



Fall 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

Published December 2022

Virtual 2022 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 achievements, leadership, and contributions to their health centers and communities.

The virtual 2022 CHAMPS Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 7 at 12:00 PM MT/1:00 PM CT. Attendees will learn more about:

- ★ A Board Member who exhibits a strong belief in the value of service to her community.
- ★ A Chief Dental Officer who advances care through partnerships, interprofessional mentorship, and recruitment and retention efforts.
- ★ A Chief Executive Officer who is motivated by providing access to the highest quality care with vision and innovation.
- ★ A Community Health Advocate who exemplifies the spirit of service both personally and professionally.
- ★ A Policy Leader known for her dedication and work with state legislatures to advance community health.
- ★ An Executive Director who is recognized for her ability to innovate and inspire, facilitating change locally and across her state.

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 senior Bureau of Primary Health Care ([BPHC](#)) leadership and Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, Interim 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 2022 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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2022 Fall Primary Care Conference Highlights

The [2022 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference](#) was held October 15-18 in Denver, CO. Attendees participated in both virtual and in-person sessions, and it was a time of joyous reunions and reconnecting. This year's theme, "The Power of Together" honored the 25th anniversary of the CHAMPS and NWRPCA Fall Conference partnership as well as the overall comradery and collaboration of Region VIII and Region X (Region 18).



With over 70 sessions across nine tracks, two plenaries, and seven roundtables, attendees were able to learn from a variety of clinicians, board members, and administrative staff from health centers, Primary Care Associations, governmental offices, and related organizations in Regions VIII and X and across the country.

The Opening Plenary speakers included Lily Griego, the Region VIII Regional Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Jim Macrae, the Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC); and Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, the Interim CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). During the CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Conference 25th Anniversary Plenary Luncheon, comedian Nurse Nancy Norton reminded all that sometimes the best way to heal and connect is to laugh. The lunch plenary included a slide show of images of past Fall Conferences to celebrate the CHAMPS/NWRPCA partnership and highlight the theme of "The Power of Together." The night before the conference concluded, there was a Networking Reception and Raffle with Exhibitors where attendees were given the chance to win prizes and say their farewells until the 2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Conference in Seattle, WA.

Overall, the 2022 [CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference](#) was a great success! Thank you to all the participants, presenters, and CHAMPS and NWRPCA staff for making the event so special.



To review 2022 Fall Conference highlights, educational and networking sessions, and reimbursement opportunities, visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

All 2022 Fall Conference attendees have access to session and event recordings and handouts in the [NWRPCA Learning Vault](#).

The **2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference** will be held in Seattle, WA, October 21-24, 2023. Visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage for more information coming in spring 2023.

John Santistevan: Two Days of Celebration

[John Santistevan](#), the President of CHAMPS and President and CEO of Salud Family Health, has been recognized for his leadership, service, and ability to adapt quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared September 26th "John Santistevan Day" for the entirety of Colorado. In addition, the Board of Commissioners in Adams County, Colorado named October 25th "John Santistevan Day" in Adams County. Congratulations to John Santistevan for this well-deserved recognition.



To learn more about John Santistevan, please visit the [Salud Family Health](#) website.

Region VIII 2021 BPHC UDS Summary

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, in-person and virtual visits, income, and patients, as well as trends for medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health productivity, factors impacting financial trends, and performance on 13 clinical measures. The full [2021 Region VIII BPHC UDS Summary](#) is now available, along with a two-page [2021 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet](#). A two-page infographic focusing on Health Professions Education and Training in health centers in 2021 will be released in the coming months.

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

Meet the New CHAMPS Coordinator

CHAMPS is pleased to announce the addition of a new [staff member](#), **Courtney Howell**. Courtney Howell joined the CHAMPS team in October 2022. In her role, she is responsible for CHAMPS communications,



member support, and assisting with a variety of other CHAMPS activities. Courtney graduated from Lafayette College in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in International Affairs, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her studies, both nationally and internationally, brought her to Madagascar, Spain, and South Africa where she enjoyed learning about the different cultures. Previously, she worked as the Assistant Program Manager for Compass, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. After living on the east coast for her entire life, she moved to Denver in September of 2021. In her free time, Courtney enjoys volunteering, rock climbing, skiing, hiking, camping, and exploring Denver and the surrounding areas.

Courtney can be contacted via email at Courtney@CHAMPSonline.org.

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII

Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications

[Health Equity Digest](#) [Monthly JOB Email](#) [MPCN Minute](#)
[Quarterly Newsletter](#) [Wellbeing Bulletin](#) [Workforce Focus](#)

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](#).

Now Available: 2022 Region VIII Health Center Salary & Benefits Survey Report



In October 2022, CHAMPS released the [2022 Region VIII Health Center Salary & Benefits Survey Report](#). Fifty Region VIII health centers participated in this year's survey, representing 78% of all health centers in the region, and providing data for over 9,100 employees. This report includes compensation-

related information such as salary and benefits data breakdowns based on a variety of measures, average base salaries for every title, and much more. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) and non-members providing data for the project have received the electronic version of this report. Copies of the printed report will be mailed to the same groups in early December. Organizational Members also have access to all current and previous salary survey reports in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (credentials required).

Selected Data Highlights:

- ★ Median salaries for director-level titles increased an average of 12.7% between 2020 and 2022.
- ★ 17.1% of reported employees earned some sort of bonus/incentive in 2022 (up from 10.3% in 2020).
- ★ 100% of participating health centers offered some contribution to the cost of Employee Health Insurance plans with 81% offering some contribution to the cost of a Dependent Health Insurance Plan.

Download the [Order Form](#) to purchase additional copies of the CHAMPS 2022 Region VIII Health Center Salary & Benefits Survey Report.

Questions? Contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

First Salary Survey Companion Report Addresses WF Metrics

CHAMPS recently published the [2022 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Metrics Report](#), the first of three companion reports to the [Salary & Benefits Survey Report](#). The Workforce Metrics Report provides an analysis of workforce-related benchmarks and trends, including a look at the use of recruiting firms and consultants, vacancy data for specific types of employees, the most challenging positions to recruit and retain, turnover rates and reasons, and more. Electronic copies of the report have been released to all [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) and to non-members that provided data for the project, and Organizational Members can access all salary survey reports in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (credentials required). Two additional companion reports addressing staffing ratios and provider productivity expectations will be released in early 2023.

Selected Data Highlights:

- ★ More than 50% of participants reported challenges recruiting Dental and Medical Assistants.
- ★ Almost 62% of participants reported challenges retaining Medical Assistants.
- ★ The Region VIII All Staff turnover rate increased to 30.8% in 2021, up from 23.5% in 2019.

Questions about the 2022 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Metrics Report? Please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Save the Dates: 2023 CORE Competencies Training



CHAMPS is excited to announce the dates for the [2023 CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training](#). The course will be held virtually over five Wednesday mornings, March 29 - April 26, 2023, with registration expected to open in January. This training is designed for all health center supervisors and managers and offers intensive, hands-on skill-building to successfully navigate the challenges of the health center environment.

For more information about CHAMPS health center supervisor and manager trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Have you heard about the [Region VIII Health Center Preferred Pricing Program \(PPP\) for Employment Screening Services](#)?

[CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) receive discounts of approximately 20-25% off regular rates from Screening One, a global background screening company.

Wrapping Up 2022 Next Level Skills Training

In September and October 2022, CHAMPS hosted the virtual [Beyond CORE Competencies: Next Level Skills for Health Center Supervisors and Managers](#) course with support from our Region VIII State Primary Care Association partners and facilitated by Lisa Mouscher of Sogence Training and Consulting. 50 participants representing 18 health centers from all six Region VIII states learned about behavioral interviewing, employee engagement, change management, engaging a diverse workforce, and managing conflict. One participant said, "She is the best at what she does, I have learned so much in this time. Lisa makes the classes interesting, and I loved how we could participate in all of the classes, she always gives us time to ask questions, share experiences, comments. It is amazing how much you can learn when you have a great teacher."

For more information about CHAMPS health center supervisor and manager trainings, please visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage.

Partnership Health Center Named Best Large Employer



[Partnership Health Center](#) (PHC), located in Missoula, MT, was recently awarded the [2022 Employer of Choice Award](#) by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. This award recognizes PHC for outstanding service to employees, community, and the state of Montana. The commissioner of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry said the following about PHC's award, "Offering competitive benefits and wages, fostering a positive workplace culture, and encouraging employee development and growth can all help employers build the workforce they need to meet their customers' needs. Congratulations to Partnership Health Center on earning recognition for their work in these areas."

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Join the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement Fall 2023 Cohort

Submitted by Stephanie Ivers Heine, Community Health Center, Inc.

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA), in partnership with Community Health Center, Inc., is currently inviting externship partners to join the Fall 2023 cohort and help shape the in-clinic experience for medical assistant (MA) students while increasing staff retention and strengthening community ties.

Why become a NIMAA externship organization?

- ★ NIMAA combines online learning with in-clinic experience to prepare students to successfully take the MA certification exam in only eight months.
- ★ NIMAA's unique educational model helps address a critical healthcare workforce shortage by making high-quality team-based MA training and careers accessible to residents of medically underserved communities.
- ★ Externship partners have successfully implemented the NIMAA program to upskill their employees as well as bring in community members as students and future employees.
- ★ NIMAA's model is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), indicating a high standard for academic rigor and a pathway to taking a national credentialing exam.
- ★ NIMAA's program has been successfully implemented within a variety of models, including the apprenticeship model.
- ★ NIMAA students can now apply for Federal Student Aid (including Pell Grants) and additional scholarship funding is also available for students in some states.



To learn more about how becoming a NIMAA externship partner can benefit your health center, email [Lori Nichols](mailto:Lori.Nichols). Important upcoming deadlines for the fall cohort include:



**Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association hiring?
Post your open positions on the free [CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#)!**

Openings are promoted at job fairs, and postings by [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) are highlighted in monthly emails to prospective employees. To add a new vacancy 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](#).

Now Available: Climate Change and Environmental Health Resources Webpage

In October 2022, CHAMPS published a new webpage to help Region VIII health centers stay informed about climate change, the role healthcare plays in addressing climate change, and how environmental factors impact patient health. The [Climate Change and Environmental Health Resources](#) webpage contains up-to-date fact sheets, reports, and statistics and resources addressing the role of health care in climate change as well as provider resources and information on plant-based diets.

To explore additional materials, please visit the CHAMPS [Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources](#) webpage.

Region VIII Health Center Featured in Ways and Means Committee Report

In September 2022, the U.S. House of Representative Ways and Means Committee released the [Healthcare and the Climate Crisis: Preparing America's Healthcare Infrastructure](#) Report detailing the role the U.S. health system plays in the climate crisis. [Pueblo Community Health Center](#) (CO) was featured for their new energy efficient clinic. The new facility has a 50% lower energy rate compared to the older clinic.



**Pueblo
Community
Health Center**

The full report and additional related resources can be found on the new CHAMPS [Climate Change and Environmental Health Resources](#) webpage.

Mountain/Plains Clinical Network Steering Committee Strategic Planning

On Monday, October 17, 2022, the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee met in Denver, CO to develop a new strategic plan which will provide the framework for the CHAMPS clinical and quality improvement programming for the next four years. The new strategic plan includes two goals. The first, Develop a Culture of Connectedness, focuses on improving advocacy and increasing joy in work. The second goal, Enhance Integrated, Team-based Care, focuses on promoting health center integration of behavioral health, oral health, and community health.

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network was developed to facilitate the professional, administrative, and educational development of all Region VIII health center providers to ensure the delivery of the highest quality of care, eliminate disparities, and increase access. A Steering Committee of Region VIII clinicians guides CHAMPS' clinical and quality improvement programs to ensure that they meet the needs and challenges of MPCN. The MPCN Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from each state in Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) and is currently looking for additional members.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit the CHAMPS [MPCN Steering Committee](#) webpage or contact the CHAMPS [Clinical Quality Improvement Director](#).

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 2023 in partnership with Denver Medical Society (DMS). Each training will provide Spanish language instruction from Ríos Associates for clinical staff at Region VIII health centers, and registration will open in January 2023.

The traditional Medical Spanish Language Course for Beginner and Intermediate Speakers will be held over four half-days: Thursday, April 13, Friday, April 14, Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21, 2023. CHAMPS will also host three two-day courses.

Spanish for Oral Health Providers will take place on Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11, 2023, and 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 17 and Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and targets psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers, addiction counselors, and other behavioral health personnel with intermediate to advanced Spanish language skills.

Finally, Medical Spanish for Advanced Spanish Speakers will take place on Monday, April 24 and Tuesday, April 25, 2023. 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 three-part Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)/CHAMPS 2022 Health Equity Learning Series is now archived and available for viewing. These events examine topics in health center equity and highlight a path towards accessible healthcare for all communities. Each speaker addressed a different topic to equip participants with actionable strategies so they are able to progress care for their patients.

Health Equity Learning Sessions:

- ★ [Racism in Healthcare: Why Does it Matter, and What is Mine to do?](#) presented by Nadia Ali, MPA and Mikayla Branz, MPH/MSW with [Integrated Work](#)
- ★ [JEDI! Burnout and Self Care](#) presented by Trent Norman and Moira Perez, Ph.D. with [Integrated Work](#)
- ★ [Creating Safe Spaces in Healthcare for LGBTQ+ People](#) presented by Patricia Jane Lose, RN, CNM, ANP with [STRIDE Community Health Center](#)

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

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

Open Enrollment Period and Health Insurance Marketplace

On November 1, 2022, the 2023 Federal Marketplace Open Enrollment Period began, allowing people to enroll, re-enroll, or change their 2023 health plan. They may do this through the Health Insurance Marketplace until December 15, 2022. Coverage can start as soon as January 1, 2023. Open Enrollment for Colorado, a State-Based Marketplace, is open from November 1, 2022, to January 15, 2023. 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.

For more information about the Open Enrollment Period and Health Insurance Marketplace, please visit www.healthcare.gov/quick-guide/dates-and-deadlines/.

For additional related resources, please visit the CHAMPS [Outreach & Enrollment/Healthcare Reform](#) webpage.

New Resources Available: The Migrant Clinicians Network

Submitted by Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network

[Migrant Clinicians Network](#) (MCN) releases new resources, webinars, and tools every month to support work in caring for the health needs of migrants, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Recently released materials include:

- ★ [Helping the Helpers](#): MCN's Witness to Witness comic book gives clinicians strategies for self-care when work and home are overwhelming. Available in English and Spanish.
- ★ [Failures of U.S. Health Care System for Pregnant Asylum Seekers](#) is a new MCN white paper uncovering the extreme obstacles that pregnant asylum seekers face to secure prenatal care, despite their legal presence in the U.S. Available in English and Spanish.
- ★ Climate change is strengthening disasters and amplifying inequities – help your community prepare! A bilingual curriculum, videos, print-ready resources like *Prepárate con Pedro* and *Ready 2 Help*, and other new MCN environmental education resources foster student and community engagement in disaster preparedness related to environmental protection and human health. Visit MCN's new [Environmental Education page](#) to access them all.



To hear about the newest resources (in English and/or Spanish), please visit the [Connect to MCN](#) webpage.

For more information about disparities, equity, and diversity in health care and workforce, visit the CHAMPS [Social Determinants of Health Resources](#), [Health Equity Resources](#), and [Pipeline Resources for Advancing Health Equity](#) webpages.

Providing resources, data, and support to Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations to assist in the response to the ongoing Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Learn more [here](#).

Bivalent COVID-19 Boosters

This summer the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) authorized and recommended Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for use as a booster dose. On October 12, 2022, the FDA and CDC expanded the authorization and recommendation of COVID-19 boosters to include children ages 5 through 11. These bivalent formulations of the vaccine are used as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. The bivalent vaccines, which are also referred to as “updated boosters,” contain two messenger RNA (mRNA) components of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, one of the original strains of SARS-CoV-2, and one in common with the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages of the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

For more information about the approval of Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines as boosters, please visit this FDA [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update](#) webpage.

Novavax Vaccine

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has created and distributed various COVID-19 vaccines to not only protect individuals but to also combat the different variants over time. In August 2022, the FDA approved the use of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for emergency purposes. The difference between the Novavax vaccine and existing mRNA and vector vaccines is while mRNA and vector vaccines inject a small amount of the COVID-19 virus to trigger the immune system, the Novavax vaccine prompts the body to produce antibodies and T-cell immune responses. The Novavax vaccine administers a spike protein and is a nanoparticle, therefore does not cause disease.

The Novavax vaccine has been approved, under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), as a primary series for individuals 12 and older, and a booster for those 18 and older. The 12 and up age group is recommended to get the two Novavax doses either three to eight weeks apart or, if the individual has had covid, three months from the initial covid symptoms or three months after a positive test. For adults, the Novavax vaccine may be administered as a booster six months after receiving their primary vaccination. If an adult chooses the Novavax vaccine as their primary dose, they are qualified for a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster two months after their first injection. This integration of this new technology has given individuals more flexibility and therefore provides the opportunity to choose.

For up-to-date vaccination information, please visit the CHAMPS [COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Resources](#) webpage.

CHAMPS Region VIII COVID-19 Data Infographics

CHAMPS has created [Region VIII Health Centers COVID-19 Monthly Snapshots](#) aggregating figures for Region VIII health centers as provided by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) surveys, starting in May 2022. These reports include the number of patients tested for COVID-19, number of COVID-19 Self-Test Kits distributed, number of COVID-19 vaccines administered, number of distinct centers that distributed antiviral medications to patients, percentage of centers that administered monoclonal antibody doses to patients, and total number of monoclonal antibody doses administered.

To view Region VIII Monthly Snapshots, please visit the CHAMPS [COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage.

The COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) will likely be extended through April 2023.

The self-imposed deadline for the Biden Administration to alert stakeholders if it does not intend to renew the COVID Public Health Emergency was Saturday, November 12. As no announcement was made by that date, it appears likely that the PHE will be renewed through early April 2023.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

Jim Macrae Honored with the 2022 Presidential Rank Award



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced [Jim Macrae](#) as the recipient of the 2022 [Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service](#), the highest honor in the Senior Executive Service. Jim Macrae has been the Associate Administrator for HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) since 2006. Jim Macrae is an influential and inspirational leader, whose mission is to make health care more equitable and accessible to all communities. His contributions to HRSA have proven to be invaluable and he is incredibly deserving of this award for his "sustained extraordinary accomplishment."

To learn more about Jim and his outstanding accomplishments, please visit the [HRSA](#) website.

Suzanne Smith Receives NACHC's Henry J. Fiumelli Award

On November 15, 2022 during the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Primary Care Association/Health Center Controlled Network (PCA/HHCN) Conference, Suzanne Smith, Director of Health Center Operations for Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), was honored with the Henry J. Fiumelli Award for her outstanding commitment to improving care and quality of life for health center patients in vulnerable and underserved communities. The award was started in 2008 in recognition of Henry Fiumelli, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Forum for Primary Health Care, and his invaluable assistance to the health center movement. Every year the award is given to an employee of a NACHC-chartered State or Regional Primary Care Association (S/RPCA).

Suzanne Smith's nomination statement can be found [here](#).

The Utah Medical Association Recognizes Dr. Sarah Woolsey

Dr. Sarah Woolsey, Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH) Medical Director, recently received The Deborah Robinson Memorial Award. The Women Physician's Section of the Utah Medical Association (UMA) grants this award annually to an individual with strong leadership skills who is an outstanding advocate and is passionate about the medical field. Deborah Robinson was a highly valued member in her community because of her work on women's health issues and overall accomplishments. The Deborah Robinson Memorial Reward represents her legacy and is a great honor.

To learn more about The Deborah Robinson Memorial Award and Dr. Sarah Woolsey, please visit the [AUCH](#) website.

HRSA Awards 2022 CHQR Badges

Beginning in 2021, for the 2020 Uniform Data System (UDS) reporting period, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) acknowledged health centers for their outstanding work by awarding Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) Badges. In late October 2022, health centers were once again recognized by HRSA with these CHQR badges. The chosen health centers exceeded expectations when expanding access to care, improving the quality of care, prioritizing health equity, increasing health information technology, and COVID-19 public health emergency response within the 2021 UDS reporting period.

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

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

\$350 Million Initiative to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations

Health centers across the nation will receive \$350 million to increase distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to underserved populations in their communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the initiative in late November 2022 with the hopes of protecting vulnerable populations and aiding HRSA's 1,400 community health centers while highlighting the importance of these centers.

More information on the new initiative can be found in this HHS [Press Release](#).

NACHC Supports Health Center Governance

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) offers timely governing strategies to support health center boards of directors via the NACHC Health Center Governance Program. Visit the NACHC [Health Center Governance](#) webpage for trainings, online videos and modules, and other resources designed to ensure board members can address critical priorities and identify strategies for long-term health center success. Newly available resources include the short [Sliding Fee Discount Program: The Fundamentals for Health Center Boards](#) and [Tips for Health Center Boards for Evaluating the Sliding Fee Discount Program](#) videos.

Visit the [Community Health Center Board Resources](#) section of the CHAMPS website to explore additional resources supporting strong and effective governing structures.

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [HRSA FY 2023 Quality Improvement Fund – Maternal Health](#) (12/05/2022)
- ★ [HRSA-23-015 Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program](#) (12/12/2022)
- ★ [DOL Nursing Expansion Grants](#) (01/06/2023)
- ★ [FCC Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program](#) (01/09/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Ending the HIV Epidemic – Primary Care HIV Prevention](#) (01/17/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Overdose Response](#) (01/19/2023)
- ★ [HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Evaluation](#) (01/27/2023)
- ★ [HRSA-23-069 Autism SDAR](#) (02/13/2023)
- ★ [HRSA-23-068 Maternal and Child Health SDAR](#) (02/13/2023)

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Alluvion Health: [Alluvion Health is Expanding Services to Choteau](#) (3KRTV Great Falls, June 22)
- ★ Greater Valley Health Center: [Greater Valley Health Center Expands Services](#) (Flathead Beacon, July 18)
- ★ Helena Indian Alliance: [Helena Indian Alliance Celebrates Groundbreaking on New Addition](#) (KTVH News, August 12)
- ★ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Opens \\$46.5 Million Building in Denver](#) (The Denver Gazette, October 6)
- ★ STRIDE Community Health Center: [STRIDE Community Health Center Appoints Santos Vera as New CEO](#) (STRIDE Community Health Center, October 17)
- ★ Family HealthCare: [HHS Awards \\$2.1 Million to Fargo's Family Healthcare Center](#) (Kevin Cramer, U.S. Senator for North Dakota, November 16)
- ★ Pueblo Community Health Center: [Pueblo Community Health Center Wins Quality Award](#) (Pueblo Community Health Center, November 18)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [New Community Health Worker Program Launches in Missoula](#) (NBC Montana, November 20)
- ★ Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, Horizon Health Care, Inc.: [Health Care Open Enrollment Offers New, Affordable Options to South Dakota Families, Individuals](#) (Mitchell Republic, November 29)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2022

[Capital Link Decision Tree for Financing a Health Center Facility Webinar](#)

December 7

[CHAMPS Awards Ceremony](#)

December 7

[CHAMPS Annual Board of Directors Meeting](#)

December 7

[National Center for Medical Legal Partnership Using MLP to Address the Legal Needs Among Racial & Ethnic Minorities Living with HIV Webinar](#)

December 7

[NCFH How Health Centers Can Take Action to Prevents Type 2 Diabetes Webinar](#)

December 7

[NACHC The Nurse Antigone Webinar](#)

December 14

[AAPCHO/MHP Salud Culturally Appropriate Healthy Eating Educational Tool for Asian Americans: Filipino/a/x and Hmong Editions Webinar](#)

December 14

[HITEQ Cybersecurity Incident Response Planning for Health Centers Webinar](#)

December 14

[NCECE Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults Living in Public Housing Webinar](#)

December 14

[NACHC Growing Health Center Leaders Education Program Live Workshop](#)

December 14-15

[ACU STAR² Center Workforce Professional Development Series Webinar](#)

December 15

January 2023

[HITEQ UDS+ Implementation and Health IT Considerations: Office Hours – Session 2](#)

January 18

[ACU STAR² Center Workforce Professional Development Series](#)

January 19

[NACHC Starting with Success: Building & Enhancing Your Health Center Virtual Training](#)

January 25-26

[NCECE Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum](#)

January 27

Looking Forward

- ★ [CHAMPS Region VIII Health Care for the Homeless Collaborative](#) (February 15, 2023)
- ★ [NACHC Policy & Issues Forum](#) (March 8-11, 2023)
- ★ [CHAMPS CORE Competencies Training](#) (March 29-April 26, 2023)
- ★ [CHAMPS Spanish Language Trainings](#) (April 2023)
- ★ [NCFH Midwest Stream Forum](#) (April 24-26, 2023)
- ★ [NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#) (May 2-4, 2023)

Please contact Courtney@CHAMPSonline.org with questions or comments, to sign up to receive the newsletter, change your subscription email, or submit articles.

Newsletter Contributors: Jen Anderson, Kathryn King, Stephanie Ivers Heine, Courtney Howell, Julie Hulstein, Emily Krizmanich, Andrea Martin, Claire Hutkins Seda, Kristen Sergi

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