



Fall 2023 Quarterly Newsletter

Published November 2023

Virtual CHAMPS Awards Ceremony & Annual CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting

Every year, CHAMPS recognizes and celebrates highly deserving staff and board members from Region VIII health centers and partner organizations with awards for their outstanding leadership, achievements, and contributions to their health centers and communities.

The virtual ceremony recognizing 2023 CHAMPS Awardees will take place on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 12:00 PM MT / 1:00 PM CT, honoring and providing more information about:

- ★ A Board Member who is committed to ensuring that all patients are treated with dignity and respect.
- ★ A Chief Executive and Medical Officer who is recognized for her selfless commitment to seeing her organization thrive.
- ★ A Chief Operations Officer who is admired for embodying the spirit of service in both the personal and professional aspects of her life.
- ★ A former Chief Executive Officer who is applauded for his dedication to advancing the Community Health Center Movement in his state, region, and nationally.
- ★ A retired Chief Executive Officer who is an innovative leader and an outstanding advocate for his team.

The CHAMPS Board of Directors Meeting will begin after the Awards Ceremony at 1:00 PM MT / 2:00 PM CT. CHAMPS Board Members will be joined by Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator of the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC) and Dr. Kyu Rhee, President and CEO of the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC). If you are a Board Member and unable to attend, please arrange for proxy representation.

Questions about the Awards Ceremony?

Visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage or contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

Questions about the Board of Directors Meeting? Contact the CHAMPS [Executive Director](#).

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2023 Fall Primary Care Conference Highlights

The [2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference](#) was held October 21-24 in Seattle, WA with over 350 members, partners, presenters, and exhibitors from across Region 18 (Regions VIII and X) and the nation in attendance.

Featuring 47 sessions, nine tracks, two plenaries, and six roundtables, the Fall Conference provided a multitude of opportunities for attendees to gain insights from a variety of peers and colleagues from health centers, Primary Care Associations, governmental offices, and related organizations in Regions VIII and X and beyond.



The Opening Plenary on Saturday, October 21, featured Dr. Kyu Rhee, Chief Executive Officer of the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC); Tonya Bowers, Deputy Associate Administrator of the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC); and Sharon Turner, Regional Administrator for HRSA's Region 10 Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA). The Opening Plenary was followed by a Welcome Reception, where attendees engaged with friends and colleagues. During the Lunch Plenary on Monday, October 23, speaker and author D.J. Vanas shared a unique and powerful perspective from Native American culture on the warrior spirit and how attendees can emulate those principles in their work environments. D.J. Vanas' entertaining, humorous, and inspiring presentation enlightened attendees on how to navigate change with confidence and clarity and serve at our best even in chaos. The night before the conference concluded, there was a Networking Reception and Raffle with exhibitors where participants were given the chance to win prizes and say their farewells until the 2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Conference in Denver, CO.

Overall, the 2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) was a great success! Thank you to all the participants, presenters, and NWRPCA and CHAMPS staff for making the event so special.



Representatives of NACHC and Region 18 PCA Leadership.



Lunch Plenary speaker, D.J. Vanas.



Dr. Rhee with Opening Plenary participants.

To review 2023 Fall Conference highlights, educational and networking sessions, and reimbursement opportunities, visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage. All 2023 Fall Conference registrants have access to session recordings and handouts in the NWRPCA [Learning Vault](#).

The **2024 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference** will be held in Denver, CO, October 26-29, 2024. Visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage for more information coming in the spring of 2024.

Now Available: 2022 Region VIII UDS Summary & Fact Sheet

Region VIII Health Centers served almost 1,115,000 patients in 2022.

Each year, the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC) collects data from health centers nationwide through the Uniform Data System (UDS). To gain a more specific understanding of this data, CHAMPS compiles information from Region VIII health centers to create a regionalized summary of UDS data, offering trends over two, three, and five years for selected Region VIII and national data. Additionally, the summary provides a detailed breakdown of data by state, region, and nation for the current year. The information presented in the summary focuses on health center awardees, staffing, patients, productivity, and financial and clinical performance. The corresponding 2022 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet highlights a selection of data from the larger summary report.

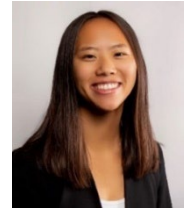
Visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) webpage to review all available Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries, Fact Sheets, and Workforce Infographics.

Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinators



Haleigh Donahue is the new CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, Membership and Communications, responsible for coordinating CHAMPS' recognition programs, the maintenance of CHAMPS' database of Region VIII Health Center Program contacts, and the management and distribution of the organization's communications. Haleigh received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Florida. She brings prior experience working in nonprofit settings, including time working with an AmeriCorps state program. Haleigh can be contacted at Haleigh@CHAMPSonline.org.

In her role as Programs Coordinator, Population Health, Katie Chamberlin focuses on promoting health equity through outreach and enrollment programs, while also supporting CHAMPS' clinical and quality improvement activities. Katie received a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and a minor in Health Promotion from Michigan State University and has previous experience working in both nonprofit and healthcare settings. Katie can be contacted at Katie@CHAMPSonline.org.



***Welcome, Haleigh and Katie!** Please visit the CHAMPS [Contact Us](#) webpage for more information about our team and details for all CHAMPS staff members.*

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](#).

New CHAMPS Webpage Addresses Dimensions of Wellness

In September 2023, CHAMPS published a new webpage that introduces and delves into the eight dimensions of wellness, which include emotional, financial, occupational, social, and other facets. The [Dimensions of Wellness Resources](#) webpage contains articles, tools, and additional resources specifically chosen to aid staff and board members of health centers in their journey to fostering a more positive sense of wellbeing.

For additional information on resiliency skills, visit the CHAMPS [Resiliency Resources](#) webpage.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Now Available: 2023 Salary, Benefits, & Turnover Survey Report



CHAMPS is pleased to announce the release of the [2023 Abbreviated Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, & Turnover Survey Report](#). Forty-nine Region VIII health centers participated in this year's survey, representing 78% of all health centers in the region, and providing data for

Selected Data Highlights:

- ★ The median salary for "Medical Assistant, with Credentials" increased 11.1% between 2022 and 2023.
- ★ Over 45% of reported employees earned some sort of additional pay.
- ★ The 2022 All Staff turnover rate for employees of participating health centers was 28.7% (down from 30.8% in 2021).
- ★ 10.4% of all staff turnover was organization-initiated (down from 14.1% in 2021).

over 4,200 employees in 16 titles. This abbreviated report provides up to date comparative compensation figures for this limited group of hard to recruit and retain titles, along with additional data on turnover rates for all health center employee positions. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) and non-members providing data for the project have received the electronic version of this report. Copies of the printed report were mailed to the same groups in mid-October. Organizational Members also have access to all current and previous salary survey reports in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (credentials required).

Download the [Order Form](#) to purchase additional copies of the CHAMPS 2023 Abbreviated Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, & Turnover Survey Report. Questions? Contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

Now Available: 2022 UDS Workforce Infographic

Each year, the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#) (BPHC) undertakes data collection from health centers around the country. This Uniform Data System (UDS) information includes details about health professions education and training (HP-ET) programs in health centers. CHAMPS recently published the [2022 UDS Workforce Infographic](#) highlighting HP-ET efforts regionally and nationally. In Region VIII, 91.53% of health center awardees had HP-ET programs, an increase from 90% in 2021 and compared with 84.53% of health centers nationally in 2022. The most commonly trained professions in Region VIII were physicians, dentists, clinical social workers, and pharmacists.

To view Region VIII UDS reports from 2022 and prior years, visit the CHAMPS [Publications](#) webpage.

Save the Dates: 2024 Beyond CORE Competencies Training

CHAMPS is excited to announce the dates for the [2024 Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers training](#) (Next Level Skills). The course will be held virtually over six Wednesday mornings, April 24 – May 29, 2024, with registration expected to open in January. This training is intended for managers and supervisors with a minimum of 18 months of supervisory experience, or as a follow-up to the CHAMPS CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers training. Sessions will cover a variety of topics, ultimately allowing health center managers and supervisors to dive deeper into the best practices, knowledge, and skills needed to be a great manager.

For more information about CHAMPS Next Level Skills training, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring?

Post your open positions on the free CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#).

To post an opening or update a current position, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).

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 2023 Maternal Health Learning Series

The [CHAMPS 2023 Maternal Health Learning Series: Supporting and Advancing Perinatal Health](#) was developed in collaboration with the HRSA Region VIII Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA). This free, three-part virtual series covers topics including maternal mortality and morbidity data as well as the impact of substance use disorders and perinatal mental health concerns in new mothers.

The first two webinars took place earlier this fall. The first event, [Reducing Stigma in Pregnant People with Substance Use Disorders](#), featured Maridee Shogren from the [Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center](#) (MPTTAC) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA). Strategies to reduce barriers related to stigmatizing attitudes and practices towards people with substance use disorders (SUDs) in healthcare settings were discussed in this session.

[Perinatal Mental Health Awareness, Screening and Treatment](#), the second part of this virtual series, was presented by Robin Landwehr, Behavioral Health Specialist and Independent Consultant, and Emily Greenwood of the [American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#) (ACOG). The speakers discussed common perinatal mental health concerns experienced by persons during pregnancy and in the first year postpartum, and the screening tools and treatment options available.

The third installation, [The Role of Health Centers in Addressing Maternity Care Deserts](#), will take place on Thursday, December 14 from 1:00-2:30 PM MT / 2:00-3:30 PM CT, and will feature a speaker from the [March of Dimes](#).

To learn more about this series, visit the [CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Don't Miss: CHAMPS On-Demand Modules & Courses

CME Credits Available

[2023 Immunization Update](#) [Family Planning Refresher Course](#)
[Working on Wellness \(WoW\) Modules](#)

2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Information

In September, the 2023-2024 Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices to anyone six months and older to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illnesses this fall and winter. In November, guidance was added to correct the dosage and administration of the updated (2023-2024 Formula) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in children, adding that healthcare providers who administer the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals ages six months through 11 years should ensure the correct volume of the vaccine (0.25 mL) is withdrawn from the vial and administered to the recipient. The vial and excess volume should be discarded after extracting a single dose.

For more COVID-19 related information, please visit the [CHAMPS COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage.

To learn more about the latest clinical considerations, please visit the CDC's [Clinical Considerations](#) webpage.

Save the Dates: CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings

Please save the dates for four upcoming CHAMPS [Spanish Language Trainings for Health Care Professionals](#) to be held online throughout April 2024. Each training will provide Spanish language instruction from Ríos Associates for clinical staff at Region VIII health centers. Registration will open in January 2024.

The traditional Medical Spanish Language Course for Beginner and Intermediate Speakers will be held over four half-days: Thursday, April 11; Friday, April 12; Thursday, April 18; and Friday, April 19, 2024.

CHAMPS will also host three courses that will be held over two-half-days each:

Spanish for Oral Health Providers will take place Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9, 2024. This session is intended for dentists, dental hygienists, and other clinical dental personnel with beginner Spanish language skills.

Spanish for Behavioral Health Providers will take place on Monday, April 15 and Tuesday, April 16, 2024. This session's target audience is psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers, addiction counselors, and other behavioral health personnel with intermediate to advanced Spanish language skills.

Medical Spanish for Advanced Spanish Speakers will take place on Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23, 2024. This course is intended for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other clinical personnel with advanced Spanish language skills.

For more information, please visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) 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](#).

CCHN/CHAMPS Health Equity Learning Series Archive



The two-part Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)/CHAMPS 2023 [Health Equity Learning Series](#) is now archived and available for viewing. This was the final installation in a multi-year partnership aimed at examining foundational topics in health center equity while highlighting a path towards accessible healthcare for all. Each speaker equipped participants with actionable strategies so they can progress care for their patients.

2023 Health Equity Learning Sessions:

- ★ [Strategies for Building Cultural Competency and Addressing Bias](#) presented by:
 - ★ Jason Vitello, Public Health Institute at Denver Health and Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC)
- ★ [Individual Perspectives on Health Equity: A Panel Discussion](#) presented by:
 - ★ Jason Vitello, Public Health Institute at Denver Health and CCJRC
 - ★ Julie Reiskin, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
 - ★ Ragen Chastain, ACE Certified Health Coach and Functional Fitness Specialist

Visit the CHAMPS [Distance Learning](#) webpage for more upcoming and archived webinars, podcasts, and online intensives.

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

2024 Health Insurance Open Enrollment Begins

Open Enrollment began on November 1, 2023, and individuals in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming can use the [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Marketplace](#) to enroll in insurance coverage. Those in Colorado can use the [Connect for Health Colorado](#) state-based marketplace. (See below for more regional details.) Consumers who experience certain qualifying life events may be able to obtain Marketplace coverage outside of open enrollment through a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). People can apply for [Medicaid](#) or the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#) (CHIP) at any time of year.

Federal Marketplace Dates (MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

[Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Marketplace](#)

- ★ **November 1:** Open Enrollment begins for health coverage for the next plan year.
- ★ **December 15:** Last day to enroll or change plans for coverage to start January 1.
- ★ **January 1:** Coverage starts for those who enrolled or changed plans by December 15 and paid their first premium.
- ★ **January 15:** Open Enrollment ends – last day to enroll or change health plans.
- ★ **February 1:** Coverage starts for those who enrolled or changed plans between December 16 - January 15 and paid their first premium.

State-Based Marketplace Dates (CO)

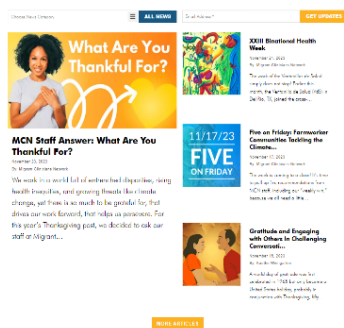
[Connect for Health Colorado](#)

Open Enrollment began **November 1, 2023**, and will close **January 15, 2024**.

There is no income cap to qualify for financial help.
Coloradans of most income ranges are eligible for reduced premiums.

New Resource Available: Migrant Clinicians Network

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network



[Migrant Clinicians Network](#) (MCN) offers tools, resources, and health justice updates on their [Clinician-to-Clinician blog](#), which provides clinicians and community health and outreach workers who serve migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and other marginalized communities with useful information and support two to four times a week. Recent articles cover issues including cannabis workers' health risks, diabetes support for low-literacy Spanish speakers, practical tips for sustaining our work as clinicians during hard times, and long COVID and its impact on health care workers. To end the week, MCN publishes their Five on Friday edition, which features five health-related news articles you may have missed.

Visit the MCN website to view recent articles and subscribe to the blog in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Don't Miss the CHAMPS [Cross-Disciplinary Resources](#) including [Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and their Families \(MSFW\) Resources](#) and [Spanish Language Resources](#).

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

Coming Soon: New Virtual Events from Health Outreach Partners

Submitted by Aba Anison-Amoo, Health Outreach Partners



[Health Outreach Partners](#) (HOP), in collaboration with [Farmworker Justice](#), is hosting a participatory virtual webinar titled *Approaches to Mental Health Care for Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers*. This event will take place on Tuesday, December 5 at 11:00 AM MT / 12:00 PM CT.

The session will begin with an overview of mental health disorders and how outreach and enabling services can provide trauma-informed care to screen and support mental health in Migrant, Seasonal, and Agricultural workers (MSAWs). Other topics to be discussed include how trauma affects the MSAW population and strategies for the implementation of a trauma-informed approach. The webinar will also include opportunities for participating health centers to share their experiences, challenges, and successes when conducting outreach and treating behavioral health conditions among agricultural workers. Participants will be joined by guest speaker Dr. Javier Rosado, Clinical Associate Professor at Florida State University College of Medicine and Director of Clinical Research for the FSU Center for Child Stress and Mental Health. Dr. Rosado brings experience working in Primary Care settings and serving children from Latino MSAW families.

The second event, a virtual learning collaborative titled *Nurturing a Culture of Self-Care: Strategies for Enhancing Organization Wellness*, will take place over the course of four Wednesdays in January and February: January 17, January 31, February 14, and February 28, 2024, beginning at 12:00 PM MT / 1:00 PM CT.

These first four sessions constitute the first year of this three-year series. This year's sessions will focus on exploring and developing effective strategies for establishing self-care at the workplace using HOP's Organizational Self-Care Assessment Tool to address stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue. Participants will learn to create an environment of self-care that encourages personal growth and organizational success, develop healthy habits for maintaining balance, and build a culture where employees feel supported and empowered.

To learn more and register for HOP/Farmworker Justice webinar, please visit this [registration](#) webpage.

For more information and to register for the Nurturing a Culture of Self-Care learning collaborative, please visit this [registration](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

OSVs No Longer Require FTCA Assessment

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) recently discontinued the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) assessment in the [FTCA Deeming Requirements](#) section of the Site Visit Protocol (SVP). During On-Site Visits (OSV), health centers will no longer need to provide documentation related to the FTCA assessment. All FTCA-deemed health centers must continue to comply with FTCA program requirements. Compliance will continue to be assessed through the FTCA deeming and re-deeming process as well as through FTCA-specific site visits.

For more information about the updated protocol, visit the HRSA [Federal Tort Claims Act](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA 2023 CHQR Badges: Region VIII Awardees

Beginning in 2021, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) has recognized health center program awardees and look-alikes annually for notable achievements through its Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) program. Health centers can be awarded a variety of badges in the areas of access, quality, health equity, health information technology, social risk factors screening, and COVID-19 public health response. Awardees are determined using Uniform Data System (UDS) data from the most recent reporting period.



For 2023, 47 Region VIII health centers, including two look-alikes, were awarded at least one CHQR badge. Two Region VIII health centers were recognized as National Quality Leaders for certain clinical quality areas. [Salud Family Health](#) (CO) was recognized as a National Quality Leader in heart health and [Marias Healthcare Services, Inc.](#) (MT) received two National Quality Leader awards for diabetes health and heart health; Marias is one of six health centers nationwide to receive an award for diabetes health. **Congratulations to all health centers that earned a CHQR badge this year!**

To learn more about the CHQR badges and the recipients, please visit HRSA's [Community Health Quality Recognition Dashboard](#).

Training on HRSA's Community-Based Grant Programs

Submitted by Nick Zucconi, Health Resources and Services Administration

The [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) Region VIII Office](#), based in Denver, CO, is offering training about HRSA's community-based grant programs to provide community-based organizations with succinct descriptions of HRSA's 15-20 community-based grant programs and enable organizations to assess which grant programs are aligned with their strategic goals and aspirations. The training familiarizes attendees with each grant program's core elements and key expectations to address in the grant application, amount and duration of funding, and approximate release dates. Grant programs from HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Bureau of Health Workforce, and Bureau of HIV/AIDS will be covered. The training can be provided virtually or in-person and is completed in 90 minutes or less.

For more information, please contact Nick Zucconi at nzucconi@hrsa.gov.

Coming Soon: Actions to Provide Support to LGBTQI+ Youth Webinar

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Network](#) (SAMHSA) is collaborating with [GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality](#) (GLMA) to co-host a virtual webinar titled *Moving Beyond Change: Evidence and Action to Support and Affirm LGBTQI+ Youth*. This free event will take place on Monday, December 11 at 11:00 AM MT / 12:00 PM CT. This session will feature three speakers who bring their expertise in clinical psychology, substance abuse, and policy, all viewed through an LGBTQ+ lens. A large focus will be placed on providing attendees with actionable training based on GLMA's [Moving Beyond Change](#) curriculum.

To learn more and register for this event, please visit the [registration](#) webpage.

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII – Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications
[Health Equity Digest](#) [Monthly JOB Email](#) [MPCN Minute](#) [Quarterly Newsletter](#) [Workforce Focus](#)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Medicare Finalizes New Reimbursement Opportunities for FQHCs

In early November, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) released two final regulations with significant, positive implications for [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#) (FQHCs). These regulations finalized seven new reimbursement opportunities for FQHCs that were proposed or discussed in proposed rules issued this summer, and that go into effect on January 1, 2024:

1. Coverage for services provided by **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists** (MFTs) and **Mental Health Counselors** (MHCs) at the same rates as other “core” providers (e.g., physicians).
2. Coverage for **Intensive Outpatient Program** (IOP) services - a new category of behavioral health services that are less intensive than a partial hospitalization program but more intensive than once-or-twice-weekly appointments; reimbursement will be at a per-diem rate of around \$284.
3. **Remote Physiological Monitoring.**
4. **Remote Therapeutic Monitoring.**
5. **Community Health Integration** - services that address a patient’s SDOH needs that limit a provider’s ability to diagnose or treat an issue; these services can be provided by Community Health Workers.
6. **Principal Illness Navigation** - services that address SDOHs that impact a person’s ability to cope with a serious illness.
7. **SDOH Risk Assessment** - this service is only reimbursable if provided during a patient’s Annual Wellness Visit by the practitioner conducting the visit.

To learn more, please visit the Federal Register’s [informational](#) webpage.

NACHC 2023 Awards of Excellence Honors Region VIII Awardee

Each year, the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) uses Awards of Excellence to recognize individuals in the Community Health Center Movement who are innovators in health care delivery, set higher standards for patient care and quality, and have demonstrated leadership and advocacy that advances community health needs. This year, the list of awardees included a member of the Region VIII health center community. Mark Wallace, MD, MPH, Chief Clinical Officer of [Sunrise Community Health](#) (CO), was awarded the Samuel U. Rodgers, MD Achievement Award. This award was established in honor of the late Dr. Samuel U. Rodgers, a health care provider, community activist, and national leader in health and civil rights. Recipients of this award are distinguished primary care clinicians who exemplify excellence in clinical practice and leadership at the local, state, or national level. In his acceptance remarks, Mark stated, “I was drawn early on to the heart and soul of health care, which is embodied in the work and spirit of community health centers. The incredible foundational work of early leaders of the movement across the country, like Dr. Rodgers, made it possible for this child of the ‘60s to have so many opportunities in the ‘80s after finishing my residency in family medicine in Los Angeles.” **Congratulations, Mark!**

To learn more about this year’s recipients, view the NACHC [press release](#).

Call for Nominations: NACHC 2024 Migrant Health Awards

Each year, the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) awards individuals for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the migrant health field. The 2024 NACHC Migrant Health Awards will be presented during the [NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#) to be held April 23-25, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. NACHC invites you to nominate migrant health centers, migrant health center board members and staff, or public officials whose individual accomplishments best exemplify excellence in migrant health care and contribute to the health center mission.

To submit a nomination (due January 15, 2024), please fill out the NACHC [nomination form](#).

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

John Santistevan Re-Elected NACHC Treasurer



Congratulations to John Santistevan for his re-election to the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) Executive Committee as Treasurer. John is the President and CEO of [Salud Family Health](#) (CO) and he also serves as the President of CHAMPS, and as a Board Member for a variety of other organizations, including the National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH), Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN), and Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN). The election occurred at the NACHC House of Delegates during the Community Health Institute (CHI) on August 27, 2023; NACHC Executive Committee terms are two years.

To learn more about the NACHC Executive Committee, visit the NACHC [Leadership](#) webpage.

New Resources Available: The Information Blocking Rule

Submitted by Caitlin Tricomi, HITEQ Center

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) 21st Century Cures Act Information Blocking Rule prohibits covered actors, including health care providers, health IT developers of certified health IT, and health information exchanges and networks, from engaging in practices likely to interfere with, prevent, or materially discourage access, exchange, or use of electronic health information (EHI). The rule aims to improve patients' access to their health data and promote interoperability between healthcare providers.

The HITEQ Center has developed several resources that provide more information on the Information Blocking Rule:

- ★ [Navigating Compliance Challenges with the Information Blocking Rule: A Collection of Case Studies](#)
- ★ [Health Center Guidelines for Implementing FHIR and the Information Blocking Rule](#)
- ★ [FAQ: How can health centers comply with both 42 CFR Part 2 and the Information Blocking Rule?](#)
- ★ [FAQ: How will the upcoming changes to the Information Blocking Rule and EHR certification requirements impact health centers?](#)

To learn more about the HITEQ Center, a National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP), please visit the HITEQ [website](#).

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Complete Health: ['Anyone can come through our doors': Complete Health rebrands to reflect its diverse care for all](#) (*Rapid City Journal, October 2023*)
- ★ Green River Medical Center: [Green River Medical Center receives Utah Million Hearts Award](#) (*ETV News, September 2023*)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Missoula school district and Partnership Health Center unite to tackle youth mental health crisis](#) (*NBC Montana, October 2023*)
- ★ Southwest Montana Community Health Center: [Southwest Montana Community Health Center offers school-based clinic in Butte](#) (*KXLF, September 2023*)
- ★ STRIDE Community Health Center: [Concientizacion y accion: mujeres Latinas y la prevencion del cancer de mama – Awareness and action: Latina women and breast cancer prevention](#) (*Telemundo Denver, October 2023*)
- ★ Summit Community Care Clinic: [Summit Community Care Clinic expands services in Summit, Lake, and Park counties](#) (*SummitDaily, October 2023*)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

National Funding Opportunities & Closing Dates

- ★ [National Rural Health Policy, Community, and Collaboration Program](#) (December 14, 2023)
- ★ [Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health](#) (December 15, 2023)
- ★ [Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project](#) (December 29, 2023)
- ★ [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) (January 26, 2024)
- ★ [Regional AIDS Education and Training Centers](#) (February 5, 2024)
- ★ [Rural Residency Planning and Development Program](#) (February 12, 2024)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2023

[Farmworker Justice & HOP: Approaches to Mental Health Care for Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Workers Webinar](#)

December 5

[HRSA 2023-2024 National Health Center Preparedness & Response Forum: Natural Disasters](#)

December 14

[CHAMPS Maternal Health Learning Series: The Role of Health Centers in Addressing Maternity Care Deserts](#)

December 14

[Poverty, Housing, & Stigma: The Profound Effects of the Social Determinants of Health on Addiction Management Webinar](#)

December 18

January 2024

[CHAMPS Awards Ceremony & Annual Board Meeting](#)

January 22

February 2024

[HRSA 2023-2024 National Health Center Preparedness & Response Forum: Heat & Wildfires](#)

February 8

[NACHC Policy & Issues Forum](#)

February 12-15

Looking Ahead

[HRSA 2023-2024 National Health Center Preparedness & Response Forum: Workforce & Community Supports](#)

April 11, 2024

[NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#)

April 23-25, 2024

[ACU STAR2 Center Workforce Symposium](#)

April 29-30, 2024

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

April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

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