



Spring 2023 Quarterly Newsletter

Published May 2023

Now Open: 2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference Call for Abstracts

The [2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Primary Care Conference](#) will be held in Seattle, WA October 21-24, and include networking events, multiple tracks of educational sessions, prominent keynote speakers, and exhibiting/sponsorship opportunities. CHAMPS and [Northwest Regional Primary Care Association \(NWRPCA\)](#) are accepting abstracts through Monday, June 19th for potential conference sessions.



Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate knowledge in current programs, practices, and/or policies related to health centers and primary care, and plan to connect with the audience in creative and engaging ways. Tracks will include Clinical, Fiscal, Governance, Healthy Communities, Human Resources and Workforce, Hot Topics, Leadership, Operations, and Policy.

Interested in submitting an abstract? Review a list of [Potential Abstract Topics](#) and learn more on the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

Explore Highlights from the 2022 Annual Primary Care Conference
on the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

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2022-2023 CHAMPS Membership Year in Review

From April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 CHAMPS:

Offered over 190 hours of [Learning Opportunities](#) and awarded over 1,000 hours of continuing education credit to over 1,600 participants:

- The [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) with more than 60 educational sessions and events addressing clinical and care innovations, fiscal optimization, governance essentials, healthy communities, hot topics, HR/workforce, leadership, operational excellence, and policy
- 9 Training Intensives on diabetes management, Spanish language, and supervisor/manager skills
- 2 Learning Collaboratives with 8 total sessions addressing resiliency and care for persons experiencing homelessness
- 8 [Webcasts](#) and 3 [Podcasts](#) addressing clinical/quality, health equity, and workforce topics

Supported Health Equity efforts through resources, trainings, and communications:

- 2 Healthcare for the Homeless Learning Collaborative sessions
- 3 Webcasts addressing racism in healthcare, burnout and self-care, and care for LGBTQ+ people
- 4 [Health Equity Digests](#)
- New online [Indigenous Health](#) and [LGBT Adolescent and Mental Health](#) Resources

Addressed Workforce needs through promotion of health center career opportunities and additional data, online resources, and communications:

- 562 positions advertised via the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#)
- 690+ job seekers received monthly JOB Highlights Emails
- 4 Recruitment events targeting nursing students, social work students, and more
- 2 [CHC Supervisor/Manager](#) courses
- 6 Webcasts and Podcasts addressing strategic workforce planning, salary/benefits data and workforce metrics, and community health workers
- 4 [Workforce Focus e-Bulletins](#)
- Release of the 2022 Health Center [Salary & Benefits Report](#) and [Clinical Staffing, Provider Productivity Expectations, and Workforce Metrics Reports](#)
- Released annual [Job Opportunities Bank Data Comparison Report and Infographic](#)
- Enhanced the online [Sample Health Center Job Descriptions](#)

Maintained and enhanced the [CHAMPS Website](#), a vital resource for staff and board members of Region VIII health centers:

- 180+ total pages of information addressing [CHAMPS and the Health Center Movement](#); [Events and Trainings](#); [Health Center Board, Clinical, Quality Improvement, Recruitment and Retention](#), and [Cross-Disciplinary Resources](#); and more
- 8 new and enhanced webpages

Provided professional administrative and education support to clinicians through the [Mountain/Plains Clinical Network](#) (MPCN):

- 5 [Resiliency Collaborative](#) sessions
- 4 [Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals](#) courses targeting medical, oral, and behavioral health providers
- 2 Live Your Best Life (with Diabetes) Train-the-Trainer courses
- 2 Webcasts addressing immunizations and chronic disease management
- 4 [MPCN Minute e-Bulletins](#)
- New online [Suicide Prevention](#) and [Care Coordination](#) Resources
- Updated online [Patient Education Tools](#)
- Guided by the [MPCN Steering Committee](#)

Published additional cross-disciplinary [Region-Wide Data, Trends, and Communications](#) to assist with future planning and facilitation of best practices:

- 4 CHAMPS Board of Directors Digests
- 4 [CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletters](#)
- 5 [CHAMPS Wellbeing e-Bulletins](#)
- Annual Region VIII CHC T/TA Needs Assessment
- [BPHC UDS Summary](#), [Fact Sheet](#), and [Workforce Infographic](#)
- [COVID-19 Monthly Snapshots](#)
- Demographics, Health Behaviors, Mortality, and Women's Health [Data Summaries](#)
- [CHAMPS LinkedIn Company Page](#)

The 2023-2024 CHAMPS Membership Year began on April 1, 2023. CHAMPS has accomplished a lot in the first two months of the new Membership Year, keep reading to learn about CHAMPS updates!

CHAMPS 2023-2024 Membership Year

CHAMPS is sincerely grateful for the health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) that have become 2023-2024 [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#). The CHAMPS 2023-2024 Membership Year began on April 1, 2023 and ends March 31, 2024.

The benefits of CHAMPS Organizational Membership include:

- ★ Two seats on the CHAMPS Board of Directors.
- ★ Free access to all CHAMPS [distance learning](#) webcasts, podcasts, etc. created during the membership year.
- ★ Up to two free copies of the [2023 CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, and Turnover Survey Report](#) as well as priority access to the electronic version of the report.
- ★ Ability to join the CHAMPS [Employee Screening Preferred Pricing Program](#) (PPP).
- ★ Discounted registration fees for CHAMPS-sponsored intensive trainings, including [Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals](#) and [Supervisor/Manager Trainings](#).
- ★ Discounted registration and opportunities for registration and clinical travel reimbursement for the [2023 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#).
- ★ Access to the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website, including a printable and searchable Region VIII health center directory and printable CHAMPS salary survey reports.
- ★ Direct advertising of new CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#) posts to job seekers.
- ★ Quarterly CHAMPS Board of Directors Digests, containing CHAMPS, HRSA, NACHC, and other updates related to upcoming trainings, new resources, and more.

2022-2023 Organizational Members enjoy a 60-day grace period in the new membership year. Member benefits will expire for those that have not renewed their dues by June 1, 2023.

CHAMPS Attends Region VIII and National Events

This spring, CHAMPS supported Region VIII and national partners by attending the 2023 [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) [Policy & Issues Forum](#), 2023 NACHC [Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#), [Wyoming Primary Care Association](#) (WYPCA) [2023 Power of Rural Healthcare Conference](#), [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) May Triannual, and the [Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas](#) (CHAD) [Annual Members Conference](#). This was the first time since 2020 and the beginning of COVID-19 that CHAMPS staff have been able to travel to so many in-person events. CHAMPS continuously seeks to strengthen connections and values new partnerships, and we welcome any opportunity to do so.



Andrea Martin attended the CHAD Conference.



Jen Anderson, along with CCHN, Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA), and Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN), recognized Pueblo Community Health Center on their 40th Anniversary at the CCHN Triannual.



Julie Hulstein and Rachel Gonzales-Hansen visit Crossroads Healthcare Clinic and its mobile unit with Tim Ernst and Carol Gooden-Rice.



Rachel Gonzales-Hansen speaks during the NACHC Ag Worker Health Conference, attended by Julie Hulstein.

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](#).

2023 Abbreviated Salary Survey Data Collection Complete

Every two years, CHAMPS undertakes a large Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey of all health centers within Region VIII. For the first time, CHAMPS is using the "off" year to gather information about a limited group of hard-to-recruit/retain titles via the 2023 Abbreviated Salary, Benefits, and Turnover Survey. Data collection for this 2023 survey occurred mid-March through mid-May, and CHAMPS and Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) staff are working to clean and analyze the data received. Reports will be distributed beginning in autumn 2023. CHAMPS would like to sincerely thank all the Region VIII health centers that submitted data, and specifically the staff members who gave so generously of their time while working on this project!

Questions about the 2023 Region VIII Health Center Abbreviated Salary Survey? Please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

2022 Clinical Staffing and Provider Productivity Expectations Reports

The last two companion reports related to data submitted during the 2022 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey project were released in April 2023. The Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing Report utilizes Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) data reported in the salary survey for every employee at each reporting health center to develop staffing ratios relating to medical, behavioral health, and dental providers and medical and dental support employees as well as ratios related to additional selected administrative and clinical care team employees. The Provider Productivity Expectations Report includes information about health center expectations for weekly hours, administrative vs. patient contact hours, completed hourly visits, and standard patient panel sizes for medical, dental, and behavioral health providers. Both reports can be accessed by CHAMPS Organizational Members in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (username and password required). Nonprofit, non-member organizations are welcome to purchase electronic versions of these reports by completing this [order form](#) and returning it with payment to CHAMPS.

To learn more about the Clinical Staffing, Provider Productivity Expectations, and previously released Workforce Metrics reports, please visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

Archive Available: 2022 Salary Survey Data Webinar

On March 30, 2023, CHAMPS hosted the Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS 2022 Salary Survey Project webinar, which explained the history and methodology of the survey, highlighted key changes from prior years, and reviewed the contents and structure of the resulting reports. The presenter also addressed identified trends in salaries and benefits, workforce metrics including vacancies, turnover, and challenging areas of recruitment and retention, and additional data relating to provider vs. support staffing ratios and provider productivity expectations.

To view the recording from this webcast, please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

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](#)

2023 CORE Competencies Training Highlights

The CHAMPS 2023 CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training took place virtually in March and April 2023. CHAMPS hosted this five-week training with support from [Association for Utah Community Health \(AUCH\)](#), [Colorado Community Health Network \(CCHN\)](#), [Montana Primary Care Association \(MPCA\)](#), and [Wyoming Primary Care Association \(WYPCA\)](#), bringing together 45 participants from 16 health centers to learn best practices for hiring, training, developing, engaging, and retaining health center staff. In addition to weekly sessions, participants undertook homework assignments to implement their learning in their health centers. Evaluators reported the lead facilitator, Lisa Mouscher, the peer learning, and the immediately useable exercises and tools as some of their favorite aspects of the course.



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

CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB)



Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring? Post your open positions on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB). JOB is a free resource, and CHAMPS staff attend job fairs to promote open positions and send a monthly email to prospective employees highlighting positions recently posted by CHAMPS Organizational Members.

To post an opening, please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development & Member Services Director](#)

To sign up for the monthly JOB email, visit the CHAMPS [Job Bank](#) webpage.

Education on Your Schedule

The [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage is a great resource for overcoming the challenges of attending live events, housing recorded versions of prior CHAMPS clinical and quality, health equity, and workforce development webcasts, each of which is available for a year after the original event.

Visit the CHAMPS [Library of Distance Learning Documents](#) to download handouts and other documents created for these and other past CHAMPS distance learning events.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

UpSkill NIMAA

Submitted by: Ali Murray, The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement

[The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement](#) (NIMAA) offers valuable continuing education through [UpSkill NIMAA](#). The courses cover a variety of topics, such as Interprofessional Team-Based Care, Professionalism, Health Coaching, and Quality Improvement. Due to popular demand, NIMAA will also offer a 20-hour Certification Exam Review course:



- ★ In conjunction with partners at McGraw Hill, NIMAA provides resources, materials, and best practices to prepare course participants to successfully pass their preferred medical assisting credentialing exam.
- ★ Exam preparation and materials are available for the following exam options:
 - The Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) exam created by the American Medical Technologists;
 - The Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam credentialed by the American Association of Medical Assistants, and
 - The Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) exam approved by the National Healthcareer Association.
- ★ In addition to exam preparation, the program provides information to help participants decide which exam to choose.
- ★ The course includes eight online didactic sessions plus eight live review sessions with a NIMAA instructor.
- ★ Participants gain an understanding of the various credentialing exams and significant practice answering sample exam questions that reflect common content and formats.

To learn more about the new Certification Exam Review course or review additional UpSkill NIMAA sessions, visit [UpSkill NIMAA](#) or email Lori Nichols at lori.nichols@nimaa.edu.

NIMAA and Salud Family Health: Educating Future Workforce

The [National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement](#) (NIMAA) provides training sessions and educational and employment opportunities for well-qualified medical assistants. The hope is that these trainees will serve the communities in which they live. [Salud Family Health](#), one of NIMAA's founding organizations, has supported 56 NIMAA program graduates from 2016 to 2022. According to Salud Family Health's Medical Training Manager and NIMAA Program Coordinator Jinnie Chieppo, NIMAA graduates are highly qualified and have the well-established skills needed to begin their careers. In accordance with the NIMAA partnership, Salud Family Health's mission is to become an educating health care center and provide courses for all training levels regardless of where their program participants decide to work in the future.



Don't miss the [CHAMPS Recruitment & Retention Resources!](#)

[Pipeline Development Tools](#)

[Recruitment & Hiring Tools](#)

[Orientation & Retention Tools](#)

[Recruitment & Retention Surveys and Data](#)

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/DMS Spanish Language Training Highlights

CHAMPS and the [Denver Medical Society](#) (DMS) recently hosted several online [Spanish Language Classes and Tutorials for Health Care Professionals](#). Throughout April 2023, CHAMPS held four different Spanish language trainings, including three two-day courses: 16 participants joined the Spanish Language for Oral Health Providers offering, three attended the Spanish Language for Behavioral Health Providers training, and 11 joined the Medical Spanish for Advanced Speakers sessions. Twenty-five learners joined the traditional four-day course that CHAMPS has held for over 30 years, ranging from beginner to intermediate skill levels. Each of the courses contained content related to medical diagnosis, and included roleplays, visual aids, and cross-cultural diagnosis. Attendees also engaged in discussions on cultural humility and awareness. Participants reported that the immersive and joyful teaching style, conversations and discussions, practice scenarios, and the opportunity to get to know other Region VIII health center staff were the best aspects of the training. CHAMPS plans to offer these trainings again in Spring 2024.

For information about next year's Spanish Language Trainings, visit the CHAMPS [Events and Trainings](#) webpage.

For more medical Spanish resources, visit the CHAMPS [Spanish Language Resources](#) webpage.

View the updated CHAMPS [Region VIII Data Summaries!](#)

[Demographics Data Summary](#)

[Health Behaviors Data Summary](#)

[Mortality Data Summary](#)

[Women's Health Data Summary](#)

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Chronic Disease Management: Health Center Best and Promising Practices

CHAMPS and [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC) recently hosted the Chronic Disease Management: Health Center Best and Promising Practices series. These online events featured tools and tips that address chronic disease management from three Region VIII health centers. Recordings are available for each session. Topics included [RiverStone Health's Live Well Center](#), [Coal Country Community Health Center's](#) remote patient monitoring program, and [Denver Health's](#) use of innovative diabetes technology.

For more information and to watch the recordings please visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

Coming Soon: CHAMPS On-Demand Family Planning Refresher Course

CHAMPS is creating an on-demand module in partnership with [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) that will provide family medicine providers an opportunity to refresh their family planning knowledge. Jane Lose, APN, CNM, provider at [STRIDE Community Health Center](#) and Medical Director for [State of Colorado's Family Planning Program](#), will be the instructor for this course. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits have been applied for this two-hour long module that can be viewed at any time. This session will be available in June. Visit the CHAMPS [Events and Trainings](#) webpage to learn more.

Coming Soon: CHAMPS On Demand 2023 Immunization Update

CHAMPS will host the annual Immunization Update with Dr. Patricia Wodi and Dr. Neil Murthy, both Public Health Physicians from the [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#) at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC). This one-hour module will address the latest vaccine schedules and the most recent [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) recommendations for adults, children, and adolescents, including the latest COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for all populations. This year the training will be pre-recorded and available on-demand. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits have been applied for. Clinical leadership, clinicians, clinical support staff, and other interested healthcare professionals at health centers in Region VIII are encouraged to attend this free, on-demand module. This module is being created in partnership with [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC) and will be available to view in June.

To learn more, visit the CHAMPS [Events and Trainings](#) webpage.

CHAMPS/RMPHTC Speak My Culture: Trust, Culture, and Healthcare in the Latino Community

Recordings are now available for a limited time for the two-part CHAMPS and [Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center](#) (RMPHTC) series, *Speak My Culture: Trust, Culture, and Healthcare in the Latino Community*. Taught by [Rios Associates](#), the instructors for the very popular CHAMPS Spanish Language Intensives, *Speak My Culture* was a two-part virtual series that allowed healthcare workers to better understand the challenges facing the Latino patient community and to obtain ideas, tools, and strategies to prepare them to offer culturally appropriate and sensitive care to their Latinos patients. The first session focused on diabetes care, while the second session addressed other health care topics including mental health, maternal health, and vaccines. Recordings for each session are free and are now available through Thursday, August 31st but require registration to view.

To view the Speak My Culture recordings, visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage.

New CHAMPS Patient Education Handouts

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee recently reviewed and revamped two Patient Education Handouts addressing pediatric topics. Health center staff are encouraged to download these free, customizable handouts for use at their health center. Spanish language versions are coming soon.

- ★ [Childproofing Checklist](#)
- ★ [Ear Infections in Children](#)

To view other downloadable resources, visit the CHAMPS [Patient Education Tools](#) webpage.

Don't Miss the CHAMPS [Emergency Preparedness \(EP\) and Response Resources](#)
including [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and
[Climate Change and Environmental Health Resources](#).

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](#).

2023 NACHC Conference For Agricultural Worker Health

The [National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\) Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#), the only national conference solely dedicated to improving health for Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers and their communities, was held in Seattle, WA from May 2-4, 2023. This year's theme was "Sowing Strength/Cultivando Fortaleza: Meeting Environmental, Social and Care Challenges in Farmworker Health." The event brought together leaders in migrant health to collaborate and discuss ways to increase the well-being of migratory and seasonal agricultural workers and their families while providing educational and networking sessions for attendees.



2023 National Health Care For The Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium



Each year, the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) hosts the largest convention of homeless health care practitioners, advocates, people who have experienced homelessness, and researchers specializing in homelessness. The [2023 Conference](#) took place in Baltimore, MD from May 15-18. The theme, "Toward Justice: Leading with Lived Experience," highlights the increase in inequities and criminalization of homeless, and the negative impact it has on our society as well as the individuals with direct lived experiences.

Medicaid Unwinding

Medicaid and [Children's Health Insurance Program's \(CHIP\)](#) continuous coverage protection ended on Friday, March 31, 2023 due to the new [FY2023 Omnibus Bill](#). On April 1, 2023, states began to terminate coverage for individuals who are no longer eligible. However, they must allow at least 60 days between the initiation of redetermination and disenrollment, therefore states began conducting redetermination of eligibility as early as February 1, 2023. The [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) released guidance for states' unwinding efforts and will be hosting meetings with each state to discuss plans and answer questions. Health centers should encourage Medicaid patients to confirm that the state has their current contact information to ensure they receive information about their eligibility and avoid losing coverage for administrative reasons. Additionally, CMS has provided [guidance](#) to state Medicaid agencies about how 1115 waivers can be used to direct Medicaid funding to [social determinants of health \(SDOH\)](#) spending.

Region VIII Veterans' Workgroup Resources Page

The [Health Resources and Services Administration's \(HRSA\)](#) Region VIII Veterans' Workgroup has developed a downloadable [Resources List](#) for providers and health centers who serve veterans within the region. The CHAMPS [Veterans Resources](#) webpage was featured as a key reference and bank of information.

HEALTH EQUITY NEWS, *Continued*

Coming Soon:

Community Partnerships to Address Structural Vulnerabilities

Submitted by: Liam Spurgeon, Health Outreach Partners

Efforts made by health centers to advance health equity must include an analysis of the structural factors and social, economic, and political systems that impact the health and quality of life of their patients and communities. However, the prospect of dismantling such large and deeply rooted institutions at times may feel daunting to approach. [Health Outreach Partners](#) is holding a webinar that will introduce participants to the Structural Competency framework, demonstrate the impact of “Structural Interventions,” whether big or small, and emphasize the importance of engaging partners in this effort. By taking steps to address these structures, health centers not only can improve health disparities of their existing patient population but work to reduce the impact of these disparities for the next generation and the community as a whole. The webinar will take place on Wednesday, June 14th, from 12:00-1:00pm MT/1:00-2:00pm CT.



To participate, visit the [Community Partnerships As Structural Interventions registration](#) page.

COVID-19 NEWS

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](#).

End of Public Health Emergency

The Federal [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) (PHE) ended on May 11, 2023. It is important to note several changes will impact COVID-19 care. The COVID-19 at-home test kits may no longer be covered by insurance, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) reporting metrics may change, and vaccines and treatment for COVID-19, such as Paxlovid, will remain available for free, while supplies last. The CDC's [No-Cost COVID-19 Testing](#) locator may help individuals find current community and pharmacy partners participating in the [Increasing Community Access to Testing](#) (ICATT) program.

FDA Update to EUA for Monovalent Vaccines

On April 18, 2023, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent mRNA vaccines. The monovalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer certified for use in the U.S. The FDA allowed bivalent mRNA vaccines for all doses administered to individuals aged six months and older as a simplification for vaccination scheduling. Additionally, on April 19, 2023, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) [authorized](#) an additional updated booster dose for adults ages 65 years and older and additional doses for people who are immunocompromised.

To read more about the amended use of COVID-19 vaccines, visit the FDA [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update](#) webpage.

To learn more about the CDC's COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, visit the [CDC Newsroom](#).

New Resources: Migrant Clinicians Network

Submitted by: Claire Hutkins Seda, Migrant Clinicians Network

[Migrant Clinicians Network](#) (MCN) has numerous resources to support work with migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and communities that are historically or socially marginalized. Some of these include:

- ★ MCN's easy-to-read handout, [Updates to Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility](#), describing who receives the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine and when. This document may be found in both English and Spanish.
- ★ The article, [I Was Exposed to COVID-19. Now What?](#), a timeline to help patients understand the most recent recommendations on what to do after exposure. It is translated in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.
- ★ [We Do Hope](#), a six-part mini-series regarding MCN's podcast for clinicians to learn to sustain hope while caring for vulnerable populations.
- ★ MCN's newest mini-series, COVID's Lasting Impact: Caring for Immigrant, Migrant, and Asylee Patients, which will go live in early June.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS

HRSA Funds Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program

On March 31, 2023, the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS), through the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA), granted nearly \$23 million to 46 recipients to assist in the planning and development of Teaching Health Center residency programs. Two of these awardees are Region VIII health centers, [Community Health Centers, Inc.](#) in West Valley City, UT and [Community Health Care Center, Inc.](#) in Great Falls, MT. Teaching Health Center programs prioritize improving care in community-based outpatient settings.

To learn more and view the list of awardees, visit the related HHS [Press Release](#) and HRSA [FY23 THCPD Awards](#) webpage.

Become a HRSA Grant Reviewer

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) is seeking grant reviewers. HRSA selects reviewers based on their knowledge, education, and experience in behavioral, rural, maternal, and child health, as well as workforce training, HIV/AIDS, primary care delivery, and those who provide care to underserved populations. Register on the HRSA [Reviewer Recruitment Module \(RRM\)](#) to be considered, and visit the HRSA [How to Become a Grant Reviewer](#) webpage to learn more.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA Seeks Volunteers for UDS+ Pilots

In early May, the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) announced that 2023 [Uniform Data System](#) (UDS) reporting would be submitted in the traditional method, via HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHBs). UDS+, the UDS Modernization Initiative aimed at reducing reporting burden, improving data quality, and better measuring program services and outcomes through reporting patient-level data, will be delayed. However, HRSA is seeking health centers, Primary Care Associations (PCAs), and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs) to participate in UDS Test Cooperative (UTC) pilots to test and offer feedback on proposed UDS+ changes and enhancements.

To learn more about UDS+, visit the HRSA [UDS Modernization Initiative](#) webpage.

To express interest in joining the UTC, please use the [BHPC Contact Form](#) (choose UDS, UDS Modernization, and How to Join the UDS Test Cooperative).

HRSA Grants \$63 Million To Address The Maternal Health Crisis

On May 19, 2023, the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS), through the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA), granted more than \$65 million to 35 HRSA-funded health centers to implement innovative approaches and improve maternal health outcomes, including bilingual doula services, increase health technology to reach rural patients, and educate individuals on mental and behavioral health care for pregnant women and their families. These awards aim to aid health centers in addressing the maternal mortality crisis. Congratulations to [Denver Health and Hospitals Authority](#) (CO) and [Horizon Health Care, Inc.](#) (SD), the two Region VIII award recipients!

To learn more, read the HHS [press release](#) or the [Quality Improvement Fund – Maternal Health](#) article. Review a list of awardees on the HRSA [FY23 QI Fund-Maternal Health Awards](#) webpage.

NACHC Recognizes Region VIII Representatives During 2023 P&I

The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) [Policy and Issues Forum](#) took place in Washington, D.C. from March 8-11, 2023. Each year at the P&I, NACHC honors exceptional individuals with the José E. Camacho Grassroots Hall of Fame Award for their "lasting contributions to ensuring the creation, survival, and strength of health centers



and the Health Center Movement through their dedicated and tireless efforts over many years," and with the Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award for individuals whose "constant effort and unflagging persistence as an advocate for America's health centers and health center patients set an example for all health center advocates to follow." 2023 awardees from Region VIII included Maureen Maxwell from [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN), who received a José E. Camacho Grassroots Hall of Fame Award, as well as Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award recipients Donald Moore from [Pueblo Community Health Center](#) (CO) and Donovan Smith, RPh from [Wayne Community Health Center](#) (UT). Congratulations to Maureen, Donald, and Donovan, as well as all awardees!

To review the entire list of recipients, visit page 55 of the NACHC [P&I 2023 Program](#). Read press releases regarding [Maureen Maxwell](#), [Donald Moore](#), and [Donovan Smith](#).

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Call For Nominations: 2023 NACHC Community Health Care Awards of Excellence

Every year, the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) awards individuals for their outstanding commitment to the Community Health Center Movement. The [2023 NACHC Community Health Care Awards of Excellence](#) will be presented during the NACHC Annual Community Health Institute to be held August 25-29. NACHC invites you to nominate those whose accomplishments best exemplify excellence in community health.

To submit a nomination, fill out the [NACHC nomination form](#).

News From the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health

In April, the [Geiger Gibson Program](#) released [Federal Grants are Essential to Community Health Centers](#), a data note highlighting the importance of health centers in the primary health care system as they treat medically underserved communities and populations. This Uniform Data System (UDS)-informed publication examines the role of federal grants and how these funds support health center services.

An Oral Health Crisis: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities

On March 29, 2023, the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance's Subcommittee on Health Care held a [hearing](#) regarding the Oral Health Crisis in the U.S. Jonathan Forte, MHA, FACHE, President and CEO at [RiverStone Health](#) in Billings, MT, [testified](#) to the importance of investing in health centers so they may better serve oral needs, expressing a belief that "equitable access to oral health care is not simply a rural problem, or an urban problem, it's an American problem impacting families no matter where they live."

He provided examples of how America's health centers develop collaborative partnerships and "serve as centers of innovation for workforce development," the ways Congress can support and incentivize "fully integrated and equitable models for oral health delivery," and how by expanding mobile health providers can see more patients regardless of proximity to health centers. It is difficult to recruit and retain oral health care professionals in Montana, so RiverStone Health has partnered with accredited dental schools to educate students and the [Montana Primary Care Association](#) (MPCA) to provide scholarships for dental assistants and other individuals interested in completing the program after committing to employment. Additionally, he discussed the impact of interdisciplinary teams and how they increase efficiency, improving cost-effectiveness and health outcomes, giving patients holistic care as well as dental support.



Watch the hearing on the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance's [Subcommittee Hearing](#) webpage.

Mental Health Awareness Month: SAMHSA Resources

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the important of Mental health in the lives of all Americans. The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has collected mental health resources, Practitioner Trainings, and Federal resources for individuals to use to educate themselves on mental health. To learn more and become involved, visit the SAMHSA [Mental Health Awareness Month](#) webpage.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Updated Health Center Site Visit Protocol

In 2023, the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) updated the [Site Visit Protocol](#) (SVP) to increase consistency, solidify formatting, and incorporate simple language.

The SVP was designed by HRSA to collect necessary information to maintain oversight over health centers. These changes do not alter the way site visits are conducted, but instead make the SVP easier to read. In addition, the edits include one substantive change to correspond with [Calendar Year 2024 Requirements for Federal Tort Claims Act \(FTCA\) Coverage for Health Centers and Their Covered Individuals](#) ([hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov)).

Horizon Health Care Recognized as a Partner in Health

[Horizon Health Care, Inc.](#) received the [Partner in Health Award](#) from the [South Dakota Department of Health](#) for their role in improving access to public health and community well-being in the rural areas of South Dakota. Horizon Health Care was recognized for their family planning services, which include pregnancy testing, education, screening, and counseling. The objective of these programs is to provide patients with individualized care while they begin building their family.



To learn more, visit the [Horizon Health Care Newsroom](#).

Region VIII PCAs Receive Funds to Expand Mobile Health Care Units

The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) (NACHC) recently announced 10 Primary Care Association (PCA) awardees of State-level Mobile Unity Capacity Building Grants, intended to help these organizations coordinate and collaborate on



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strategy development and resource sharing related to mobile health care. Congratulations to [Colorado Community Health Network](#) (CCHN) and the [Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas](#) (CHAD)!



Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas

Learn more on the NACHC [Health Center Deployment of Mobile Units Advances Health Equity](#) blog.

Need help expanding your social media presence?

View the [Social Media Content Development Tips for Community Health Centers and Primary Care Associations](#) resource on the CHAMPS website.

Don't forget to check the **CHAMPS Happenings box** on the [CHAMPS homepage](#) for our most recent offerings!

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

HRSA Training: Community-Based Grant Programs

Submitted by: Nick Zucconi, Health Resources and Services Administration Region 8 Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) Regional Office has developed a training session about HRSA community-based grant programs. The intent is to familiarize attendees with HRSA grant programs for which community-based organizations are eligible to apply, and includes purpose of the grant program, amount and duration of grant funding, approximate [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) release dates, and core elements and key requirements to address in the grant application. The training may be held virtually or in person and lasts 45-90 minutes depending on the number of grant programs covered. The training covers grants from the following HRSA Bureaus/Offices: [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#), [Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#), [Bureau of Health Workforce](#), and [Bureau of HIV/AIDS](#).

For more information, contact Nick Zucconi, Regional Administrator, Region 8 HRSA Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs, at NZucconi@hrsa.gov.

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Screening And Treatment For Maternal Mental Health And Substance Use Disorders](#) (06/02/2023)
- ★ [State Maternal Health Innovation Program](#) (06/02/2023)
- ★ [Maternal Health Research Collaborative For Minority-Serving Institutions](#) (06/12/2023)
- ★ [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Rural Centers Of Excellence On Substance Use Disorder](#) (06/20/2023)
- ★ [Nurse Education, Practice, Quality And Retention \(NEPQR\) Simulation Education Training \(SET\) Program](#) (07/03/2023)
- ★ [Rural Maternity And Obstetrics Management Strategies Program](#) (07/07/2023)
- ★ [Institute For Home Visiting Workforce Development and Jackie Walorski Center For Evidence-Based Case Management](#) (07/14/2023)
- ★ [Healthy Start Initiative-Enhanced \(HSE\)](#) (07/17/2023)

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Coal Country Community Health Center: [Youth Wellness Exams Offered at Beulah & Hazen School Clinics](#) (*Coal Country Community Health Center*, May 2023)
- ★ Clinica Family Health: [Colorado Community Health Centers Add \\$1.7 Billion In Economic Activity](#) (*Public News Service*, March 2023)
- ★ Community Health Centers Of Central Wyoming: [CHCCW Welcomes Dr. Baum To Casper!](#) (*Community Health Centers Of Central Wyoming*, April 2023)
- ★ Denver Health: [The Public Health Institute At Denver Health Conducts Tuberculosis Investigations At George Washington High School](#) (*Denver Health*, March 2023)
- ★ Fourth Street Clinic: [2023 Utah Top Nurses Nomination: Samantha Stacks, Fourth Street Clinic](#) (*Association for Utah Community Health*, May 2023)
- ★ Horizon Health Care: [Misty Rudebusch Transitions To Chief Medical Officer](#) (*Horizon Health Care*, March 2023)
- ★ Spectra Health: [Funds For Community Health Centers Will Help Fill Gaps For Access To Care](#) (*Grand Forks Herald*, May 2023)
- ★ Wayne Community Health Center: [Wayne Community Health Center CEO Baton Passes From Christensen To Smith](#) (*The Insider*, April 2023)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2023

[HRSA Calendar Year 2023 Uniform Data System Reporting Changes Webinar](#)

June 6

[HRSA Maternal Health Among Hispanic/Women Webinar](#)

June 6

[Weitzman Institute: Using The RTAT To Access Organizational Capacity](#)

June 6

[MPCA: Health Information Technology Forum](#)

June 6-7

[NACHC 2023 Elevating Health Center Operations \(EHCO\)](#)

June 13-14

[NACHC Administrative Fellowship Webinar Series: Growing The Next Generation Of Health Center Executives](#)

June 15

[UDS Mapper Advanced Topic Webinar: Using The UDS Mapper For Service Area Mapping](#)

June 21

July 2023

[Today With Macrae](#)

July 13

[HRSA Better Access Your Community Using The UDS Mapper Webinar](#)

July 20

[ACU 2023 Annual Conference](#)

July 23-26

August 2023

[NACHC 2023 National Health Center Week \(NHCW\)](#)

August 6-12

[NACHC Community Health Institute \(CHI\)](#)

August 27-29, 2023

[MPCA FOHC Operations Bootcamp](#)

August 29-31

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Looking Forward

[MPCA Montana Healthcare Conference](#)

September 19-22, 2023

[NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#)

October 21-24, 2023

This resource was supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$720,000 with 26% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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change your subscription email,
or submit articles.