



Summer 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Published August 2021

NWRPCA/CHAMPS 2021 Fall Primary Care Conference

Registration is now open for the 2021 Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA)/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference taking place Sunday, October 24 – Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in Seattle, WA! This multi-day conference will offer a variety of keynote plenaries, 40+ educational sessions across nine tracks (see page 2 for more details), networking opportunities, exhibitors, and more designed to meet the needs of health center staff. This year’s Fall Primary Care Conference will be a hybrid event featuring both in-person and virtual opportunities. In-person registrants will have access to both in-person and virtual programming, while virtual registrants will only have access to materials and recordings related to the online portion of the conference.



The theme for the 2021 Fall Conference, **Re-Connect: Re-envisioning Community Health for 2022 & Beyond**, re-reflects the re-turn to in-person collaboration, where long-held partnerships can be re-vitalized and new connections forged. As we continue to navigate these waters, we look toward the future with re-kindled energy and a commitment to a re-energized Community Health movement. Whether you join us in Seattle or just online, you’ll hear from thought leaders and subject matter experts, as well as engage with peers and colleagues to re-main at the forefront of primary care.

For more information and to register, please visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

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2021 Fall Primary Care Conference Educational Session Highlights

The 2021 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference will feature 40+ in-person and virtual educational sessions across nine tracks, including:

Board Governance: This track will feature an introduction to health centers, as well as sessions addressing HRSA compliance, the role of the governing board, and health equity.

Clinical & Care Innovations: Subject matter experts will present a variety of didactic and interactive sessions related to oral health integration, behavioral health integration, addiction medicine, and Medicare annual wellness visits. In addition, the very popular peer learning session returns this year to allow clinical leaders to reconnect with colleagues.

Fiscal Optimization: Professionals from Regions VIII and X and across the nation will address health center financial health and growth at multiple levels. Topics will include capital planning, addressing financial and operational challenges as we enter a new normal, understanding the impact of Value-Based Pay, financial benchmarking for strategic decision-making, and more.

Healthy Communities: These offerings will help health centers implement SDOH assessment tools, address structural challenges to health, combat housing insecurity, activate emotional wellness in the Latinx community, approach racial and social justice, and combat weight bias and fatphobia.

Hot Topics: This track will cover emerging topics impacting health centers; sessions will be finalized closer to the conference.

Leadership: This track's sessions will focus on resiliency, leading through, and lessons learned from, a crisis, as well as leading with an equity lens and an indigenous approach to systems transformation.

Operational Excellence: Health center professionals and national specialists will share their expertise on a variety of topics intended to strengthen health center operations. Sessions will address patient/provider relationships, utilizing teams to maximize performance, risk management and cybersecurity, disaster lessons learned, and more.

Quality Transformation: Quality Improvement professionals will present a variety of sessions featuring best and promising practices for improving quality measures at health centers in a post-pandemic world. Topics include transformation projects related to diabetes, hypertension, colorectal cancer screening, mental health care, and patient engagement.

Workforce & HR Optimization: This variety of interactive sessions will leave attendees with new tools and strategies to improve the health center workforce. Topics include benefits, diversity, equity, and inclusion, health professions education and training, employee engagement, employee wellness, and resiliency.

For more information, please visit the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

CHAMPS Website Evaluation

CHAMPS completed an evaluation of www.CHAMPSonline.org at the beginning of 2021. Thank you to our Region VIII health center and State Primary Care Association (SPCA) staff who took the time to fill out the survey and provide valuable feedback. Approximately 37% of comments submitted by evaluators had positive things to say about the site, 31% indicated interest in design improvements, 17% indicated a need to make sure people were aware of CHAMPS offerings, and 15% identified potential new content that might be included on the site. CHAMPS staff are already making improvements based on the input received, and further analysis will guide future offerings.

Sign up for CHAMPS E-Digests/Bulletins

[Health Equity Digest](#)

[MPCN Minute](#)

[Workforce Focus](#)

Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinators

CHAMPS is pleased to welcome new [staff members](#) **Jess Gitlitz** and **Kristen Sergi**.

Jess Gitlitz joined CHAMPS in July 2021 as the new Programs Coordinator, Population Health. She is at the helm of the coordination and implementation of CHAMPS' Health Equity programs, and provides support for additional website, clinical quality improvement, advocacy, and other CHAMPS activities. Jess received her Bachelor of Science in Community Health from the University of Illinois and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Management degree. Prior to joining CHAMPS, Jess focused on volunteering, interning, and working at several different health focused organizations. In her leisure time, Jess enjoys all things outdoors, cooking, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Jess can be contacted via email at Jessica@CHAMPSonline.org.



Kristen Sergi joined CHAMPS in August 2021 as the new Programs Coordinator, Pandemic Recovery and Preparedness. Her focus is on the coordination and implementation of CHAMPS' COVID-19 response programs while providing support to Region VIII health centers on emergency preparedness and public health. Kristen has been a NICU nurse for 20 years. Kristen also brings several years' experience as a Clinical Nurse Educator for the University of Colorado Health where she created and delivered education to NICU and Lactation medical staff throughout the Northern Colorado Region. Kristen graduated with a Master of Public Health degree with a Health Disparity concentration and is excited about her opportunity to work in community health. In her free time, Kristen enjoys spending time with her husband Matt and three children Lily, Nico, and Cecilia. She loves backpacking, pottery, reading, listening to podcasts, and playing with her two pups. Kristen can be contacted via email at Kristen@CHAMPSonline.org.

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. Learn more [here](#).

Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers

Registration is currently full for the six live online Next Level Skills training sessions (Wednesday mornings, September 1 – October 6) that will allow health center managers and supervisors to delve deeper into the best practices, knowledge, and skills needed to be a great manager. Lisa Mouscher, CEO and Lead Consultant at Sogence Training and Consulting will begin with a review of crucial skills needed to hire, coach, retain, and manage others. Participants will then move to higher-level learning for effectively engaging a diverse workforce; avoiding, circumventing, and de-escalating conflict; strengthening day-to-day decision-making practices; and successfully managing change.

To learn more about the course, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Continuing Education on Your Schedule

Live CHAMPS distance learning events are recorded to give health center staff extra opportunities to enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. View current offerings [here](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

2020 Region VIII UDS Information

Each year CHAMPS compiles a summary of Region VIII Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Uniform Data System (UDS) information, focusing on data relating to grantees, sites, staffing, visits, income, and patients, as well as trends for medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health productivity, factors impacting financial trends, and performance for a variety of clinical measures. The full 2020 Region VIII UDS Summary will be released soon, and the two-page [2020 Region VIII UDS Fact Sheet](#) is currently available on the CHAMPS website. Updates to these 2020 resources includes a closer look at virtual visits for selected services and personnel, and the inclusion of the new 2020 depression remission clinical measure.

Visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage to review Region VIII UDS summaries and fact sheets from prior years. See page 9 for more information about the recent release of 2020 UDS information.

Highlights for Region VIII Health Center Awardees

- ★ 58% were considered rural in 2020.
- ★ Over one million patients were served.
- ★ Almost 90% of these patients received medical services; 21% received dental services, and 13% received mental health services.
- ★ Over 20% of all 2020 visits were provided virtually.

Health Center Recruitment Resources Webpage

The new CHAMPS [Health Center Recruitment Resources](#) webpage contains articles, guides, tools, and webinars to assist in recruiting a highly qualified, dedicated, and long-term workforce at health centers. This page includes job description templates and samples, health center and nonprofit job boards, interviewing resources, diverse recruitment resources, and much more!

Visit the [Recruitment and Retention Resources](#) section of the CHAMPS website to access all of CHAMPS' pipeline development, recruitment, hiring, orientation, and retention resources.

CHAMPS Clinical Staffing and Provider Productivity Reports

The 2020 CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing and Provider Productivity Expectations reports were released in June 2021. The Clinical Staffing Report utilizes Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) data reported in the salary survey for every employee at each reporting Health Center to develop staffing ratios relating to Medical, Behavioral Health, and Dental Provider and Medical and Dental Support employees. The 2020 report also includes ratios related to additional selected administrative and clinical care team employees. The Provider Productivity Expectations Report includes information about health center expectations for weekly hours, administrative vs. patient contact hours ratio, completed hourly visits, and standard patient panel sizes for medical, dental, and behavioral health providers.

Both reports can be accessed by [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (username and password required). Nonprofit, non-member organizations are welcome to purchase electronic versions of these reports by completing [this order form](#) and returning it with payment to CHAMPS.

To learn more about the staffing and productivity expectations reports, please visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) 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 Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org.
To sign up for the monthly JOB email, visit the CHAMPS [Job Bank](#) webpage.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

BHW Health Professions Education Learning Series

During June 2021, the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), and CHAMPS hosted a three-part webinar series designed to introduce participants to BHW programs. Sessions in the BHW Health Professions Education Learning Series addressed how to increase access to behavioral health services, successfully apply for BHW grants, and develop training programs to improve and increase access to care by increasing access to providers.

To view the recordings from this webinar series, please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Organizational Self-Care

Submitted by Liam Spurgeon, Health Outreach Partners

Health Outreach Partners (HOP) is happy to share a new resource on Organizational Self-Care. The purpose of this resource is to support health center organizations in their journey toward equitable organizational self-care practices in order to foster a work environment that supports staff satisfaction and retention. Organizational Self-Care: Addressing the Collective Responsibility for Your Employees' Wellbeing serves as a guide for both leadership and staff to develop self-care practices at your health center.

To access this new resource, please visit the HOP [Organizational Self-Care](#) webpage.

NIMAA Blog

Submitted by Stephanie Ivers Heine, National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement

Did you know that National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) staff and partners share their insights in a monthly blog discussing various topics for students, educators, Primary Care Associations (PCAs), and externships? Some recent topics include [Medical Assistants: Their Value and Crucial Role in Primary Care](#), [Team-based Care: The Provider-MA Relationship](#), [High Touch Programming](#), [Educating Medical Assistants on Proper Patient Care of the LGBTQ+ Community](#), and more. To see all topics, please visit the [NIMAA Blog](#).

Summer Updates from the STAR² Center

Submitted by Mariah Blake, STAR² Center

This summer, the STAR² Center team released the annual update to the [Data Profile Dashboards](#) resources for the 2020-2021 project year. The Profiles are a blend of public, private, and proprietary data and thus access to these interactive tools was shared only with each health center's CEO via direct email during the week of June 28, 2021. Primary Care Association (PCA) teams are also invited to review the Data Profile Dashboards and State Aggregate Reports for their state(s). If your PCA team is interested, [please contact Mariah Blake](#) to fill out a Data Use Agreement. These Data Profile Dashboards form the base of the STAR² Center's resource building, training, and technical assistance (TA) efforts by highlighting individual health center strengths and weaknesses, as well as national health center trends in recruitment and retention. This year, the STAR² Center hosted a three-part webinar series, [Using Your Data Profile Dashboard](#), to introduce the updates to the interactive resource and help prepare health center and PCA teams to work with their recruitment and retention data.

For more information on the Data Profile Dashboards, please visit the [STAR² Center Individual Recruitment & Retention Data Profiles](#) webpage. For free individual or team technical assistance, please contact the [STAR² Center team](#).

Stay up to date with all the latest news and CHAMPS offerings and resources through the CHAMPS [LinkedIn Company Page](#)!

LinkedIn

MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians who 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. Learn more [here](#).

CHAMPS 2021 Immunization Update

On June 3, 2021, CHAMPS hosted its annual Immunization Update webcast. A. Patricia Wodi, MD, Public Health Physician with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), addressed the 2021 vaccine schedules and the latest recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.

To download the presentation slides and view this recorded event, please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

CHAMPS Health Center Preparedness for Wildfires Event

On June 29, 2021, CHAMPS hosted a 60-minute webcast that provided key points to assist health centers in preparing for a wildfire. Marija Weeden, Director of Operations at Mountain Family Health Centers in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, discussed her experience during a large wildfire in Glenwood Springs in 2020. Eric Henley, MD, MPH, former CMO of LifeLong Medical Care in California East Bay and current Institutional Official for LifeLong's new Family Medicine Residency Teaching Health Center, discussed why wildfires are a pressing concern for health centers, detailed health effects of ambient smoke exposure, and provided pointers for patient education, including discussing a patient education document that informs patients about health effects of wildfire smoke as well as precautions to minimize exposure.

Please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage to download the presentation slides and view this archive.

To view the *Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke* patient education tool (pictured above), please visit the [CHAMPS Emergency Preparedness \(EP\) and Response Resources](#) webpage.



New CHAMPS Patient Self-Management Tools

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee recently reviewed and revamped three depression-related Patient Self-Management Tools. Feel free to download them for use at your health center.

- ★ **Antidepressant Fact Sheet**
Patient take-home information available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- ★ **Depression Self-Management Goals**
Editable goal setting worksheet available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- ★ **Managing Your Depression**
Colorful tool with few words available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

To view more downloadable tools, visit the [CHAMPS Patient Self-Management Tools](#) webpage.

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS

Assisting Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations in pursuing health equity and addressing health disparities by affecting the social determinants of health in their communities. Learn more [here](#).

2021 Health Equity Learning Series

The three-part Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)/CHAMPS 2021 Health Equity Learning Series builds on the foundation from [last year's series](#) and continues efforts in the journey towards a more equitable and just health system. Participants will come away from the series with a greater understanding of organizational and personal position in health equity as well as tangible strategies and tools to assist moving forward. Participants can join for one session or the whole series. The presentations in the series are intended for any health center and Primary Care Associations (PCA) staff, from various clinical and non-clinical positions, and are free for Region VIII attendees.

- ★ **It Starts with Us - The Journey of Dismantling Institutional Racism**
Tuesday, August 31: 12:00-1:15PM MT / 1:00-2:15PM CT
- ★ **Applying the Health Equity Lens - Serving Indigenous People**
Tuesday, September 14: 12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT
- ★ **Applying the Health Equity Lens - Weight Bias in Health Care**
Tuesday, September 28: 12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

For more information and to register, please visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program

The [DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program](#) is a collaboration of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Office of Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program aims to improve healthcare by promoting greater access to substance use disorder treatment through payments to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). The program provides up to \$3,000 per eligible practitioner who has completed the [training required to offer buprenorphine](#) to treat patients with opioid use disorders.

Eligible FQHCs and RHCs may apply for payment on behalf of their eligible providers through HRSA Electronic Handbooks. HRSA will accept applications and process payments until all available funds are exhausted, on a first-come, first-served basis.

To learn more, please visit the HRSA [DATA 2000 Waiver Training Program FAQs](#) webpage. To find buprenorphine training, please visit the SAMHSA [Find Buprenorphine Waiver Training](#) webpage.

New Clinicians' Guide to Heat Stress

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network

It's hot -- and it's getting hotter. The [Clinicians' Guide to Heat Stress](#), developed by Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) and Farmworker Justice, helps clinicians better recognize and treat heat stress. The eight-page guide, available in Spanish and English, covers numerous topics for clinicians serving agricultural workers and others in hot workplaces, from basic recognition and treatment of heat stress, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat stroke, to complications regarding chronic kidney disease of nontraditional origin. It includes a list of medications and individual factors that may increase a worker's risk of heat-related illness, as well as tips for prevention and post-treatment follow-up. It closes out with links to resources for more information geared for clinicians, patients, and employers.

For additional tools and resources, please visit the MCN [Heat-Related Illnesses](#) webpage and the CHAMPS [Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers \(MSFW\) and their Families Resources](#) webpage.

Regional Food and Mood Learning Collaborative

Submitted by Dr. Charles Smith and Traci Pole, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Assistant Regional Administrators in Regions VII (Kansas City) and VIII (Denver), in partnership with the Mountain Plains U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) office, are supporting a collaborative of state and community behavioral health, education, nutrition, food insecurity, school garden, and related experts working across the two regions. The virtual collaborative includes biannual large group town hall discussions, as well as smaller subcommittees comprised of federal, tribal, state, local public and private partners. The smaller subcommittees will begin virtual meetings this Fall and will collectively identify and initiate the implementation of strategies that leverage programs such as the USDA's Farm to School program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model to promote youth emotional wellness and to address behavioral health problems, including those related to food insecurity and lack of access to culturally appropriate food.

The goal of the learning collaborative is to promote emotional wellness and reduce the impact of mental health and substance use issues in the SAMHSA Regions VII and VIII K-12 population through identifying and implementing strategies that address the intersection between behavioral health and food/food insecurity/culturally appropriate food/school gardens.

The SAMHSA Regional Offices would like to invite folks to participate in two ways:

- ★ Sign up to receive a bi-monthly newsletter in the Food and Mood space.
- ★ Join one of the three working groups that will begin virtual meetings in October 2021.

For additional information, please reach out to Traci Pole at traci.pole@samhsa.hhs.gov or 303-844-1205.

South Dakota Health Centers Increase Access to Fresh Produce

Submitted by Carmen Toft, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas



Through a program collaboration with [Partnership for a Healthier America](#), Live Well Sioux Falls recently started a produce distribution program in the Hayward Elementary School neighborhood in Sioux Falls. Partnering with other local groups and Falls Community Health, which has a school-based clinic at Hayward, families in the neighborhood can pick up a box of fresh produce each week for 12 weeks. The program is designed to encourage families, especially kids, to increase their fruit and vegetable consumption. The hope is that consistent exposure to produce will foster lifelong healthy eating habits and break the cycle of chronic disease. Incredibly, over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce was given away on the first night.

At the Community Health Center of the Black Hills (CHCBH), fresh produce is available to staff and patients in their community garden. The garden encourages worksite wellness (staff often pick items from the garden for their lunches), and it helps to address an important patient need – access to nutritious food. Tanja Cutting, dietician and diabetes educator with CHCBH, plans to leave bags of the garden's fresh produce at the front door for patients to take as they please. In addition, CHCBH is a distribution site for Feeding South Dakota's monthly mobile pantry. And in their newest food initiative, a partnership with Live Well, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension, and the local farmers market, the health center will be distributing Farmers Market Produce Prescriptions to patients in need.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

NTTAP Training & Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

The [2021 NTTAP Health Center Training & Technical Assistance Needs Assessment](#) portal is now open! This assessment, requested by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), will inform the development of training and technical assistance (T/TA) necessary for National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs) to support health centers improve access to primary health care as well as to advance quality and impact over the next two-three years. This assessment reflects the collaboration of [21 NTTAPs](#), with input from selected Primary Care Association (PCA) representatives, all who contributed to the design of this tool through the National Health Center Resource Center Advisory Group.

All health center staff are invited to complete the 20-minute [Needs Assessment](#) by October 1, 2021.

2020 UDS Data

State and national [Bureau of Primary Health Care \(BPHC\) Uniform Data System \(UDS\)](#) data for 2020 was released in early August. Each year, Health Center Program awardees and look-alikes are required to report a core set of information, including data on patient characteristics, services provided, clinical processes and health outcomes, patients' use of services, staffing, costs, and revenues as part of a standardized reporting system. CHAMPS compiles this information from across Region VIII to create a regional summarized history of UDS information, providing two, three, and five year trends of selected Region VIII and national data, plus breakdowns of data by state, Region VIII, and nation for the current year. The [two-page 2020 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet](#) is now available (see page 4 for more details), and the 2020 Region VIII BPHC UDS Summary will be released soon.

To view past Region VIII BPHC UDS Summary reports and to view the 2020 report once it is released, please visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

2022-2023 NACHC Committee Appointments

The online application process is now open for 2022-2023 National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Committee Appointments. NACHC's committees assist the Board by identifying priorities, conducting detailed deliberation, and making recommendations for assigned areas. NACHC's Chair of the Board makes all committee appointments. Appointment notices are mailed in early December and begin January 1, for a two-year term. Committees meet at the start of two major conferences: the Policy and Issues Forum (P&I) and the Annual Meeting and Community Health Institute (CHI), and participate in conference call and online meetings when scheduled. All current committee members must reapply for all committee appointments. Additionally, in order to apply for committee appointments, NACHC individual and health center dues must be paid.

For more information and to apply, please visit the NACHC [Committees](#) webpage.

New Site Visit Protocol

In May 2021, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released the new [Health Center Program Site Visit Protocol](#) (SVP), the tool used to assess compliance with program requirements. The updated SVP aims to improve current oversight processes and timeline. Substantial updates to the SVP include consolidation of the "Documents Provided Prior to Site Visit" and "Documents Provided at the Start of Site Visit" into a single "Document Checklist for Health Center Staff" within each section, removal of the Performance Analysis section, an expanded methodology to assess awardee's oversight of specific subrecipient program requirements for health centers with subawards, and more.

To learn more about the changes to the SVP, please visit the HRSA [2021 Site Visit Protocol: Summary of Updates](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Nursing Workforce

Submitted by CAPT Debra Scott, HRSA Denver Office of Regional Operations

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Regional Operations (ORO) in Denver recently partnered with the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence (CCNE) to address the impact of COVID-19 on the nursing workforce. The HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) Division of Nursing and Public Health were also invited to participate. The purpose was to provide a venue for a collective regional discussion on the emerging issues for the nursing workforce as a result of the COVID-19 response, such as increased demand for nursing staff, burnout and stressors among front line nurses, and alterations in work place standards that may impact recruiting, training, and retaining an adequate nursing workforce in the future. The goal was to work collectively to ensure an adequate and competent nursing workforce to respond to the emerging healthcare environment, and on reducing disparities and inequities in rural and frontier areas.

A virtual meeting was held in June with academic partners from the six U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Region VIII states' nursing programs (CO, MT, ND, SD, WY, UT). As a result the group would like to continue working together to address resiliency for faculty and nursing leadership, along with efforts to promote regional collaboration among nursing academic programs. The CCNE will continue to partner with ORO on follow-up activities, and the HRSA BHW will present a webinar on November 3, 2021 on HRSA nursing priorities and funding opportunities for nursing academic programs. Nursing programs in HHS Regions VII and X will also be invited to participate to promote the number of successful grant applications from rural and frontier communities. BHW has also offered to provide a nursing grants training workshop in Fiscal Year 2022.

If you would like more information, please contact CAPT Debra Scott at dscott@hrsa.gov.

Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center is providing free technical assistance (TA) to health centers on social media community outreach and practice transformation coaching to support their integrated behavioral health efforts. Social media TA includes helping health centers produce content that connects, creating a scalable strategy for social media, and targeting ads for priority populations. Integrated behavioral health (IBH) coaching includes virtual one-on-one coaching on a variety of topics to enhance integrated health, including implementing a collaborative care model, adapting to value-based reimbursement, enhancing tele-behavioral health, and revising workflows and billing procedures to capture IBH.

To access this free TA, please [email Kristen King](mailto:kristen.king@hrsa.gov).

Summer Sprint to Coverage

More than 2.5 million Americans gained health coverage during the special enrollment period which ran from February 15, 2021, through June 30, 2021, and then was extended to August 15, 2021. This enrollment spike was led by the "Summer Sprint to Coverage" Biden-Harris Administration effort, which encouraged individuals and families to enroll in health insurance coverage through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Region VIII states that participate in FFM include MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY. The "Summer Sprint to Coverage" campaign has been essential in raising awareness that zero-premium or low-premium health insurance options are available on [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). The special enrollment period has now closed.

For resources, please visit the CHAMPS [Outreach & Enrollment Tips and Tools](#) webpage.

National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAP) Directory

The [Health Center Program NTTAP Organizational Directory](#) was released in April 2021. The directory includes key topic areas, services, resources, and contacts for each NTTAP.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Connect to the Global Health Center Movement

Submitted by Scott Wolfe, Canadian Association of Community Health Centres

The idea of an international organization to represent and advance the vision of Community Health Centers (CHCs) globally was first proposed at an [international CHC conference](#) hosted in Toronto, Canada in 2011. This led to the development and launch of the [International Federation of Community Health Centres \(IFCHC\)](#) as a vehicle to bring together CHCs and CHC associations around the world to share innovations, operational and service experiences, and to advocate on shared social and community health concerns. Since its 2013 launch, the IFCHC has co-hosted several international CHC study tours, launched an online networking hub for members, published a quarterly global newsletter featuring news and stories from member CHCs and associations, and advocated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other global bodies for health and social system priorities grounded in the core values of CHCs around the world. The IFCHC continues to evolve, with a growing membership of health centers from diverse jurisdictions, including several U.S. states and territories. Interested health centers may become members of IFCHC as a way of connecting to and becoming active participants in this global Community Health Center movement.

To learn more, visit the [IFCHC Membership](#) webpage.

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program](#) (08/30/2021)
- ★ [Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program](#) (08/30/2021)
 - ★ [Vaccine Ambassador Project](#) (09/03/2021)
- ★ [FY 2022 Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education \(THCGME\) Program](#) (09/21/2021)

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Horizon Health Care: [After 38 Years of Growth, Horizon Health Care's John Mengershausen is Ready to Pass the Community Health Baton](#) (*Mitchell Republic*, June 24)
- ★ Clinica Family Health: [Clinica Family Health People's Clinic Celebrates 51st Anniversary](#) (*Colorado Hometown Weekly*, July 20)
- ★ Axis Health System: [Can Police and Mental Health Workers Really Team Up? In Durango, the Answer is Yes](#) (*The Durango Herald*, July 24)
- ★ Montana Primary Care Association: [Tristan Shea, Montana Primary Care Association](#) (*Independent Record*, July 25)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Missoula, Montana is Making its Mobile Mental Health Response Pilot Permanent](#) (*Richland Source*, July 25)
- ★ Healthcare for the Homeless: [Healthcare for the Homeless Launches Mobile Health Clinic](#) (*Casper Star Tribune*, August 1)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Summit County Nonprofits Enthusiastic About Shared Campus Proposed in Breckenridge](#) (*Summit Daily*, August 1)
- ★ Bullhook Community Health Center: [Hill County COVID-19 Vaccinations Up to 6,000](#) (*Havre Daily News*, August 4)
- ★ Spectra Health: [Area Health Organizations Recognized for 75% Staff Vaccination](#) (*Knox Radio*, August 5)
- ★ Colorado Community Health Network and Wyoming Primary Care Association: [Health Professionals Urge Legislators to Expand Medicaid / Public News Service](#) (*Bollyinside*, August 9)
- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion Health Hosts A Homeless Healthcare Hygiene Product Drive](#) (*KHQ Q6*, August 10)
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Centers: [Peak Vista Community Health Centers Welcomes Two Vice Presidents](#) (*Fox 21*, August 10)
- ★ Family Healthcare: [An Option for Quality Healthcare](#) (*The Spectrum*, August 16)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

[CHAMPS Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers](#)

September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021

[CCHN Triannual](#)

September 9, 2021

[CCHN/CHAMPS Webcast: Applying the Health Equity Lens – Serving Indigenous People](#)

September 14, 2021
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

[2021 CHAD Conference](#)

September 14-15, 2021
Rapid City, SD

[AUCH Triannual](#)

September 16, 2021

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

September 21, 2021
1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT

[MPCA/MHA Montana Healthcare Conference](#)

September 21-24, 2021
Billings, MT

[CCHN/CHAMPS Webcast: Applying the Health Equity Lens – Weight Bias in Health Care](#)

September 28, 2021
12:00-1:30PM MT / 1:00-2:30PM CT

October

[CHAMPS Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers](#)

October 6, 2021

[MPCA Population Health Summit](#)

October 14-15, 2021

[NACHC 2021 FOM/IT Conference](#)

October 19-20, 2021
Las Vegas, NV

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

October 21, 2021
1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT

[NWRPCA/CHAMPS Primary Care Conference](#)

October 24-26, 2021
Seattle, WA

[ACU Mission: Health Equity Conference](#)

October 31, 2021
Washington, D.C.

November

[ACU Mission: Health Equity Conference](#)

November 1-2, 2021
Washington, D.C.

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

November 9, 2021
1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT

[2021 NNOHA Annual Conference](#)

November 14-17, 2021
San Antonio, TX

[Region VIII Oral Health Peer Learning Network](#)

November 15, 2021
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

[NACHC PCA/HCCN Conference](#)

November 15-17, 2021
Fort Lauderdale, FL

[Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative](#)

November 17, 2021
11:30AM-12:30PM MT / 12:30-1:30PM CT

December

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

December 1, 2021
1:00-2:00PM MT / 2:00-3:00PM CT

[CCHN Triannual](#)

December 9, 2021

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