regarding COVID-19 vaccine reimbursement policies that help ensure health centers are sufficiently reimbursed for their efforts in reaching patients and their communities: Coverage and Reimbursement of COVID-19 Vaccines, Vaccine Administration, and Cost-sharing under Medicaid, CHIP, and BHP Toolkit. One such program is the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF). The CAF is a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients.

★ HHS has made several announcements about the release of funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to support health centers. Learn more about ARP funding on page 10.

For more COVID-19 Resources, visit the CHAMPS COVID-19 Resources webpage.
Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

COVID-19 vaccines are no longer restricted to adults; adolescents may now receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that only 45.1% of the U.S. adult population has been fully vaccinated to date and demand for vaccine is slowing.

There are numerous and complex reasons for COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccine services.” Health centers have already established themselves as trusted community messengers and therefore can play a critical role in addressing their patients’ vaccine hesitancy.

Some basic tips for providers in addressing vaccine hesitancy with patients include:

★ Lead by example. Get vaccinated and encourage your entire staff to be vaccinated.
★ Prepare your health care team to answer basic questions about COVID-19 vaccines including what language to use. For a quick guide, refer to Language That Works to Improve Vaccine Acceptance. This communications cheat sheet created by the de Beaumont Foundation includes basic language tips that have been shown to assist with vaccine acceptance.
★ Share COVID-19 vaccine educational materials widely. These print and video resources from the National Center for Farmworker Health are in various languages and support low literacy levels.
★ During patient visits, make the COVID-19 vaccine a new vital sign. Ask every patient what their vaccination plan is.
★ Partner with your health department, employers, and others to engage with community members. Collaborate with trusted messengers, such as faith-based leaders, local employers, and other community leaders, to tailor and share culturally relevant messages and materials.
★ Consider sending a letter or email to your patients. Start by expressing your concern for the health of your patients and their loved ones. Provide facts, refer them to additional resources, and offer to answer questions.

For additional resources, visit the Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy section on the CHAMPS COVID-19 Resources webpage.

New Multilingual Campaign Supports COVID-19 Vaccination

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, MCN

COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy can be minimized in part through thoughtful, culturally relevant campaigns that celebrate the lives that are saved through COVID-19 vaccination. Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) has developed numerous multilingual, low-literacy, colorful, and customizable vaccination campaign materials to support health centers and clinics to promote vaccination. MCN’s newest materials, developed in partnership with the National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM), feature a campaign designed to be led by trusted members of the community, and are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole. MCN is working with community organizations across the country to tailor and adapt these materials for the needs of their local community.

To access downloadable and customizable comics, fact sheets, stickers, posters, social media posts and frames, campaign organization materials, and more, please visit the MCN COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign Resources webpage. For additional materials, recommended resources, and support, please visit the MCN COVID-19 Pandemic Information and Resources webpage.

To keep up with MCN’s work, including their FAQ on COVID-19 vaccines for food and farmworkers in English and Spanish and recommendations for migrant women around the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, please visit the MCN blog.
National Health Center Week

National Health Center Week will take place August 8-14, 2021. The theme for this year’s event is “Community Health Centers: The Chemistry for Strong Communities.” Focus areas will include Public Housing Health Day, Patient Appreciation Day, Stakeholder Appreciation Day, Agricultural Workers Health Day, Children’s Health Day, Health Care for the Homeless Day, and Social Determinants of Health Day. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Health Center Advocacy Network (HCAdvocacy) will also be hosting a National Day of Action on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. More details about events, focus days, and more should be released soon on the National Health Center Week website.

To access graphics for National Health Center Week, visit the August 2021 section of the HCAdvocacy calendar.

American Rescue Plan Funding

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has been rolling out funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that was signed into law in early March.

★ HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce received $900 million in new funding to support, recruit, and retain qualified health professionals and students through its National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Nurse Corps programs. (March 26)

★ Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) nationwide were awarded more than $6 billion to support and expand COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment, deliver preventative and primary care services to those at higher risk for COVID-19, and expand operational capacity. (April 1)

★ An additional $1 billion dollars for FQHCs became available to support major construction and renovation projects. (April 27)

★ Almost $150 million was awarded to support approximately 100 FQHC Look-Alikes in responding to and mitigating the spread of COVID-19, strengthening vaccination efforts, and enhancing health care services and infrastructure in communities across the country. (April 29)

★ HRSA awarded over $32 million to 122 Primary Care Associations (PCAs), National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs), and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs) to provide COVID-19 related training, technical assistance, and health information technology support. (April 29)

★ Nearly $1 billion became available to help rural communities strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccination efforts. (May 4)

★ $250 million became available to develop and support a community-based workforce to serve as trusted voices sharing information about vaccines, increasing vaccine confidence, and addressing any barriers to vaccination for individuals living in vulnerable and medically underserved communities. (May 4)

Health Center Program Compliance Manual in Spanish

To increase equitable access to Health Center Program policy, the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA’s) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) teamed up with HRSA’s Office of Civil Rights, Diversity and Inclusion to translate the Health Center Program Compliance Manual into Spanish. The translated addition is provided as a resource for the Spanish-reading public. HRSA has made every effort to ensure an accurate Spanish translation of the official material in English.

For additional information, visit the HRSA Health Center Program Compliance Manual webpage.
NACHC Migrant Health Awards

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) announced the winners of the 2021 Migrant Health Awards during the Virtual Conference for Agricultural Worker Health that took place May 4-6, 2021. Sunrise Community Health (CO) was recognized with the 2021 Outstanding Migrant Health Center Award and Deborah Salazar, Migrant Health Director at Salud Family Health (CO), received the 2021 Outstanding Migrant Health Public Service Award.

To learn more about the 2021 Migrant Health Awardees, visit NACHC’s Closing the Book on the Agricultural Worker Health Conference blog post.

Year of the Nurse 2020

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has released a new publication to honor the special nurses working in health centers across the nation. Two Region VIII nurses were featured in NACHC’s Year of the Nurse 2020: 52 Weeks in The Life of a Community Health Center Nurse: Norma Quinones, LPN, the Nursing Services Manager at Clinica Family Health (CO), is featured on page 15 and Stephanie Campbell, RN, BSN, MSN, the Director of Nursing at STRIDE Community Health Center (CO), is featured on page 19.

P4 Challenge Winners

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced the winners of their Promoting Pediatric Primary Prevention (P4) Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health. The P4 Challenge invited applicants to propose and implement innovative approaches to increase access to and utilization of well-child visits and/or immunizations services within primary care settings. Congratulations to Region VIII’s Denver Health and Hospital Authority (CO) and Summit Community Care Clinic (CO) who were amongst the 50 organizations to win Phase 1 of the challenge! Each winning organization will receive a $10,000 cash prize and has six months to deploy the concept they proposed.

To learn more about the P4 challenge, please visit HRSA’s P4 Challenge webpage.

NACHC Grassroots Advocacy Hall of Fame

A select group of health center leaders from around the country were honored by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) for their leadership in advocacy during the 2021 NACHC Policy and Issues Forum. Congratulations to STRIDE Community Health Center Board Chair Jean Sisneros (CO) who was inducted into the NACHC Grassroots Advocacy Hall of Fame!

Visit the NACHC 2020 Grassroots Advocacy Award Recipients webpage to learn more.


The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) 2021 Uniform Data Systems (UDS) Manual is now available. It provides health centers with detailed instructions, data tables, and technical guidance to assist with 2021 UDS Data reporting, which will take place between January 1 and February 15, 2022. Changes to the reporting requirements for 2021 can be found in the 2021 UDS Program Assistance Letter.

For more information, please visit the HRSA UDS Resources webpage.
Region VIII in the News

★ Green River Medical Center: **Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Utah** (*Utah Public Radio*, April 7)
★ Fourth Street Clinic: **Securing a Safeguard: Local Nonprofit Works to Vaccinate Utah’s Homeless Population** (*KSL*, April 11)
★ River Valley Family Health Centers: **Boosted by Grants, River Valley Works to Increase Fieldworkers’ Access to Care** (*Montrose Press*, April 20)
★ Falls Community Health: **Chima Appointed Next Public Health Director** (*Kelo*, April 22)
★ Montana Primary Care Association: **Vaccine Mandates: Truth, Fiction, and Unknowns** (*Montana Free Press*, April 23)
★ Partnership Health Center: **State Health Department Again Recommending Johnson & Johnson Vaccine** (*Montana Public Radio*, April 27)
★ Family HealthCare: **NDSU Pharmacy Student Receives National Award** (*Grand Forks Herald*, April 28)
★ Sapphire Community Health: **Sapphire Community Health Wins Behavioral Health Integration Award** (*Ravalli Republic*, April 30)
★ RiverStone Health: **Hello Montana – RiverStone Health, Firearm Safety** (*Your Big Sky*, May 4)
★ Salud Family Health Centers: **Need for Mental, Substance-Abuse Treatment Increased During COVID** (*Public News Service*, May 4)
★ Tepeyac Community Health Center: **Tortillas for Tepeyac to be Held as Virtual Event** (*9 News*, May 5)
★ Alluvion Health: **CCSO Partners with Alluvion for New Additional Medical Services** (*KHQ*, May 6)
★ Sunrise Community Health: **Sunrise Community Health Awarded 2021 Outstanding Migrant Health Center Award** (*Greely Tribune*, May 8)
★ RiverStone Health: **RiverStone Health Foundation Offers $50 Incentive for COVID-19 Shots** (*KTVQ*, May 10)
★ Clinica Family Health: **Lafayette’s Clinica Family Health Partners with Community Food Share for Food Distribution** (*Colorado Hometown Weekly*, May 11)
★ Wyoming Primary Care Association: **WY Medicaid Expansion Could Advance in Joint Revenue Committee** (*Public News Service*, May 11)
★ Alluvion Health: **Alluvion Health Will Soon Have a Mobile COVID Clinic** (*KRTV*, May 14)
★ Salud Family Health Centers: **ASC Post-Pandemic Success Hinges on Customer Service, One Administrator Says** (*Brecker’s ASC Review*, May 14)
★ Horizon Health Care: **As COVID-19 Shots Slow, Doctors Turn to 1-on-1 Conversations** (*The Intelligencer*, May 18)
★ Mountain Family Health Centers: **Senate Committee Tables Health Insurance Bill for More Negotiations** (*Vail Daily*, May 18)
### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Time Zone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NACHC 2021 Biennial Workforce Summit</td>
<td>May 26-27, 2021</td>
<td>10:00AM-3:00PM MT / 11:00AM-4:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCFH Farmworkers and the State Monitor Advocate System Webinar</td>
<td>May 26, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Today with Macrae</td>
<td>May 27, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACHC National FQHC Telehealth TTA Partners Roundtable</td>
<td>May 28, 2021</td>
<td>11:00AM-1:00PM MT / 12:00-2:00PM CT</td>
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### June

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCHN Infection Prevention Webinar Series</td>
<td>June 2 &amp; 17, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWRPCA/CHAMPS BHW Health Professions Education Learning Series</td>
<td>June 2, 10, &amp; 24, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAMPS 2021 Immunization Update Webcast</td>
<td>June 3, 2021</td>
<td>11:30AM-1:00PM MT / 12:30-2:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCHN Workforce Lifecycles Webinar Series</td>
<td>June 8, 2021</td>
<td>12:00-1:15PM MT / 1:00-2:15PM CT</td>
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<td>HRSA Introduction to the UDS Mapper</td>
<td>June 8, 2021</td>
<td>10:00-11:00AM MT / 11:00AM-12:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPMHTTC Workshop Wednesdays</td>
<td>June 16, 2021</td>
<td>12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHA Spring and Summer Series</td>
<td>June 16 &amp; 30, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<td>NACHC Elevating Health Center Operations</td>
<td>June 15-16, 2021</td>
<td>10:00AM-3:00PM MT / 11:00AM-4:00PM CT</td>
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### July

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NACHC Agility &amp; Resilience in Healthcare Leadership: Key Behaviors for Leading Change</td>
<td>July 7, 14, &amp; 21, 2021</td>
<td>12:00-2:15PM MT / 1:00-3:15PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Today with Macrae</td>
<td>July 8, 2021</td>
<td>12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPMHTTC Workshop Wednesdays</td>
<td>July 21, 2021</td>
<td>12:00-1:00PM MT / 1:00-2:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHA Spring and Summer Series</td>
<td>July 21, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPCA Living Your Best Life (with Diabetes)</td>
<td>July 26-27, 2021</td>
<td>8:00AM-12:00PM MT / 9:00AM-1:00PM CT</td>
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### Looking Forward

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBHA Spring and Summer Series</td>
<td>August 4, 2021</td>
<td>1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAMPS Oral Health Peer Learning Network</td>
<td>August 9, 2021</td>
<td>11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAMPS Healthcare for the Homeless Collaborative</td>
<td>August 18, 2021</td>
<td>11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT</td>
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### Newsletter Contributors:

Jen Anderson, Missy Durfey, Eleanor Franks, Julie Hulstein, Ashley Hussein, Stephanie Ivers Heine, Andrea Martin, and Claire Hutkins Seda.

Please contact Ashley@CHAMPSONline.org with questions or comments, to sign up to receive the newsletter, to change your subscription email address, or to submit articles for publication.