

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN/PLAINS STATES (CHAMPS)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011 / MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT, SAN DIEGO, CA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kate McIvor, President (via phone)  
John Mengenhausen, Vice President  
Jerry Brasher, Treasurer/Secretary  
Pam Locken, Immediate Past President (via phone)  
Dan Reiner, WY Representative  
Keith Horwood, MD, MPCN Representative  
Donna Singer, UT Representative

**STAFF PRESENT**

Julie Hulstein  
Andrea Martin (via phone)  
Shannon Kolman (via phone)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Patricia Patron, ND Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. PT.

**CHAMPS SECRETARY'S REPORT**

It was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the CHAMPS Executive Committee conference call on June 28, 2011 (contained in the meeting packet) were reviewed. Dan Reiner moved to accept the minutes. Keith Horwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAMPS TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jerry Brasher reviewed the financial reports for the months of May 2011 and June 2011 (contained in the meeting packet). Pam Locken moved to accept the financial reports. Donna Singer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAMPS STAFF REPORT**

Included in the meeting packet was CHAMPS' August 2011 Corporate Compliance update. The goals of CHAMPS' Corporate Compliance program are to develop and implement a monitoring system designed to ensure that CHAMPS is in compliance with relevant state and federal laws; and, identify and correct compliance issues on an ongoing basis. Keith Horwood moved to accept the CHAMPS' Corporate Compliance report. John Mengenhausen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Also included in the meeting packet was a list of CHAMPS members and nonmembers; the new membership year began April 1<sup>st</sup>. As of today, all Region VIII SPCAs are CHAMPS members and 45 Region VIII CHCs are CHAMPS members (12 Region VIII CHCs have not yet joined). CHAMPS hopes to maintain a similar number of members as in years past (87% of PCA and CHC grantees were CHAMPS members for the past two membership years – currently 81% are members).

The CHAMPS Summer 2011 Quarterly Newsletter was included in the packet as was a list of upcoming state/regional/national conferences/meetings. The CHAMPS Region VIII UDS Summary was recently updated with 2010 UDS data and included in the meeting packet; this also can be found on the CHAMPS website.

The NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference will be held in Seattle, WA October 22-25, 2011 (the registration brochure for the 2011 Fall Conference was included in the meeting packet) – the theme is "Leading the Change: Rising to the Challenge". This year the conference will be four days versus 4.5 days – the attendance on the last half-day of the conference (Wednesday) has been studied over the years and it is minimal, so we are going to do a PDSA cycle this fall to see how eliminating the sessions on Wednesday impacts the conference. One new 2011 fall conference partnership was noted: Western Clinicians Network (WCN-the Region IX clinical network) helped plan the clinical track and will be encouraging their members to attend.

The CHAMPS 2011 Awards Nominations were included in the packet. Awards will be given to Region VIII grantee staff in the areas of administrative, clinical, and board leadership as well as outstanding advocate of the underserved at the CHAMPS Board meeting during the conference. The CHAMPS Executive Committee reviewed all nominations. Donna Singer moved to award two Exceptional Clinical Leadership Awards this year – to Hans Elzinga, MD of Salud Family Health Centers and Carolyn Shepherd, MD of Clinica Family Health Services. John Mengenhause seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The CHAMPS Executive Committee unanimously agreed on the following awards: Patricia Patron, ED of Family HealthCare Center to receive the Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award, Donna Singer, CEO of Utah Navajo Health System to receive the Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved Award, and Doug Follick, Board Member of CHC of Central Wyoming to receive the Exceptional Board Leadership Award.

On the June CHAMPS Executive Committee conference call the CHAMPS Executive Committee unanimously agreed to offer one scholarship per member organization CHC to attend the annual conference this fall. The intent of the scholarships for CHC staff would be to increase knowledge, provide networking and best practice sharing opportunities, increase retention, and promote participation in CHAMPS. All CHC staff and CHC board members are eligible for the scholarships except for CEOs and providers (providers are already eligible for travel reimbursement from CHAMPS). The scholarships would cover the cost of the registration fee as well as any additional registration costs such as a roundtable lunch. Included in the meeting packet was the email announcing the scholarships as well as the scholarship request form.

A list of meetings to be held in conjunction with the fall conference was included in the packet. The CHAMPS Executive Committee decided to meet on Saturday evening for dinner at Gordon Biersch as it would be less expensive than having dinner at the hotel. The format of the CEO Roundtable lunch was also discussed.

CHAMPS continues to partner with the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) and the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network on the Education Health Center Initiative (EHCI). The Education Health Center Initiative has produced a foundation of qualitative and quantitative evaluation of residency training in health centers, forged a coalition of health center and residency representatives throughout a ten-state region (Region 18), and taken preliminary steps toward creating a model for training primary care physicians in the health care safety net. EHCI has demonstrated that training family physicians in health centers helps meet the health workforce needs of the underserved by enhancing the recruitment of family physicians to such centers. Project research has also shown that physicians who are trained in health centers are twice as likely to work in underserved settings and four times more likely to work in health centers after completing their residency. The most important aspect of the teaching health center model is the shared mission of service and education/training. In the spring of 2010 all CHCs in Region 18 were invited to participate in an EHCI survey, as were family medicine residency programs in the five state WWAMI region. Based on the survey results, EHCI created a "tool kit" for assisting CHCs and FMRs which can be downloaded from the website ([www.educationhealthcenter.org](http://www.educationhealthcenter.org) or [www.teachinghealthcenter.org](http://www.teachinghealthcenter.org)). The resource toolkit will be useful to CHC and Family Medicine Residencies (FMRs) in two ways: to help them determine their eligibility to apply for federal funding cycles from HRSA and other sources through the toolkit's Decision Support tool and to understand the complexity of the issues partners need to plan for in becoming and sustaining a THC. In January 2011 HHS announced the designation of 11 new Teaching Health Centers in the Teaching Health Center (THC) Graduate Medical Education (GME) program, a five-year program that will support an increased number of primary care medical and dental residents trained in community-based settings. These THCs will be supported by funds made available through the Affordable Care Act and will help address the need to train primary care physicians and dentists in our nation's communities. With these funds these THCs can seek additional primary care residents through the National Resident Matching program and will train 50 additional resident full-time equivalents beginning in July. While three months of funding totaling \$1.9 million was awarded the

first program year, in future years the annual funding will increase to cover the full-year costs as well as additional residents. Montana Family Medicine Residency in Billings, MT received \$37,500 in funding. In Region X, Family Residency of Idaho in Boise received \$37,500 and Community Health of Central Washington in Yakima received \$75,000. It is anticipated that HRSA will announce another THC grant funding opportunity in late August – to that end, at the end of June CHAMPS and NWRPCA sent a quick survey to all Region 18 CHCs asking if they would like an EHCI consultation around: what a CHC needs to do to qualify to be a THC or what key issues will need to be addressed in order to become a CHC. Anyone interested in receiving THC consultation should contact Steve Seely at NWRPCA. Also, NACHC convened an educational health center network meeting in conjunction with the NACHC CHI to promote the effective integration of primary care training and service delivery in CHCs with a preliminary focus on expanding residency training opportunities. The objectives of this meeting included identifying best practices and models among CHCs for both residency development and partnering, developing appropriate training opportunities for the CHC movement, identifying and pursuing as appropriate related resource development and dissemination, coordinating response to TA needs, and identifying and pursuing as appropriate recommended policy changes. Lil Anderson is spearheading this work for NACHC.

The Northwest Community Health Leadership Institute (CHLI) 2011 session began in conjunction with NWRPCA spring conference May 19-21 in Seattle; had a second meeting July 28-30 in Seattle, WA, and will have their final meeting in Seattle in October prior to the fall conference. The 2011 UW Certificate Program in Community Health Leadership is a six-month program with nine days of classroom experience (three three-day meetings in Seattle). The three courses that make up CHLI are: Managing CHC Organizations and Systems, Executive Leadership within CHC Organizations and Systems, and Case-Based Application of Management and Leadership Concepts and Principles within CHC Organizations and Systems. The full program involves 90 contact hours via the three weekend intensives and distance learning. The core faculty for CHLI are from the MHA Program at the University of Washington: Edward Walker, MD, MHA, MM and William Welton, DrPH, MHA. Other CHLI faculty will include additional MHA Program faculty members as well as visiting CHC leaders with specific content knowledge. There are 21 students enrolled, six of whom are from Region VIII (CO=4, MT=2). NWRPCA and CHAMPS are both generously subsidizing this worthwhile program. Currently there are five other Leadership Development Institutes (LDIs) across the country serving CHCs and NACHC convenes all six LDIs during national meetings to network and share best practices. Included in the meeting packet was a NACHC brochure highlighting all of the LDIs as well as a spreadsheet describing each of the LDIs.

All PCAs received supplemental funding to assist CHCs with implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) effective the first of October 2010; CHAMPS received \$75,000 for the six month period October 1, 2010-March 31, 2011 (and CHAMPS was to receive \$150,000 in the new fiscal year beginning April 1, 2011 however that was cut by 15%). Using this supplemental funding, CHAMPS hired a full time Training and Programs Coordinator, Shealyn Feil, in December; Shea tendered her resignation in June as she wanted to be a full-time stay at home mom. If CHAMPS were to have received the full \$150,000 supplemental funding increase in April 2011, the plan was for CHAMPS to hire a Communication and Member Services Coordinator staff member to assist with the additional work plan deliverables. Since CHAMPS' funding was cut by \$70,000 CHAMPS will be unable to hire the second coordinator position and instead has combined the essential duties of the two coordinator positions to create a Member Services and Programs Coordinator position. This person will primarily be responsible for the coordination and implementation of trainings and various workforce, operational, and clinical programs that facilitate the CHAMPS mission. Stephanie Booker was hired as CHAMPS' Member Services and Programs Coordinator on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

In January 2011 CHAMPS submitted an unsolicited proposal to the Office of Special Population Health (OSPH) to host a Migrant Stream Coordinator for Region VIII plus Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota. Migrant Stream Coordinators are experts in migrant farmworker health who assist the Bureau of

Primary Health Care (BPHC) in providing training, technical assistance and other support services to Migrant Health Center (MHC) programs and other community organizations that provide services to Migrant/Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) and their families. Although Utah is in Region VIII and is served by CHAMPS via all Region VIII PCA activities, Utah is currently in the purview of the Migrant Stream Coordinator based out of the Arizona PCA so unfortunately UT is not included in this proposal. According to 2010 UDS data, CO, MT, ND, SD, WY, NE, KS and MN have 11 Migrant Health Center grantees which served nearly 33,000 MSFWs in 2010 (Region VIII had nine MHC grantees which served nearly 25,000 MSFWs in 2010). This new position would serve multiple purposes related to enhancing the capacity of MHCs and increasing access to services for Migrant families. CHAMPS met with Captain Henry Lopez in August to discuss this potential funding opportunity and continues to inquire about the status of this proposal and will notify the Executive Committee as soon as there is any news.

Andrea Martin gave the Workforce Development and Member Services update. CHAMPS continues to add resources and features to its website including enhanced information on education health center resources, leadership learning opportunities, meaningful use resources, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and chronic pain treatment resources, and a new section of pages addressing CHC needs assessment and data sources. CHAMPS is working with NWRPCA to design a Mid-Level Management Training for Region VIII and Region X CHCs; a survey was sent to Region 18 CHC CEOs and HR Directors and a committee of Region 18 CHC leaders has been convened to help create this new training. In July CHAMPS hosted a webcast entitled "National Health Service Corps: Make NHSC Work for You", it was attended by 35 individuals and evaluation results were included in the packet. CHAMPS is participating in several job fairs including CareerMD, Regis University, University of Colorado, and American College of Nurse Practitioners. CHAMPS is also cosponsoring a Region VIII networking event in conjunction with the NHSC conference in Denver on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The CHAMPS' Region VIII CHC directory is being updated for 2011-2012 and will be distributed to all organizational members in November.

Shannon Kolman gave the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) update. Included in the meeting packet was a list of MPCN Steering Committee members (there are currently vacancies in ND and WY). Dan Reiner will check with two of his clinicians, Dr. Larissa Tolley and Dr. Karl Radke, to see if they are willing to serve on the MPCN Steering Committee. Evaluation results from the CHAMPS August 10<sup>th</sup> teleconference entitled "2011 Immunization Update" presented by Dr. William Atkinson of the CDC were included in the packet; more than 163 individuals listened to this teleconference and gave it great reviews. Included in the packet was the travel reimbursement request form for clinicians at CHAMPS organizational member CHCs who attend the fall conference as well as the new HIV/AIDS Treatment Resources webpage which was recently added to the CHAMPS website.

#### **HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) REPORT**

Included in the packet was a list of Region VIII CHCs that have received new HRSA grants this year including Teaching Health Center dollars, School-Based Health Center funding, and New Access Points.

On August 15, BPHC held a conference call for PCAs and National Cooperative Agreements. Jim Macrae gave the following BPHC/HRSA Update. Jim understands the disappointment around NAP funding – it was highly competitive and they were only able to fund down to a score of 102 (the perfect score was 100+). Only 8% of applications were funded – 67 apps were funded and 743 apps were not funded. In Region VIII, three CHCs were funded: Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Clinical Family Health Services, and Horizon Health Care, Inc. BPHC will be sending a letter with the ORC summaries and strengths and weaknesses by the end of September to grantees and unfunded apps will be good for one year from the date of the mailing of this letter. Early on BPHC had hoped to fund many more applications than they were able to – the NAP guidance was designed for 350 awards totaling \$250 million versus 67 awards totaling \$28.8 million – because at the time the NAP funding competition was announced a year ago BPHC thought they would have \$1 billion from the ACA - \$250 million to continue ARRA NAPs and IDS and \$750 million for new activities. Instead, appropriations were reduced by \$600 million leading to a negative impact on expansion activities. BPHC hopes to award \$10 million

in planning grants (one-time funding) in early September. BPHC is also awarding PCMH grants of \$35,000-\$50,000 to CHCs to help with upfront costs of being a PCMH; 70 applications have been submitted and 560 are in progress. BPHC is focusing on quality. It is a competitive funding year for PCAs and the PCA grant guidance is expected to be released in the fall.

#### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT**

Included in the meeting packet was the latest advocacy update from NACHC regarding the announcement of Congressional Super Committee members and information on the Campaign for America's Health Centers. NACHC has launched a critical campaign to save America's health centers which was developed in response to the numerous and potentially devastating threats facing health centers and the patients they serve. The importance of advocacy was stressed by NACHC representatives and CHAMPS staff was tasked with assisting to get the word out to Region VIII CHCs.

Yesterday Keith Horwood was elected to the NACHC Board as one of two Clinician Representatives; he will serve a two-year term. John Mengenhause has been appointed to serve as the NACHC Treasurer for the next year freeing up one of the two Region VIII seats on the NACHC Board. John will ask NACHC staff what the formal process is for appointing his replacement to the NACHC Board and let Julie know so she can follow-up as appropriate.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

CHAMPS 2010-2012 Strategic Plan Action Plan was included in the packet as were CHAMPS talking points.

#### **REGION VIII STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

There were print outs from Region VIII SPCA websites contained in the meeting packet. Of note, Laurie Francis resigned as Executive Director of the Montana Primary Care Association effective the first week of August; Bob Marsalli was recently selected as the new MT PCA CEO. Bob was the Director of Programs at NWRPCA most recently and also the ED of an OR CHC for six years.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. PT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Brasher