

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN/PLAINS STATES (CHAMPS)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Mengenhause, President
John Santistevan, Treasurer
Liz Hoy, Secretary
Cindy Smith, MT Representative
Kristi Halvarson, ND Representative
Kim McFarlane, PA-C, Clinical Rep. (proxy)

STAFF PRESENT

Julie Hulstein
Andrea Martin
Shannon Kolman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Horwood, MD, Vice President
Pam Locken, Immediate Past President

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM MT.

CHAMPS SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the CHAMPS Executive Committee meeting on October 19, 2014 were reviewed. John Santistevan moved to approve the minutes. Cindy Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAMPS TREASURER'S REPORT

The unaudited financial reports for the months of September, October and November 2014 were reviewed. Liz Hoy moved to approve the financial reports. Kristi Halvarson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAMPS STAFF REPORT

The CHAMPS membership year began April 1st; as of December 9th, 80% of Region VIII CHCs have paid their CHAMPS organizational membership dues and all State PCA are CHAMPS members (82% of eligible CHCs and PCAs are CHAMPS organizational members).

The goals of the 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. John Santistevan moved to approve the Corporate Compliance report for the period ending March 31, 2015 as of January 12, 2015. Kristi Halvarson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The 2014 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference had over 440 registered participants (including staff and speakers), of which nearly 240 were from Region VIII. The New Medical Directors training held in partnership with NACHC had 50 participants. CHAMPS and NWRPCA also partnered with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) to host a two-day educational event entitled the Primary Care-Public Health Inter-Professional Leadership and Workforce Development Institute which had over 50 participants from public health and primary care. Results of the overall conference evaluation were included in the meeting packet as well as ratings of individual sessions.

The Education Health Center Initiative (EHCI) continues to explore opportunities to pursue its goals and objectives in partnership with the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP (FTLF). EHCI has met with NACHC and FTLF and both are interested in creating a mutually beneficial partnership with EHCI. Discussions have also occurred with the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) regarding the possibility of receiving a grant to further this work; to that end, a grant proposal was sent to BPHC in early September. However it was learned at the Fall Conference that no funding will be awarded now as there should be a more formal funding opportunity later in the year.

The GME Initiative, which is a coalition of family medicine educators in Midwestern and Western states, strongly supports the recommendations in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report "Graduate Medical Education (GME) that Meets the Nation's Health Needs" released in July 2014 and is encouraging Congressional action to transform the IOM's recommendations into law. To that end, they drafted a letter to Members of Congress outlining three essential elements for reforming Medicare GME which include: 1. The primary care workforce should be increased to at least 40% of physicians, 2. The number of physicians in primary care should be counted five years after graduating from medical school not at the time of entering residency, and 3. GME payments should be made directly to programs and sponsoring organizations where primary care training occurs. The GME Initiative has asked several organizations to sign on to this letter and many have including NWRPCA, the Colorado Institute of Family Medicine and the Colorado Commission on Family Medicine. Cindy Smith moved to add CHAMPS as an organizational signer of this letter. Liz Hoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Northwest Regional Primary Care Association and the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers presented a draft proposal to the California Primary Care Association, Western Clinicians Network and CHAMPS that outlined the possible formation of a Western Clinicians Alliance. Such a Western Clinicians Alliance (WCA) would include clinicians from Regions VIII, IX and X and potentially offer education and training, peer networking, recruitment and retention resources, and practice based research opportunities. Staff of these organizations met via conference call to discuss this proposal and decided that additional discussions will need to take place in order to gain more clarity regarding the possible creation of WCA. The CHAMPS Executive Committee unanimously agreed that CHAMPS can continue to be a part of these discussions.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of CHAMPS and to that end, several commemorative activities are planned including an anniversary dinner party during the NACHC P&I in March in Washington, DC. Included in the meeting packet was a document highlighting the different activities which will occur this year in celebration of CHAMPS' "diamond" anniversary.

CHAMPS Outreach & Enrollment (O&E) Coordinator, Sophie Hagberg, is working with her Region VIII SPCA peers to assist CHCs with O&E activities including helping facilitate SPCA O&E sessions/meetings and maintaining webpages containing O&E, Affordable Care Act (ACA), and health insurance literacy tools and resources; a report of O&E activities was included in the packet. Most recently, on January 7th, NWRPCA and CHAMPS offered a webinar on personal identifiable information and outreach and enrollment which is now archived on the CHAMPS website.

Andrea Martin gave the Workforce Development and Member Services update; a report of activities for the current grant year was included in the packet. CHAMPS has two face-to-face trainings planned for this spring: Core Competency Training for New Managers and Supervisors (CORE) and Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals. Both CORE and the Spanish Language Training will be held in the Denver metro area in April. Registration for both will open soon.

The CHAMPS 2014 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Report was finalized and distributed in October; 51 Region VIII CHCs (77% of Region VIII CHCs) participated in the survey. New to the report this year are job description summaries, a section regarding additional pay, and a section of information about health center benefits packages. As a complement to the Salary Survey Report, CHAMPS also developed two companion reports: the 2014 Region VIII Health Center Medical Staffing Report and the 2014 Region VIII Health Center Medical Provider Productivity Expectations Report (included in the meeting packet). CHAMPS

worked with Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) again this year to create the Region X Health Center Salary Survey Report as well.

CHAMPS worked with all Region VIII State Primary Care Associations to coordinate the BPHC-required Region VIII Annual Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment which was completed by Region VIII CHCs in November. All PCAs are required per their BPHC grants to assess health center needs for training and technical assistance annually and CHAMPS coordinates this effort for Region VIII. Included in the packet was a summary report of the Needs Assessment results; 245 CHC staff members from 62 Region VIII CHCs completed the survey. CHAMPS and Region VIII SPCAs will use the results to coordinate and plan future offerings.

In the spring and summer of 2014, CHAMPS and Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) cohosted a series of distance learning events entitled "Lunchtime Learning Professional Skill Development". Included in the packet were the follow-up survey results for events one thru five of the Lunchtime Learning series which assess how the webcasts affect quality improvement for participants several months after the live events.

Shannon gave the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) update. CHAMPS and MPCN partnered with the Western Clinicians Network (WCN) over a year ago to pilot the Clinic Library which is an online shared clinical knowledge portal run by clinicians that provides users with a range of research and operations resources chosen by an advisory committee as the tools most valuable to a clinician practicing in a community health setting. In late 2013 ownership and management of the Clinic Library was transferred to the California Primary Care Association (CPCA). The Clinic Library is now being offered by CPCA to safety-net providers for a \$195 annual subscription which includes access to BMJ Best Practice, a clinical decision support tool similar to UpToDate. CHAMPS has an agreement with CPCA to promote the Clinic Library in Region VIII which includes a 10% discount for CHAMPS organizational members for one year (ending 11/30/15); marketing for the Clinic Library began in December.

CHAMPS renewed the ICD-10 education and training GPO with Optum for another year which will allow Region VIII CHCs to continue to purchase online ICD-10 trainings and books for discounts of 30% or more off of the retail prices; the contract for the GPO with Optum will conclude in November 2015. CHAMPS is also partnering with CCHN to offer a Top 25 Diagnoses Provider Webinar Series by TC Training Solutions for a discounted price. This is a series of short (five to 10 minute) webinars covering the must know elements for the top 25 diagnoses used at Colorado CHCs.

The MPCN Steering Committee held a strategic planning meeting in October and the resulting strategic plan was included in the meeting packet. The four goals of the 2015-2016 MPCN Strategic Plan are: Increase awareness and communicate value of MPCN, Provide clinical education/training opportunities and resources, Build/nourish partnerships, and Keep MPCN members informed of the changing health care landscape.

CHAMPS is hosting a webcast entitled "Behavioral Health Integration Models for CHCs: Balancing the Team and Workflow" on February 25th. Angela Green, PsyD, Director of Behavioral Health for Metro Community Provider Network will be presenting this 90 minute webcast.

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) REPORT

The new Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) organizational structure was included in the meeting packets. The revised BPHC structure was announced in October and creates five new Offices under the Office of the Associate Administrator including Policy and Program Development, Quality Improvement, Strategic Business Operations, Southern Health Services, and Northern Health Services. Region VIII will be in the Office of Northern Health Services and

divided into the North Midwest Health Services Division (IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, ND, SD, UT) and the Northwest Health Services Division (CO, WY, MT, AK, ID, OR, WA).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (NACHC) REPORT

The next NACHC Board of Directors meeting will be held at the NACHC Policies & Issues Forum in Washington, DC in March. NACHC has launched phase two of their campaign "Access is the Answer" and continues to encourage everyone to become involved as the funding cliff is looming. NACHC will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of CHCs this year.

CHAMPS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2015-2017 CHAMPS Strategic Plan was included in the packet.

REGION VIII STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION (SPCA) REPORTS

Dates of upcoming SPCA meetings were included in the Calendar of Events which was contained in the meeting packet. CHAMPS staff participate in SPCA meetings/conferences and convene regular conference calls with their SPCA peers/colleagues to ensure coordination of Region VIII PCA programs and services and open, ongoing communication.

ADJOURNMENT

The conference call was adjourned at approximately 3:15 PM MT.

Respectfully submitted, President John Mengenhausen