



Winter 2005 Newsletter

2005 Marks CHAMPS 20th Anniversary!

To celebrate two decades of programs, service and support for Region VIII Community Health Centers and Primary Care Associations, we're holding a **20th Anniversary Dinner** at the NACHC Policy & Issues Forum in Washington, DC. The event is planned for March 5th from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Buca di Beppo; invitations will be mailed soon. We hope to see you there!



Our New Look

To commemorate the occasion, we've created the above "CHAMPS 20th Anniversary Seal" which you will see on a variety of materials throughout the upcoming year. Also, be on the lookout for our newly redesigned and greatly improved website, to be unveiled soon. The web address will remain www.champsonline.org, although secondary page addresses will change. The site has been reorganized to make our wide variety of information easier to find, and enhanced with new resources and interactive features.

Welcome New CHAMPS Executive Committee Members

The 2004-2006 CHAMPS Executive Committee Members were elected at the CHAMPS Board Meeting in October in Salt Lake City, UT. Thanks to the following folks willing to give their time and expertise to make CHAMPS a strong and successful organization:

President: Pam Locken, Prairie Community Health
Vice-President: Dan Euell, Denver Health Community Health Services
Immediate Past President: Jerry Brasher, Salud Family Health Centers
Secretary: Denny Royal, Community Action Partnership of Natrona County
Treasurer: Kate Wilson, Cooperative Health Center
Utah Representative: Eligio G. White, Community Health Centers, Inc.
North Dakota Representative: Aaron Garman, MD,
Coal Country Community Health Center
Clinical Representatives: Jim McNeely, CFNP, Rural Health Care, Inc.
Keith Horwood, MD, Community Health Centers, Inc.

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Visit www.champsonline.org/execcomm.htm for Executive Committee contact information.

Region VIII NACHC Board of Directors Members

Five individuals from Region VIII CHCs have recently been elected to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Board of Directors. Congratulations to:



Lil Anderson, NACHC Secretary: Besides her involvement with NACHC, Lil is the Executive Director of Deering Community Health Center in Billings, Montana. She has been employed by a health center for 21 years, has lived in Montana for 57 years, and has worked in Region VIII for 29 years. She's been a CHAMPS member since its inception, served on its Executive Committee for eight years, acting as President in 1990 and 1991.

Jerry Brasher: Jerry is the Executive Director of Salud Family Health Centers in Fort Lupton, Colorado. He has been living and working in Region VIII for 30 years, at a health center the entire time. A charter member of CHAMPS, Jerry has served as Treasurer and President, and is currently serving as Immediate Past President.

Paul Melinkovich, MD: Dr. Melinkovich is the Medical Director at Denver Community Health Services in Denver, Colorado. During his 27 years living and working at a health center in Region VIII, Paul was the chair of the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee for two years, and a member of the CHAMPS Executive Committee for the same period.

Lewis Reyes: Lewis has served on the Board of Directors for Clinica Campesina Family Health Services in Lafayette, Colorado, for the past twelve years. He has been active in Region VIII and CHAMPS for six years, and has been the Consumer Board Representative for Region VIII on the NACHC BOD since December 2003. He has also been a member of NACHC's Consumer Board/Member Committee, Credentials Committee, and Membership Committee.

Eligio White, NACHC Treasurer: Eligio is the Executive Director of Community Health Centers, Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah. Before his recent eight years with CHC, Inc., Eligio worked in the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center for four years and at Family Health Services for three years. While he has lived in Region VIII for the past eight years, he spent another seven years working for the Utah Migrant Council in the 1970's. Eligio is currently the Utah Representative on the CHAMPS Executive Committee.

Will These Government Proposals Effect You?

Recent IRS Proposals for 2006 and 2007

The IRS has published proposed regulations which would require e-filing for some tax-exempt organizations. These proposals use two criteria for determining which organizations must e-file: the number of returns the organization files with the IRS each year, and the asset size of that organization. Only organizations filing 250 or more returns each year would be affected. The IRS is accepting public comments until February 28, 2005. For more information and to comment through the IRS website, visit www.irs.gov/taxpros/article/0,,id=132756,,00.html and scroll down to "Returns Required on Magnetic Media".

"Medical Errors and Technology", Talk of the Nation, National Public Radio

During his 2005 State of the Union address, President Bush called for "improved medical technology to prevent medical error and needless costs." A week earlier President Bush had suggested that every American have an electronic medical record in ten years. Listen to an audio recording of three doctors discussing the pros and cons of moving to electronic health record technology by visiting www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4486530.

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

Salary Survey Results Coming Soon



The Region VIII Primary Care Associations (AUCH, CCHN, CHAD, MPCA and WYPCA) worked together with CHAMPS in 2004 to gather salary survey data from CHCs throughout the region. Twenty-nine organizations responded, encompassing over 100 different CHC satellite sites in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The data is being compiled and the report will be available in March 2005. This report will be provided to all organizations that participated in the survey as well as to CHAMPS Organizational Members.

Recruitment & Retention Survey Results

Remember, the results for the 2004 Recruitment & Retention Survey are currently available on the CHAMPS website. If you're interested in this report of demographics and motivators for CHC staff in Region VIII, you can download a copy by following this link: www.champsonline.org/RV11IRRSurvey1104/RV11IRRSurvey1104.pdf. This is a PDF document, read by Adobe Reader. If necessary, download a free copy of Reader on the Adobe website: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html.

CHAMPS Webcasts

UPCOMING WEBCAST

Customers Only Want Two Things! *Delivering Exceptional Customer Service*

Presented by Kevin R. Miller, President, VisionBound International

Tuesday, February 9, 2005; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (MST)

Target Participants: CHC clinical and non-clinical staff

Topics Covered: Exceptional Customer Service Principles;
Impact of Customer Service on Client Satisfaction and Well-Being;
Impact of Internal Customer Service on Staff Morale and Retention



To obtain registration information for an upcoming webcast, send an e-mail with your full name and phone number to Webcast@champsonline.org or call (303) 861-5165 x285.

ARCHIVED WEBCASTS

- **Employment Law**, presented by Jim Miles, Esq.; available through March 2005
- **Intermediate Billing and Coding**, presented by Maureen Hong, PA, FNP, MHA; available through March 2005
- **Health Center Preparedness for Emerging Infections and Bioterrorism**, presented by Adi Gundlapalli, MD, PhD; available through May 2005
- **Signs and Symptoms of Oral and Oral Pharyngeal Cancer**, presented by John McDowell, DDS; available through July 2005
- **Electronic Medical Records for Community Health Center Clinical Practice**, presented by Chris Tonozzi, MD; available through September 2005
- **Acute Otitis Media**, presented by Peggy Kelley, MD; available through October 2005

Visit www.champsonline.org/aw.htm for information about archived webcasts.

FUTURE WEBCAST TOPICS

Is there something you would like to learn more about? CHAMPS will be offering more webcasts during 2005, and we'd love to know what you need. If you have any suggested webcast topics or presenters, please contact andrea@championline.org.

Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP) Deadline

NELRP helps healthcare sites recruit and retain registered nurses by repaying a portion of their professional education loans in exchange for two years of service in a critical shortage facility. Application and guidance information can be found on the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) website, <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/loanrepay.htm>. ***This year's application deadline is February 25, 2005.***

HEALTH DISPARITIES COLLABORATIVES (HDC) NEWS

Excelling in patient self-management, clinical decision support, positive delivery system redesign, clinical information systems, and strong partnerships with local and community organizations in order to delay or decrease the complications of chronic diseases

2005 HDC Participant Highlights

Congratulations Region VIII Health Disparities Collaborative Health Center Teams! Some of the Region VIII accomplishments to date include:

- Over 90% of Region VIII Community Health Centers have participated (or are currently participating) in the Health Disparities Collaboratives
- Nine Region VIII Health Center participants in this year's round of Collaboratives (HDC2005)
- 100% of Region VIII Phase 2 Teams have successfully spread their efforts to additional patient populations, providers, sites, or conditions
- Over 24,000 Region VIII patients in the Diabetes, Cardiovascular, Depression, and Asthma registries
- Over 35,000 Region VIII patients in the Cancer registry

Also, two Region VIII Community Health Centers have been chosen to participate in the ***IHI Planned Care Innovation Community***, sponsored by the Bureau of Primary Health Care. **Denver Health and Hospitals Community Health Services Program** in Denver, CO, and **Family HealthCare Center** in Fargo, ND will participate in this 10 month project to explore new designs and novel solutions to improve care where best practices do not already exist or are not fully developed.

The CHAMPS Health Disparities Collaborative Staff thanks you for all of your hard work!

Looking Forward

- ⇒ HDC 2005 Kickoff (Learning Session 1) has been rescheduled to February 10-13, 2005 at the Marriott Anaheim in Anaheim, California.
- ⇒ The HDC 2005 Learning Session 2 will be held May 12-15, 2005. The location of this session has not yet been determined.

Visit www.healthdisparities.net for more information about both of these events.

MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians that practice in community, migrant and homeless health centers and NHSC sites in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to poor and underserved populations

MPCN Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting



The MPCN Steering Committee will be holding a strategic planning meeting in the spring to plan the CHAMPS clinical programs. All clinicians will be asked to complete a short questionnaire in order to assure that the clinical programs offered by MPCN meet the needs of clinicians practicing in Region VIII. Clinicians will be receiving an e-mail with a link to this questionnaire, which will take approximately five minutes to complete. Ten lucky questionnaire respondents will receive a CHAMPS thermal mug. So, tell your colleagues and watch your e-mail inbox!

MPCN Steering Committee Vacancies

Mountain/Plains Clinical Network is seeking new Steering Committee members. If you are a medical clinician from Colorado, Wyoming or North Dakota, a health promotion/disease prevention specialist, or a Dentist and are interested in possibly becoming an MPCN Steering Committee member, please contact gina@champsonline.org. Serving on the MPCN Steering Committee provides a great opportunity to guide the clinical activities of the Regional Primary Care Association and Clinical Network. To link to a list of current MPCN Steering Committee members, click here: www.champsonline.org/strcmem.htm.

Possible Spanish Language Training

Are you interested in intensive Spanish language training? If so, CHAMPS wants to hear from you! We are considering holding a 3.5 day Spanish training for health care professionals in late spring 2005. Please e-mail gina@champsonline.org if you are interested, and indicate whether you would prefer the beginning or intermediate level.



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Quit Smoking Initiative

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson has announced a series of initiatives designed to help Americans quit smoking. The initiatives include a new national quitline number (1-800-QUITNOW) that puts users in touch with programs that can help them give up tobacco. A new HHS Web site, www.smokefree.gov, offers online advice and downloadable information to make cessation easier.

New Dietary Guidelines



The US Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) have released the 6th edition of the federal government's science-based advice to promote health and reduce risk of chronic diseases through nutrition and physical activity. "Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005" has a greater emphasis on lowering calorie consumption and increasing physical activity than previous editions. The report includes consumer materials and a web site to assist the general public in understanding the scientific language of the guidelines and the key points that they can apply in their lives. To access the report go to www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines/.

2005 – Year of the Healthy Child



US Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona has declared 2005 the Year of the Healthy Child, with a goal to focus on improving the body, mind, and spirit of the growing child. Understanding that a healthy child begins before birth, Dr. Carmona introduced the initiative with Folic Acid Awareness Week on January 24th. For more information about this latest recommendation, visit www.surgeongeneral.gov.

Health Care for the Homeless Week "Saving Lives, Building Community"

March 21-26, 2005 has been designated "Health Care for the Homeless Week" by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. The council seeks to build support for local HCH projects, enhance public knowledge about the critical link between health and homelessness, and strengthen the will of communities to resolve homelessness and reform the health care system. For more details and HCH Week materials visit www.nhchc.org.

Need Data?

Did you know that Federally-Funded Health Centers in Region VIII served an average of 4.7% of the total population of each state in 2004, and 26% of the low income and uninsured populations within each state? This information and other interesting statistics can be found in the NACHC 2004 Access to Community Health Databook. Access this data online at www.nachc.com/research/ssbysdat.asp.

Here are some other interesting data links:

- <http://statehealthfacts.org>: New data on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), including the total number of patients and patient visits for each state and the nation as a whole.
- www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars: Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), recently updated with 2002 mortality data.
- www.4woman.gov: Women's health statistics available by gender, race, ethnicity, and age.

UPCOMING EVENTS

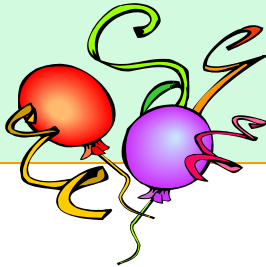
Mark Your Calendars

February

Wednesday, Feb. 9th
"Customers Only Want Two Things!"
CHAMPS Live Webcast
www.champsonline.org/ulw

Thursday, Feb. 10th – Sunday, Feb. 13th
HDC 2005 Learning Session I
Anaheim, CA
www.healthdisparities.net

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March

Thursday, March 3rd – Saturday, March 5th
How to Write Successful Section 330 Applications
Washington, DC
www.nachc.com

Friday, March 4th – Wednesday, March 9th
NACHC Policy & Issues Forum
Washington, DC
www.nachc.com

Tuesday, March 8th – Thursday, March 10th
Dakota Conference on Rural & Public Health
Bismarck, ND
www.bismarckstate.edu/cce/ruralhealth/

Looking Forward

NACHC Community Health Institute
September 18-20, 2005
Miami Beach, FL

CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference
October 22-26, 2005
Seattle, WA

CONTACT US

Julie Hulstein, Executive Director; julie@champsonline.org, 303-861-5165 x226
Gina Astorino, Clinical Programs Director; gina@champsonline.org, 303-861-5165 x225
Andrea Miller, Workforce Development and Member Services Coordinator,
andrea@champsonline.org, 303-861-5165 x285
Darcí Martinez, Program Assistant, darcí@champsonline.org, 303-861-5165 x255
Dan Martin, Collaborative Data Management and Technical Support Specialist;
dan@champsonline.org, 303-861-5165 x229