



2025 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Emerging Star Award

**Marisa Borchardt, DMD, Chief Dental Director
River Valley Family Health Centers, CO**

Dr. Marisa Borchardt joined River Valley Family Health Centers in 2022 to serve the oral health needs of rural Western Colorado. In the past year, she was promoted from dentist to Chief Dental Director, reflecting her dedication to high-quality care, strong leadership, and commitment to the Community Health Center (CHC) mission.

Dr. Borchardt strengthened River Valley's dental team by hiring a dentist, a dental hygienist, and a dental assistant, while maintaining exceptional team retention. She also partnered with the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine to host River Valley's first dental student, helping to grow the clinic's workforce and support the development of future CHC dental providers. Dr. Borchardt actively fosters collaboration among CHC dental leaders across Colorado, particularly on the Western Slope. These connections have enhanced peer support and inspired innovative strategies to improve patient care regionally.

In her role as dental director, Dr. Borchardt expanded her leadership responsibilities while continuing to care for patients. She implemented consistent policies and procedures across clinics to ensure quality and efficiency. A colleague noted, "Marisa's greatest leadership strength is leading by example. She is amazing at this, always setting an excellent example. She also encourages those around her and has a quiet, natural leadership style."

When community water fluoridation in Hotchkiss, Colorado was at risk, Dr. Borchardt joined other River Valley providers at a city council meeting to advocate for its benefits. Their testimony contributed to the town's decision to continue fluoridation. Not only does Dr. Borchardt provide excellent clinical care, but she also goes above and beyond to promote health and wellbeing throughout the community.

Dr. Borchardt is deeply committed to providing exceptional dental care to every patient. She recognizes the importance of making health care accessible and ensuring it is delivered with cultural humility and respect.

For her outstanding contributions to advancing high-quality dental care and strengthening the CHC workforce, we are pleased to present Dr. Marisa Borchardt with the CHAMPS Emerging Star Award.