Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States

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Now Open: 2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference Registration

CHAMPS invites you to register for the 2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Fall Primary Care Conference, taking place from October 24-27 in Salt Lake City, UT. Each year, CHAMPS partners with Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) to host a primary care conference designed to address the needs of Region 18 (Regions VIII and Region X) health center staff and board members.

This year's event will include a pre-conference workshop addressing the 340B program *(see page 2 for more information)*, a variety of educational and networking sessions, exhibits from industry experts, and a community health center tour. The conference will also feature several keynote speakers, including Tonya Bowers, Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, and Dr. Luis Padilla, Chief Health Officer at the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Educational sessions will be offered across a variety of tracks such as Board Governance, Clinical, Finance, Healthy Communities, Hot Topics, Human Resources/Workforce, Leadership, and Operations *(see page 3 for highlights of the sessions offered in each track)*.

Staff and board members from CHAMPS Organizational Members are eligible for discounted registration rates, including group rate discounts, and may also be eligible for registration and clinical travel support reimbursement. Discounted rates are available to members through Friday, September 18, 2026.

Visit the 2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference webpage to register.
For additional conference details, visit the CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference webpage.

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New CHAMPS Webpage: Value-Based Care Resources

CHAMPS recently launched a new webpage dedicated to value-based care. The Value-Based Care Resources webpage contains a curated collection of articles, reports, training materials, and other resources related to key topics, best practices, and implementation considerations.

***Value-Based Care Resource:* Health Center Value-Based Care Basics**

This document, created by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), provides an overview of value-based care, why health centers should consider implementing it, the types of payment models available, and strategies for succeeding in a value-based care environment.

2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Pre-Conference 340B Workshop

The 2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference will include a pre-conference workshop focused on the 340B Drug Pricing Program – **Ready, Set, Deep Dive: What You Need to Know About 340B in 2026**. Taking place on Saturday, October 24, the workshop will provide a full day of engaging, timely, and practical education led by five nationally recognized 340B experts to help health centers navigate the evolving healthcare landscape.

The day will begin with a three-hour morning session that provides a foundational overview of the 340B Drug Pricing Program. Following the morning session, participants will have an opportunity to connect with colleagues and engage directly with presenters during a networking lunch.

The workshop will continue with two sessions incorporated into the regular conference schedule. The first, **Pharmacy Operations, 340B Financial Sustainability & Growth**, will explore best practices for monitoring and optimizing health center pharmacy programs. The workshop will conclude with **The 340B Policy Landscape: Risks, Opportunities & What's Next**, which will examine current hot topics as well as key regulatory and policy developments.

Separate registration is required for the pre-conference workshop. Individuals may register for the workshop independently or add it to their Fall Conference registration. Workshop-only registration also includes access to the Fall Conference Opening Plenary and Welcome Reception on Saturday evening. CHAMPS Organizational Members are eligible for discounted registration rates.

View the 340B Workshop Agenda & Information document for further details and registration information.

In 2025, Region VIII Health Center Program awardees served nearly 1,100,000 patients, employed almost 11,100 Full-Time Equivalent employees, and provided over 4,500,000 visits.

See page 11 for more information about the recent release of 2025 UDS information.

2026 Fall Primary Care Conference Educational Session Highlights

The upcoming CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference will showcase 46 educational sessions across eight tracks, including:

Clinical: Sessions related to hypertension, care management and coordination in rural communities, substance use services for adolescents, mental health treatments, remote blood pressure monitoring for pregnant individuals, and more.

Finance: Sessions addressing revenue cycle, Medicare Advantage, sustaining Community Health Worker programs, financial modeling, and salary survey results from Region VIII and Region X.

Governance: An introduction to the Health Center Movement, as well as sessions addressing the 340B policy landscape, artificial intelligence, nonprofit healthcare mergers, succession plans, and more.

Healthy Communities: Offerings addressing advancing integrated care, building resilient systems of care, community governance in healthcare, care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and expanding school-based care through mobile clinics.

Hot Topics: Emerging topics impacting health centers; sessions will be finalized closer to the conference.

HR/Workforce: Sessions focusing on building primary care and maternal health workforces, teambuilding strategies, performance management programs, nursing apprenticeships, and rural healthcare pathways.

Leadership: Sessions addressing artificial intelligence, aligning leadership for greater productivity and financial stability, and more.

Operations: Sessions focusing on the 340B program, emergency preparedness, cyber incidents, responsible artificial intelligence adoption, and more.

The conference will also include a wide range of **networking opportunities**, including receptions, roundtables, and a Networking for Innovation event. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to attend three engaging **plenary sessions** offered throughout the conference.

To learn more, visit the CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference webpage. A preliminary agenda will be available soon.

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.

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

Post your open positions on the free CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank (JOB).
To post an opening or update a current position, please contact the CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce.

HP-ET Resource:
Becoming a Teaching Health Center: Tips for Health Center Boards

This resource, created by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), offers tips for health center boards as they consider whether their health center should become a Teaching Health Center, along with a case example of how one board applied these strategies.

Coming Soon: 2026 Region VIII Salary Survey Reports

Every two years, CHAMPS works with the Region VIII State Primary Care Associations to conduct a **Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey** of health centers within Region VIII. Data collection for this year's survey took place in the spring. Forty-nine Region VIII health centers, representing 79% of the region, submitted salary and benefits data for 10,470 employees and provided additional data on benefits, vacancies, productivity, and more.

CHAMPS staff are finalizing the **2026 Region VIII Health Center Salary and Benefits Survey Report**, which is on track to be released early this fall. Additional reports addressing clinical staffing ratios, provider productivity expectations, and workforce metrics will also be released in the coming months.

All CHAMPS Organizational Members will receive one printed copy of the salary and benefits report. Organizations that provided data for the survey will also receive a printed copy, regardless of membership status. Electronic versions of all this year's published reports will be available in the Members Only section of the CHAMPS website *(Organizational Membership credentials required)*.

CHAMPS will host a webinar that will highlight key findings from the survey this fall, and present similar findings during an educational session at the 2026 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Fall Primary Care Conference. Details about the webinar will be added to the CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events webpage as they become available.

Visit the CHAMPS Publications webpage for more information.
Questions? Contact the CHAMPS Workforce Development & Member Services Director.

CHAMPS Resources for Healthcare Career Pathways

The CHAMPS website offers a range of online resources within its Recruitment and Retention section, including dedicated webpages on healthcare career pathways.

Explore the following webpages for:

- ★ Resources for Healthcare Career Pathways: Introduces healthcare career pathways, and provides program examples, tools, and articles to support workforce development and staff advancement.
- ★ Early Pathway Resources: Includes resources designed to help health centers implement and improve programs that introduce and prepare K-12 students for careers in health care.
- ★ Support Staff Pathway Resources: Features materials to help health centers develop and strengthen programs that prepare individuals for health care support roles, as well as resources for developing career advancement pathways for current staff.
- ★ Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Pathway Resources: Offers resources to assist health centers in creating and implementing programs that support the training and career development of APPs, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants.
- ★ Doctorate-Level Provider Pathway Resources: Includes materials to help health centers develop and strengthen programs that support the clinical training and career development of doctorate-level health professionals, as well as resources related to residency and fellowship programs.

***Don't Miss:* HRSA's Updated Health Workforce Explorer Dashboard**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently updated and expanded its Health Workforce Explorer, an interactive dashboard featuring current data on more than 40 health workforce occupations.

MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians who practice in Community Health Centers in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care. Learn more here.

CHAMPS MPCN Provider Survey

The Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) is a program of CHAMPS that encompasses all healthcare providers working at Region VIII community health centers. Any provider who practices at a Region VIII health center is part of this network. CHAMPS and the MPCN Steering Committee have created a very brief survey to better understand how Region VIII providers engage in the health center mission. The goal is to create connectedness within the network, encourage participation within the health center movement, and enhance connections with CHAMPS. These insights may help to inform future trainings, website resources, and communications.

Providers are encouraged to take just a couple of minutes to complete any of the questions that apply to them. Those who complete the survey by Wednesday, September 30, 2026, will have the opportunity to enter a drawing to receive a $35 gift card to Bookshop.org.

Please take a few minutes to complete the MPCN Provider Survey.

Recordings Available: CHAMPS Maternal Health Virtual Events

Maternal Health 101 Workshop & Office Hour Sessions

During this two-hour case-based workshop, participants learned to recognize normal and high-risk conditions, manage common prenatal and postpartum concerns, and identify when to escalate care.

Three office hour sessions were offered as follow-up to the workshop, each focusing on a specific topic, including hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, pregnancy and maternal loss, and disordered eating in pregnancy.

Recordings and handouts from the workshop and office hour sessions are available to view for free on the Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events webpage.

How to Resource Map Your Community for Maternal Health Resources

In this interactive workshop, participants learned practical, real-world skills to identify, verify, and organize maternal health resources in their communities, and practiced how to guide clients through complex systems of care.

The workshop was intended for Community Health Workers, patient navigators, outreach coordinators, and anyone supporting pregnant and postpartum individuals in clinical and community settings.

A recording of the 80-minute workshop and the accompanying handouts are available to access for free on the Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events webpage.

Perinatal Mental Health Series

This three-part virtual series offered clinicians and healthcare professionals a comprehensive look at perinatal mental health across the full continuum of care, from screening and assessment to clinical intervention and community-based support.

Recordings and materials from all three hour-long sessions are now available to view for free.

- ★ **Session One** – Perinatal Mood Disorders and Screening
- ★ **Session Two –** Treatment, Continuum of Care, and Integrated Practice
- ★ **Session Three** – Trauma, Loss, Family Systems, and Resources

Don't Miss: Free AUD Webinar Series from MPCA

Join the Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA) for a free, four-part Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) webinar series, designed to strengthen clinicians' knowledge and skills in the identification and treatment of AUD. Speakers will cover a variety of topics, including screening and diagnosis, evidence-based approaches for patients with early-stage AUD or high-risk alcohol use, medications for AUD, and special considerations for pregnant and breastfeeding patients. The series will take place virtually once a week on Tuesdays from September 1 through September 29, with sessions beginning at 12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT.

To learn more and register, visit MPCA's event webpage.

Updated CHAMPS Patient Education Tools

The CHAMPS Mountain/Plains Clinical Network Steering Committee recently updated several CHAMPS Patient Education Tools for:

Diabetes	Hypertension	Vaccines
English & Spanish	English & Spanish	English & Spanish

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES NEWS

Assisting Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations in pursuing healthy communities by addressing health-related risk factors and building community partnerships.

CHAMPS Healthy Communities Spotlight Series

Over the last few months, CHAMPS has been hosting its Healthy Communities Spotlight Series. This free, three-part webinar series showcases innovative programs that advance healthy communities across Region VIII. Designed for Region VIII health center staff and Primary Care Association contacts, these sessions offer practical insights, highlight promising practices, and share lessons learned from health centers throughout the region.

The first two sessions of the series took place earlier this summer, each focusing on a specific topic:

- **Session One –** Navigating the Aging Journey and Our Healthcare System
  Presented by: Shawna Yates, DO, Blacktail Health
- **Session Two** – Integrating Psychiatry into Primary Care
  Presented by: Marshal Ash, DO, Peak Vista Community Health Centers

For those who were unable to attend, recordings of the presentations and the session materials are available to view for free on the Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events webpage.

The final session of the series will take place on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 12:00-1:00 PM MT | 1:00-2:00 PM CT. Jennifer Pollmiller and Hanna Bates from Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. will be presenting on The Coffee Break Project, a community partnership that provides mental health education, support, and assistance to the rural ranching and agricultural community. Registration is open and is required to attend.

Visit the CHAMPS Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events webpage to learn more and register.

Update: HRSA Expanding Nutrition Services Funding Opportunity

In July 2026, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) reannounced the availability of $125 million in funding to support more the 350 HRSA-funded health centers in expanding access to nutrition services and food-based interventions within primary care settings. Through this Expanding Nutrition Services funding opportunity, health centers may apply for up to $350,000 per year for the two-year period of performance. The funding can be used to support a variety of costs, including hiring nutritionists, dietitians, and other providers, providing meal planning education to patients, purchasing supplies to support a teaching kitchen or to start a food garden, and more. Applications are due in Grants.gov by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. There is no HRSA Electronic Handbooks application phase.

For more information, visit HRSA's Expanding Nutrition Services Funding webpage.

New CHAMPS Webpage: Age-Friendly Care Resources

CHAMPS recently published a new webpage to help health centers in advancing age-friendly care and improving health outcomes for older adults. The Age-Friendly Care Resources webpage includes reports, healthcare provider resources, state-specific information, caregiver and family support materials, and more.

For additional resource webpages focused on health center patient populations, visit the CHAMPS Special Populations website section.

New CMS Interim Final Rule Regarding Medicaid Work Requirements

Beginning no later than January 1, 2027, certain adult Medicaid applicants and enrollees will be required to complete at least 80 hours per month of qualifying activities to enroll in or maintain Medicaid coverage. The requirement applies to 43 states and the District of Columbia that expanded Medicaid and states may choose to implement it before the January 2027 deadline. This was established in an interim final rule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 1, 2026.

Qualifying activities include employment, work programs, education, and community service. Individuals may combine activities to meet the monthly requirement or satisfy it by earning at least 80 times the federal minimum hourly wage. The rule also establishes new expectations for eligibility, verification, reporting, outreach, and compliance.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is hosting a free webinar series, Medicaid Eligibility Changes Under H.R. 1: What Health Centers Need to Know, to help health centers understand the related policy and operational changes. The next session will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2026, beginning at 1:30 PM MT | 2:30 PM CT. Three additional sessions are scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

For more information, view CMS' press release and NACHC's Quick Guide: Medicaid Work Requirements.

Stay Up to Date on All Things Region VIII – Sign Up for CHAMPS Communications

Healthy Communities Communiqué | Monthly JOB Email | MPCN Minute | Quarterly Newsletter | Workforce Focus

New National Technical Assistance Program Awards Announced

On July 28, 2026, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced $24 million in funding through the 2026 National Technical Assistance Programs (NTAPs) opportunity, with awards made across three categories.

- ★ **Clinical and Preventive Excellence:** Cicatelli Associates Inc.
- ★ **Operational Excellence:** National PCA Hub
- ★ **National Technical Assistance and Coordination Center:** National Association of Community Health Centers

Together, these three NTAPs will provide technical assistance to support existing and potential health centers, with a focus on strengthening the delivery of comprehensive, high-quality primary health care. Their work will assist efforts to improve chronic disease management and preventive services, enhance operational effectiveness, and address emerging public health priorities. The programs will also help health centers meet and exceed Health Center Program and supplemental funding requirements. HRSA previously funded a variety of National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAP) cooperative agreements. These organizations still support health centers nationwide, and the National Training Partners Guide provides more information about ongoing collaboration.

Visit the CHAMPS National Technical Assistance Programs webpage for further details.

National PCA Hub Receives Operational Excellence NTAP Award

Submitted by Devon Gurnett, National PCA Hub

The National PCA Hub was created by and for the nation's 52 Primary Care Associations (PCAs) to strengthen collaboration, resource sharing, and innovation across the health center ecosystem. Building on this foundation, the National PCA Hub recently launched the National Hub for Community Health Center Excellence (NHCHCE), a new initiative dedicated to advancing operational excellence and supporting the long-term success of community health centers nationwide. NHCHCE was created in response to the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) award of the Operational Excellence National Technical Assistance Program (NTAP) to the National PCA Hub, a four-year cooperative agreement that positions the National PCA Hub as a national leader in providing technical assistance, training, peer learning, and performance improvement support.

Through NHCHCE, the National PCA Hub will leverage the expertise of PCAs, Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs), national partners, and health centers to strengthen workforce capacity, financial sustainability, health information technology, and operational performance, helping health centers deliver high-quality, accessible, and sustainable care.

For more information, visit the National PCA Hub's website and view the related press release.

***Financial Sustainability Resource:* Financial Assessment for Provider Turnover**

This tool, created by the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved's (ACU) STAR^2 Center, helps health centers calculate the financial impact of provider turnover by accounting for direct and indirect costs and allows users to enter their own data or use national estimates.

CAI Selected for Clinical & Preventive Excellence NTAP Award

In July 2026, Cicatelli Associates Inc. (CAI) was selected by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to receive the Clinical and Preventive Excellence National Technical Assistance Program (NTAP) award. Through this award, CAI will address a broad range of priorities, including chronic disease management, mental and oral health services, clinical quality improvement and patient safety, and more.

To meet health centers where they are, CAI will use a tiered technical assistance delivery model that ranges from broadly available resources to intensive, longitudinal support. Health centers will have access to a variety of digital resources, including toolkits and implementation guides. CAI will also host national webinars featuring practical, evidence-based guidance. These live sessions will be open to all health centers and recorded and archived for later viewing.

In addition, CAI will facilitate eight virtual Communities of Practice, each bringing together 12 health centers for shared learning and problem-solving, along with individualized coaching.

CAI also plans to provide more intensive support through six outcome-focused cohorts, addressing four key areas: controlled hypertension, weight assessment and counseling, cancer screening, and tobacco cessation. Each cohort will take place over a three-year period and include a minimum of 40 health centers, reaching at least 240 health centers across all six cohorts.

Through this tiered approach, CAI will help health centers access evidence-based resources, strengthen clinical practices, and work toward measurable improvements in clinical and preventive outcomes.

Visit CAI's website for more information.

HRSA Releases Scope of Project Policy Manual

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently published the Health Center Program Scope of Project Policy Manual (Scope Manual), which consolidates, streamlines, and updates scope of project policies. The Scope Manual provides greater clarity to strengthen programmatic oversight and support faster decision-making, while helping ensure health centers meet program requirements and use federal funds appropriately. HRSA encourages health centers to review this document and use it when making current and future scope of project decisions and requests, as HRSA will use the Scope Manual to review Change in Scope requests moving forward. In 2027, HRSA will work with health centers to review and confirm approved scopes of project for accuracy. This review may result in corrections or changes to sites, services, or activities to align with the Scope Manual. Questions about the Scope Manual can be submitted through the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Contact Form.

For more details and technical assistance resources, visit HRSA's Scope of Project webpage.

2026 FTCA Risk Management Virtual Conference

The 2026 Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Risk Management Virtual Conference: A Risk-Based Approach to Chronic Disease Management in Primary Care will highlight practical strategies for health centers to strengthen care for patients with chronic conditions.

Sessions will feature expert perspectives and real-life experiences on topics including patient and family engagement, medication safety and polypharmacy, non-clinical risk factors, and more.

This free event will take place on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM MT | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM CT.

Register here and view the conference agenda here.

HRSA Announces New Access Points Awards

On August 13, 2026, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced $102 million in New Access Points awards to significantly expand the reach of the Health Center Program. New Access Points (NAP) funding is the primary pathway for organizations to become HRSA-funded health centers while also supporting existing health centers to expand into new communities.

These NAP awards mark the first major expansion of the Health Center Program since 2019, providing funding to 158 new and existing health centers to establish 415 new sites and increase access to comprehensive primary care for nearly one million people nationwide. **Congratulations to Green River Medical Center (UT) on being selected for an award through this opportunity!**

View the related press release for more information and the full list of awardees.

HRSA 2026 CHQR Badges: Region VIII Awardees

Since 2021, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has recognized Health Center Program awardees and Look-Alikes annually for notable achievements through its Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) program.

In 2026, **49 Region VIII health centers and two Look-Alikes** were awarded at least one CHQR badge.

Congratulations to all the health centers that earned a CHQR badge this year!

View HRSA's CHQR Dashboard to explore badge awards by health center.
Visit HRSA's CHQR Overview webpage for detailed information about eligibility criteria and benchmarks.

NACHC Board of Directors: Region VIII Updates

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Board of Directors is made up of eight elected officers, two representatives from each of the ten regions, two elected clinician representatives, and two elected health center board members.

To serve on the board, you must:

- ★ Be a current NACHC Individual Member with membership for the previous three consecutive years;
- ★ Be employed by or serve on the board of a NACHC Organizational Member that has maintained current membership for the past three consecutive years, or be employed by a chartered State, Territorial, or Regional Affiliate for the past three consecutive years; and
- ★ Have served on at least two different NACHC committees within the last five years, with a record of at least 50% attendance on each committee.

Elections for the open NACHC Board of Directors Regional Representative seat were undertaken earlier this spring. Wade Erickson, Chief Executive Officer of Horizon Health in Howard, SD, was reelected by acclamation to the NACHC Board as one of the two Region VIII Representatives and will serve another two-year term through September 30, 2028. John Santistevan, President/CEO of Salud Family Health in Fort Lupton, CO, will continue serving his two-year term as a Region VIII Representative on the NACHC Board, which expires September 30, 2027. **Thank you both for your service on the NACHC Board representing Region VIII!**

For more information, please visit the NACHC Board Representatives webpage.

Now Available: State & National 2025 UDS Data

Each year, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) collects data from Health Center Program awardees and Look-Alikes through the Uniform Data System (UDS). Participants are required to report a core set of information, including data on patient characteristics, services provided, clinical processes and health outcomes, staffing, costs, and revenues as part of the standardized reporting system.

State and national UDS figures for 2025 were released in early August 2026. CHAMPS compiles the information from the Region VIII states to create a regional summarized history of UDS information, providing two-, three-, and five-year trends of select Region VIII and national data, as well as detailed breakdowns of data by state, region, and nation for the current year. The 2025 Region VIII BPHC UDS Summary as well as a two-page 2025 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet will be published by CHAMPS soon.

To explore grantee and Look-Alike data,
visit HRSA's Health Center Program UDS Data webpage.
To view past Region VIII UDS summaries and fact sheets and the 2025 versions when released,
visit the CHAMPS Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries, Fact Sheets, and Infographics webpage.

WGA's Health Beyond Healthcare Initiative

The Western Governors' Association's (WGA) Health Beyond Healthcare initiative seeks to improve mental health outcomes across western states and territories by addressing both clinical care and the broader conditions that are foundational to mental health.

The first workshop of the initiative will be held in Bismarck, ND, from September 1-2, 2026. This workshop will explore topics related to mental health access and delivery, and efforts to prioritize prevention and early intervention. Visit the workshop webpage for more details and to register.

WGA is seeking input through a survey to help inform the initiative's development and implementation, and health centers are encouraged to participate. Learn more and complete the survey here.

Don't Miss: CHAD's Health Center Emergency Readiness Series

Join the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) for the next session of its free Health Center Emergency Readiness webinar series. The virtual event, **Communications in Emergencies: Strengthening Your Clinic's Readiness**, will explore practical approaches to strengthening health center emergency communications, with special consideration for organizations serving rural, frontier, and vulnerable populations. Participants will learn how to assess communication risks, establish redundancy in communication systems, and deliver timely, accurate information when it matters most. This webinar will take place on Thursday, September 10, beginning at 11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT.

The first session of the series took place in August 2026 and was a foundational training on health center emergency preparedness. Attendees learned how emergency plans are developed, what actions are expected of staff during an emergency, and how preparedness efforts help protect patients, colleagues, and the broader community. A recording of this session is available to view in CHAD's webinar library.

For more information and to register for the next session,
visit CHAD's Health Center Emergency Readiness Series webpage.

***Emergency Preparedness Resource:* Staffing Emergency Management in Health Centers**

Created by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), this document explores the benefits of staffing emergency management positions, challenges health centers may face, and strategies for overcoming these obstacles.

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Blacktail Health: Behavioral health programs in Butte schools see success, hope to see expansion *(NonStop Local News, July 2026)*
- ★ Falls Community Health: Falls Community Health promotes low-cost healthcare *(Dakota News Now, August 2026)*
- ★ Family HealthCare: Family HealthCare named Clinical Training Site of Excellence *(University of Minnesota, July 2026)*
- ★ FourPoints Health: Made in Southern Utah: FourPoints Health offers quality care to the community at affordable prices *(St. George News, May 2026)*
- ★ Partnership Health Center: New partnership brings mental health care to Missoula summer camps *(Montana Public Radio, June 2026)*
- ★ RiverStone Health: Montana Family Medicine Residency marks 30 years of training doctors in the state *(KTVQ, August 2026)*
- ★ Sheridan Health Services: Valley Hope and CU partnership provides unique care to moms with substance abuse disorder *(Denver7, May 2026)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2026

CHAMPS Healthy Communities Spotlight Series, Session Three - The Coffee Break Project: Supporting Mental Health in Ranching & Agricultural Communities
September 1

MPCA Alcohol Use Disorder Webinar Series
Tuesdays, September 1-29

CCHN Triannual Meeting
September 10; Vail, CO

CHAD Health Center Emergency Readiness Series, Session Two – Communications in Emergencies: Strengthening Your Clinic's Readiness
September 10

BPHC Program Updates
September 29

October 2026

MHA/MPCA 2026 Montana Healthcare Conference
October 5-8; Billings, MT

CHAMPS/NWRPCA Pre-Conference 340B Workshop
October 24; Salt Lake City, UT

CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference
October 24-27; Salt Lake City, UT

November 2026

NACHC Partner Conference
November 16-18; Kansas City, MO

Looking Ahead

NACHC Policy & Issues Forum
February 8-11, 2027; Washington, D.C.

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

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