



Winter 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

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CHAMPS 2021 Awards Ceremony Highlights

The 2021 CHAMPS Awards Ceremony, held November 22, 2021, recognized seven individuals from Region VIII for their outstanding and inspiring contributions to the Community Health Center Movement. To learn more about this year's and past awardees and watch recordings from the virtual ceremony, visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage.

Congratulations to the 2021 CHAMPS Awardees!



- ★ **Exceptional Board Leadership Award**
Jesus Tijerina, Board Chair, Salud Family Health Centers (CO)
- ★ **Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award**
Megan Littlefield, MD, Chief Medical Officer, RiverStone Health (MT)
- ★ **Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award**
Karen Miller, DDS, Chief Dental Officer, Pueblo Community Health Center (CO)
- ★ **Exceptional Administrative Leadership Award**
Annette Franta, Chief Financial Officer, Mountain Family Health Centers (CO)
- ★ **Outstanding Advocate for the Underserved Award**
Shawna Yates, DO, Chief Executive Officer, Southwest Montana Community Health Center (MT)
- ★ **Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award**
Jan Cartwright, Retired, Executive Director, Wyoming Primary Care Association (WY)
- ★ **Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award**
Don Gutstadt, PA-C, Retired, Vice President of Medical Services, Salud Family Health Centers (CO)

The next CHAMPS Awards Call for Nominations is anticipated to open in early summer 2022. Visit the [CHAMPS Awards](#) webpage for more details and nomination forms when available.

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Region VIII 2020 BPHC UDS Summary

Every year, CHAMPS compiles a summary of two-, three-, and five-year trends of selected Region VIII Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Uniform Data System (UDS) information. The 2020 UDS Summary highlights health center awardees, sites, staffing, visits, patients, productivity, and financial and clinical performance, and more. Newly added features for 2020 include a look at the percentage of visits that were virtual for all visits, for selected services, and for visits provided by select personnel, and performance on the new depression remission measure.

View the [2020 Region VIII UDS Summary](#), the [2020 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet](#), and other [UDS summaries](#) on the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage. Learn more about the [2020 UDS Workforce Infographic](#) on page 3.

Thank You for Your Input!

CHAMPS sincerely appreciates the 308 Region VIII health center leaders who took the time to complete the 2021/2022 Region VIII Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment last month. This valuable information, representing 98.4% of the region's health centers, will enable CHAMPS and our five Region VIII State Primary Care Association (SPCA) partners to understand top concerns and challenges, the most needed T/TA topics, and preferences for various T/TA methods. These results have been used by CHAMPS and Region VIII SPCAs to craft PCA Cooperative Agreement work plans and report to the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) about the current healthcare environment and will continue to ensure we are able to provide the highest quality and most impactful programming.

Top Five for 2021/2022

Challenges/Concerns:

- ★ Burnout
- ★ Retention of Staff
- ★ Competitive Pay Scales
- ★ Recruitment of Providers
- ★ Recruitment of Other Licensed Staff

Training Topics:

- ★ Burnout Prevention/Resiliency
- ★ Support Staff Professional Development
- ★ Staff and Board Understanding of Payment Reform and Practice Transformation Models
- ★ Analyzing Impact of Proposed Payment Models on Revenues and Operating Cash Flows
- ★ Staff Capacity for Change

Summaries of Region VIII T/TA Needs Assessment results for this and prior years are available on the [CHAMPS Board Resources](#) webpage (log-in credentials required). Questions? Contact the [CHAMPS Workforce Development and Member Services Director](#).

NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Conference Sessions Available

The 2021 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference took place in October 2021 and virtually brought together hundreds of individuals from across Region VIII, Region X, and beyond. Handouts and recordings from the conference sessions are now available in the [NWRPCA Learning Vault](#).

To learn how to access these resources, visit the [CHAMPS Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage.

Thank You [CHAMPS Members](#)

CHAMPS would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations that supported CHAMPS through 2021-2022 Organizational Memberships. You make it possible for CHAMPS to provide quality programs and services throughout the year! To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member, visit the [CHAMPS 2021-2022 Organizational Membership Materials](#) webpage.

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](#).

Registration is Open for the CHAMPS 2022 CORE Competencies Training

Registration is now open for the 2022 CHAMPS CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training. This five-week, virtual course will be facilitated by Lisa Mouscher, CEO and Lead Consultant at Sogence Training and Consulting, and is designed to provide hands-on and immediately applicable skill-building opportunities. Participants will learn the skills needed to successfully navigate management and supervisory roles in the fast-paced and often challenging health center environment. Sessions will take place over five Wednesday mornings from April 27-May 25, 2022, 9:30-11:30AM MT | 10:30AM-12:30PM CT. A limited number of registration scholarships, awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, are available for participants from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, courtesy of [Colorado Community Health Network \(CCHN\)](#), [Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas \(CHAD\)](#), [Montana Primary Care Association \(MPCA\)](#), and [Wyoming Primary Care Association \(WYPCA\)](#). Additional details about the 2022 CORE Competencies Training and registration information can be found on the [CHAMPS Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage. Registration closes on Monday, March 28, 2022, but the course is expected to fill to capacity so please register as soon as possible.



Questions? Please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).

Now Available: 2020 UDS Workforce Infographic

Each year, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) undertakes a data collection project that compiles information from health centers around the country. The Uniform Data System (UDS) includes information regarding workforce metrics related to health professions education and training (HP-ET) programs in health centers. CHAMPS recently published the [2020 UDS Workforce Infographic](#) highlighting HP-ET data and trends illustrated by UDS. In Region VIII, 88.3% of health center awardees had HP-ET programs. Of this percentage, 22.72% of awardees were categorized as sponsor sites, meaning it hosts a comprehensive HP-ET program. Additionally, the most commonly trained professions by discipline in Region VIII were physicians, dentists, clinical social workers, and pharmacists.

For more Region VIII UDS reports from 2020 and prior years, visit the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.

Recent Updates: Sample Job Description Webpage

Recruitment efforts are crucial to maintaining the health center workforce. To aid in this effort, CHAMPS maintains a variety of resources accessible to health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs). Recently, CHAMPS updated the [Sample Job Descriptions](#) webpage to include over 30 new downloadable and customizable job descriptions for credentialing professionals, information technology staff, nurse practitioners, marketing managers, and more. Check out the webpage for a wide range of positions varying from administrative and management, to behavioral health, dental, and medical providers, and support staff.

For additional resources to support health center workforce, visit the CHAMPS [Recruitment and Retention Resources](#) webpage.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Coming Soon: 2022 Salary Survey

Every two years, CHAMPS and the Region VIII State Primary Care Associations undertake the Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey. Planning for the 2022 iteration of this project is underway, and **data collection will begin in mid-March**. More information will be emailed to all Region VIII health centers soon, and additional details about the survey and resulting reports can be found on the [CHAMPS Publications](#) website.

Questions? Please contact the CHAMPS [Workforce Development and Membership Services Director](#).

Continuing Education on Your Schedule

CHAMPS hosts a wide variety of live distance learning events and provides access to recordings and additional resources from these sessions. Health center staff are encouraged to utilize these resources as they enhance professional development, gain clinical knowledge, and learn workforce strategies. Currently available archives address Immunization Updates, Maternal Health, Wildfire Preparedness, Serving Indigenous People, Weight Bias in Healthcare, Health Professions Education, Developing Your Medical Assistant Workforce, and more.

Visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details and to learn more about the archived distance learning events.

CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank

Is your Region VIII health center or Primary Care Association (PCA) hiring? Post your open positions on the free CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#). CHAMPS staff promote JOB postings when attending job fairs and when sending monthly emails to prospective employees highlighting positions recently posted by CHAMPS [Organizational Members](#).

*To post an opening or update a current position, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Health Center Workforce](#).
To sign up for the monthly JOB email, visit the CHAMPS [Job Bank](#) webpage.*

NIMAA Now Offering Federal Financial Aid to Eligible Students

Submitted By: Stephanie Ivers Heine, Community Health Center, Inc.

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) is excited to make entry into a health career more accessible to individuals in medically underserved communities. NIMAA was recently approved to participate in the Federal Student Aid Program (FSA), which provides financial assistance for attendance at post-secondary institutions like NIMAA. Founded in 2016 by two community health centers, NIMAA is an accredited online and in-clinic medical assistant training program designed to increase access to high-quality educational opportunities in the communities health centers serve and to address a critical workforce shortage in primary care. Student access to federal financial aid will be of great assistance in achieving these goals while providing more opportunities for individuals who might not otherwise be able to afford attendance at an accredited medical assisting program. Participation in the FSA program will be an additional financial resource to current and future students who may already be benefiting from financial assistance through NIMAA's clinical partners or local workforce centers through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

To learn more and apply for this financial aid, visit the NIMAA [Financial Aid](#) webpage.

Subscribe to the CHAMPS Workforce Focus

The CHAMPS Workforce Focus is an e-bulletin for human resources, recruitment and retention, and pipeline development contacts within Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations. To sign up for this e-bulletin, visit the [CHAMPS Workforce Focus](#) webpage.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

Weitzman Institute Primary Care Awards – Apply Today

The Weitzman Institute recently announced the Weitzman Institute Primary Care Awards, which will recognize innovative leaders in primary care research, translated research, developing health professionals training programs, and policy impact. The application deadline is Friday, April 1, 2022. Awardees will receive \$10,000 in recognition of their contributions to primary care.

Review the application requirements and qualifications on the [program website](#).

Winter Updates from the Star² Center

Submitted By: Mariah Blake, STAR² Center

The STAR² Center team is kicking off the new year with a full slate of training and technical assistance opportunities for health center workforce teams. The most recent two-part webinar series, [Finding a Way Forward: Retaining & Recruiting Medical Assistants and Dental Assistants in the Changing Workforce Landscape](#), has been archived for others to review. The STAR² Center is also in the third season of the podcast, [STAR² Center Talks Workforce Success](#), which will continue focusing on employee self-care.

Workforce staff are encouraged to mark their calendars and register for additional upcoming live training opportunities:

- ★ On Thursday, February 24, [The ACE-15 Tool: Measuring “Teamness” in your Organization](#) webinar will discuss the ACE-15 Survey, a tool for assessing the critical qualities that make clinical teams effective.
- ★ Registration will soon be available for the [Going Beyond Buzzwords: Striving for a Thriving Workforce](#) in Nashville, TN, May 2-3. This workforce symposium will provide attendees with the opportunity to dig deep into a slate of topics related to promoting resilience and transformations in care to effectively support health center teams.
- ★ Following the symposium, workforce staff will be able to register for an [interactive workshop on creating and improving Retention & Recruitment Plans](#) in Nashville, TN, from May 4-5.

[Reach out to the STAR² Center team](#) with any questions or for technical assistance and [keep an eye on the team newsletter](#) for the latest updates as this year unfolds.

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](#).

Save the Dates for the CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative

Please mark your calendars with the dates for the 2022 CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative (RC), a virtually facilitated peer support group for health center providers using concepts from the evidence-based framework, *Finding Meaning in Medicine*. RC sessions will be held on the first Friday of each month beginning in April through August 2022 and will be open to all Region VIII health center staff. More details about this monthly collaborative will be available on the CHAMPS website in the coming weeks.

Visit the CHAMPS [Events and Trainings](#) webpage to stay up to date on RC details and registration.

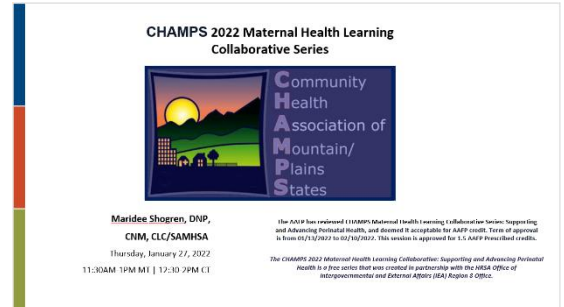
Want to Stay Up to Date on Clinical and Quality Improvement Information?

Sign up to receive the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Minute e-bulletin for brief updates on CHAMPS Clinical and Quality Improvement events and resources.

Visit the [CHAMPS MPCN Minute](#) webpage to subscribe.

Archived Recordings for the CHAMPS Maternal Health Learning Collaborative Available Now

Beginning in January 2022, CHAMPS hosted the three-part Maternal Health Learning Collaborative: Supporting and Advancing Perinatal Health. This free series was created in partnership with the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) Region 8 Office and featured Maridee Shogren, DNP, CNM, CLC, from the Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center (MPATTC) and the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MPMHTTC). During these sessions, health center care team members from across Region VIII learned the latest in maternal mortality and morbidity data as well as the impact of substance use disorders and perinatal mental health concerns in new mothers, and gained access to screening recommendations, clinical tools, and resources. Recordings and handouts from each session can be found on the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage:



- ★ Reducing Stigma in Pregnant and Parenting Persons with Substance Use Disorders
- ★ Perinatal Substance Use Disorders: Increasing Awareness and Screening to Reduce Impact on the Maternal/Child Dyad
- ★ Perinatal Mental Health Awareness, Screening and Treatment

Visit the [Online Archived CHAMPS Distance Learning Events](#) webpage to learn more.

Visit CHAMPS' Disease/Condition Specific Resources

CHAMPS has a plethora of resources available for free on its website, including clinical-specific information related to provider training resources, clinical products, provider and patient reference materials, and more. One section that may be helpful in many situations are the [Disease/Condition Specific Resources](#), a compilation of information aimed at supporting health care providers at Region VIII health centers in offering the highest quality patient-care possible. The section includes the following disease/condition specific webpages:

- ★ [Asthma Treatment Resources](#)
- ★ [Behavioral Health Resources](#)
- ★ [Breastfeeding Resources](#)
- ★ [Chronic Pain Treatment Resources](#)
- ★ [Colorectal Cancer Screening Resources](#)
- ★ [Diabetes Treatment Resources](#)
- ★ [HIV/AIDS Treatment Resources](#)
- ★ [Oral Health Resources](#)
- ★ [Overweight and Obesity Treatment and Prevention Resources](#)
- ★ [Substance Use Disorder Resources](#)
- ★ [Opioid Use Disorder Resources](#)
- ★ [Tobacco Cessation Resources](#)
- ★ [Women's Reproductive Health Resources](#)

In addition to the resources listed above, CHAMPS has produced multiple videos designed to assist with finding a specific tool or resource on the CHAMPS website. The [Clinical Resources Website Tutorial](#) specifically highlights CHAMPS' online clinical tools, products, and resources.

Visit the CHAMPS [Clinical Resources](#) webpage for these and other valuable materials supporting Region VIII providers and health centers.

Stay up to date with all the latest news and CHAMPS offerings and resources through the CHAMPS [LinkedIn Company Page!](#)

Linked in

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](#).

Visit CHAMPS' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resources

The CHAMPS Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Resources webpage was compiled in response to requests from Region VIII members working to provide quality services to LGBT communities. The resources available on the webpage provide up-to-date reports, health care provider resources, continuing education, and more. CHAMPS webpages, including the LGBT Resources page, are constantly edited to ensure the information is relevant and timely. If you utilize any beneficial LGBT resources that are not included on this page but should be, please share them with CHAMPS staff.

Visit the CHAMPS [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Resources](#) webpage to see all available information and contact the CHAMPS Programs Coordinator, [Population Health](#) with new resources.

New Program to Use “Vaccine Ambassadors” to Improve Vaccine Education and Access Among Vulnerable Populations

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), in partnership with the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council \(NHCHC\)](#) and the [National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\)](#), has awarded \$2.3 million to 15 health centers in 12 states to support the Community Vaccine Ambassador Project. Alluvion Health (MT) and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CO), both located within Region VIII, were among the awardees.

The Vaccine Ambassador Project focuses on increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates among three specific populations which include people experiencing homelessness, individuals with substance use disorders, and individuals engaged in sex work. All three groups are at increased risk for COVID-19 infection, yet previously experienced barriers, trauma, and stigma in accessing health care has led to low levels of trust in the medical system. The Vaccine Ambassador Project will use trusted ambassadors — such as outreach workers, peer navigators, and people with lived experience in homelessness or substance use – to provide vaccination education and information to individuals.

More information on the [Vaccine Ambassador Project](#) can be found on the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) website.

HRSA Seeking Nominations for National Advisory Council on Migrant Health

There are currently seven open positions on the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health. This 15-member council meets twice per year or at the discretion of the Designated Federal Official (DFO) in consultation with the Chair. Those selected serve four-year terms and advise the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary on the selection, funding, and operation of Migrant Health Centers. The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting nominations for:

- ★ Three Board Members
- ★ Three Board Members/Patients
- ★ One Administrator Provider

To learn more about the council and how to apply, visit the [Solicitation of Nominations for Membership to Serve on the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health](#) webpage.

Record-Breaking Numbers Seen as Open Enrollment Closes



The Biden-Harris Administration announced a record-breaking 14.5 million people signed up for health care coverage through the Marketplaces during the historic Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) from November 1, 2021 through January 15, 2022. These numbers included 5.8 million people who have newly gained coverage. In addition, the American Rescue Plan lowered health care costs for most Marketplace consumers and increased enrollment. Consumers saw their average monthly premium decrease by 23%.

Read the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Press Release](#) to learn more.

NACHC Seeking Nominations for 2022 Migrant Health Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2022 Migrant Health Awards. The Migrant Health Awards are part of the NACHC Community Health Care Awards of Excellence, which are presented yearly to honor outstanding individuals and organizations within the health center movement. Nominations may include those from migrant health centers, migrant health center board members and staff, as well as public officials whose individual accomplishments best exemplify excellence in migrant health care.

Nominations can be submitted on the NACHC [Migrant Health Awards](#) webpage.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Endorses Harm Reduction Strategies

Submitted By: Devin Sweat, SAMHSA Public Policy Fellow

In December 2021, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a \$30 million Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to support community harm reduction efforts with applications due February 7, 2022. This NOFO, named the Harm Reduction Grant Program, is expected to honor 25 awardees up to \$400,000 per year for three years. SAMHSA defines harm reduction as, "a proactive and evidence-based approach to reduce the negative personal and public health impacts of behavior associated with alcohol and other substance use at both the individual and community levels." Harm reduction services are an essential part of preventing overdose deaths and linking people who use drugs to healthcare and substance use services. Alongside this, the Region VIII Federal Substance Use Disorder Consultation Team has established a Region VIII Harm Reduction Workgroup. All primary care professionals interested in harm reduction can join.

If interested in joining the monthly workgroup, please reach out to Devin Sweat at devin.sweat@samhsa.hhs.gov. Read more about the [Harm Reduction Grant Program](#) on the SAMHSA website.

CHAMPS Health Equity Digest

The electronic CHAMPS Region VIII Health Equity Digest, distributed quarterly, was designed to assist health centers and Primary Care Associations in addressing health inequities with a focus on health disparities, obstacles to health, social determinants of health, programs and resources that assist in closing the gaps, and more. To share topics you would like to see included in the Region VIII Health Equity Digest or ask questions, please contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Population Health](#). Visit the CHAMPS [Region VIII Health Equity Digest Sign-Up](#) webpage to subscribe.

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](#).

Updated Information Available on CHAMPS COVID-19 Webpages

Multiple sections addressing COVID-19 have been updated on the CHAMPS website to ensure Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations (PCAs) have the most up to date, relevant information. One area to review is the COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate information on the CHAMPS [Health Center Operations Resources for COVID-19](#) webpage which includes a compliance deadline chart for implementing the vaccine mandate. This information was updated following the January 13, 2022 U.S. Supreme Court reinstatement of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) vaccine mandate on health care employers for those in all states except Texas.

Additionally, a new section highlighting resources addressing the new HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program has been added to the CHAMPS [Health Center Operations Resources for COVID-19](#) webpage. This program provides free COVID-19 at-home self-testing supplies, authorized by the FDA for emergency use and available to all health centers and Look-Alike clinics. These no cost self-test kits are a part of the Biden Administration's "Path Out of the Pandemic" COVID-19 Action Plan and is supported by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) in partnership with the Department of Defense.

CHAMPS has also updated the [Provider Resources for COVID-19](#) webpage to include information on Outpatient Treatment Options for COVID-19, focusing on resources from the HRSA Health Center COVID-19 Therapeutics Program. The Biden-Harris Administration implemented this program to ensure our nation's underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 have equitable access to FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 treatments, such as oral antiviral pills. In response, HRSA, in partnership with other HHS partners, launched a program to directly allocate a limited supply of several oral antiviral pills for the outpatient treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19. The federal government has secured a supply of these medications for distribution following the issuance of Emergency Use Authorizations from the FDA. This program will supplement state and/or jurisdictional allocations and aims to ensure equitable access by providing an additional supply directly to HRSA-supported health centers.

Lastly, the 2021 National Survey of School-Based Health Centers can be found on the CHAMPS [Health Equity and COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage. This resource, put out by the School-Based Health Alliance, tells the story of how COVID-19 has impacted school-based health centers across the country and their response to meet the needs of their communities.

If you have questions about this material or would like to share additional resources, contact the CHAMPS [Programs Coordinator, Pandemic Response and Preparedness](#). Continue monitoring the CHAMPS [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) webpages for up-to-date resources and information on COVID-19.

CHAMPS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources

The CHAMPS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources webpages include a multitude of COVID-19 toolkits, webinars, guidance documents, and clinical articles that are pertinent to all aspects of health center COVID-19 response. To view this information and stay up to date on the ever-evolving landscape, visit the CHAMPS [COVID-19 Resources](#) webpages.



HRSA Announces Winners of the Promoting Pediatric Primary Prevention Challenge



In May 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data showed a decline in vaccinations and child well-being visits within pediatric populations. As a result of this, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) developed the Promoting Pediatric Primary Prevention (P4) Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health. Applicants were required to propose and implement innovative approaches working to increase access to and use of well-child visits and/or immunizations in primary care settings.

Three Region VIII health centers were winners after Phase 1, including Summit Community Care Clinic (CO), Partnership Health Center (MT), and Denver Health and Hospital Authority (CO). Each of these awardees received \$10,000 and used their prize money to begin their proposed approaches for Phase 2. Denver Health was chosen as one of 20 winners for their submission titled, "Partnering Medicine and Dentistry to Increase Vaccination and Well-Child Check Rates in Children Ages 9-17." Phase 2 winners received \$25,000 each.

Learn more about the P4 Challenge and awardees on the [HRSA Maternal & Child Health](#) website.

HRSA Year in Review

In 2021, health centers provided continuous, comprehensive, and high-quality care and services to those most in need. The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Year in Review summarizes the great work health centers performed in 2021, including: approximately 20 million individuals, 1 in 11 throughout the nation, utilized HRSA-funded health centers for affordable and accessible primary health care. Health centers were awarded \$13 billion with over half of that funding being for COVID-19 related needs, as well as having received 12.5 million masks for patients, staff, and communities, and administered 8.5 million COVID-19 tests and roughly 18 million COVID-19 vaccinations.



See more 2021 health center statistics on the [HRSA 2021 Year in Review](#) webpage.

New HRSA Administrator

In December 2021, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) announced a new Administrator, Carole Johnson, who began in January 2022. Johnson is returning to HRSA after previously being the testing coordinator for the White House COVID-19 response team. Her knowledge of the most effective tools to battle public health crises will be vital in her new role and to HRSA.

Learn more about Carole Johnson and her new position at [hhs.gov](#).

National Health Center Week

National Health Center Week, sponsored by NACHC and the Health Center Advocacy Network, will be celebrated [August 7-13, 2022](#). Each day of that week will be dedicated to a particular focus area, including public health in housing, healthcare for the homeless, agricultural worker health, patient appreciation, stakeholder appreciation, health center staff appreciation, and children's health. Find or submit your own event on the [National Health Center Week](#) website.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

2022 NACHC P&I: Emerging Leader Awards

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) [Policy & Issues Forum](#) (P&I) is taking place virtually February 14-16, 2022. On February 16, the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy's 2022 Emerging Leader Awards will be presented. CHAMPS congratulates the two Region VIII recipients of this prestigious award: Alice Steiner – Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy at Colorado Community Health Network and Karen Espinoza – Patient Access Supervisor at Denver Health.

To learn more, visit the [Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy](#) webpage.

Montana Primary Care Association – Upcoming Training Events

Submitted By: Barbara Scott, MPCA

The Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA) is hosting several addiction medicine online training events for medical and behavioral health personnel. Below is a list of their upcoming trainings through April 2022.



- ★ February 17 & 18 – **Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine (FOAM)** is an event where participants will learn how to recognize, screen, treat, and refer patients with substance use disorder through interactive, case-based learning.
- ★ February 24 & 25 – **ASAM Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Course: Waiver Qualifying** training will cover all treatments and medications for opioid use disorder and is designed for providers (MD, DO) who plan to obtain a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine.
- ★ February 24 & 25 – **Engaging Patients with Substance Use Disorder: Interventions and Best Practices** will focus on the physical, emotional, and mental changes patients experience through the withdrawal from substances and subsequent stages of recovery, and appropriate interventions along the way.
- ★ March 3 – **ASAM Moving Beyond the Barriers of Treating Opioid Use Disorder** will provide a case-based, interactive, live-virtual course that addresses common barriers that prevent DEA-waivered providers and/or programs from successfully treating pregnant and breastfeeding women with Opiate Use Disorder.
- ★ April 7 – **ASAM Moving Beyond the Barriers of Treating Opioid Use Disorder: OBGYN Focus** will provide a case-based, interactive, live virtual course that addresses the common barriers that prevent DEA-waivered providers and/or programs from successfully treating pregnant and breastfeeding women with Opiate Use Disorder.
- ★ April 14 – **Medication for Opiate Use Disorder** is available as an abbreviated training for those new to prescribing buprenorphine or as a refresher for those with a waiver. It is appropriate for individuals who are not planning on taking the full waiver course and want to serve up to thirty patients. Induction, protocols, and pharmacology will be reviewed.

To learn more and access registration links, visit the MPCA [Training and Events](#) webpage.

New Scope of Project Webpage

HRSA launched a new Scope of Project webpage in December 2021 which includes information on health center approved service sites, services, providers, service area, target population, and more.

Click here to view the [Scope of Project](#) webpage and the [Scope of Project Webpage Walkthrough](#).

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Denver Health Receives HRSA Funding Related to Teaching Health Centers

Denver Health in Denver, CO was awarded \$499,932 through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Teaching Health Center Planning and Development (THCPD) Program. Overall, HRSA awarded \$23,352,310 to 47 grantees in November 2021. The THCPD Program supports the development of new accredited primary care residency programs that work to address the physician workforce shortage and other challenges faced by rural and underserved communities. Its focus areas include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine-pediatrics, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, general and pediatric dentistry, and geriatrics.

To learn more about this program and see other awardees, visit the [Teaching Health Center Planning and Development \(THCPD\) Awards](#) webpage.

Good Faith Estimates for Uninsured (or Self-pay) Individuals Update

The Requirements Related to Surprise Billing Part II interim final rule (IFR) went into effect on January 1, 2022. This IFR restricts excessive out of pocket costs for consumers therefore protecting patients from surprise bills. Health care providers and facilities and air ambulance services were to implement this rule beginning January 1, 2022. Those with plan, policy, or contract years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, including group health plans, health insurance issuers, and Federal Employees Health Benefits program carriers are also to implement this ruling. The Part II IFR is related to the Title I (No Surprises Act) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

To learn more and follow along with updates on this ruling, visit the [No Surprises Act](#) webpage and the [Good Faith Estimates FAQ](#) document.

New Medicaid Option Promotes Enhanced Mental Health, Substance Use Crisis Care

States now have the option, through President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP), to utilize community-based mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with Medicaid. The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are working to bring more attention to this option as mobile crisis intervention services are essential when working with individuals who are experiencing mental health and substance use disorder crises. This new resource will assist states in integrating these enhanced services into Medicaid programs.

To learn about community-based mobile crisis intervention services, read the [CMS Press Release](#).

National Funding Opportunities

- ★ [Community Health Worker and Paraprofessional Training Program](#) (02/15/2022)
 - ★ [Rural Health and Economic Development Analysis](#) (03/08/2022)
- ★ [HRSA Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program](#) (03/18/2022)
 - ★ [2022 NCFH Bobbi Ryder Migrant Health Champion Award](#) (03/25/2022)
 - ★ [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program](#) (03/31/2022)
 - ★ [Area Health Education Center Program](#) (04/06/2022)
 - ★ [State Loan Repayment Program \(SLRP\)](#) (04/08/2022)
- ★ [Health Workforce Research Center Cooperative Agreement Program](#) (04/14/2022)
- ★ [Rural Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Support](#) (04/19/2022)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NEWS, *Continued*

Region VIII in the News

- ★ Sheridan Health Services: [Celebrating the CU Nursing Alumni Association DAISY Awardees](#) (*CU Anschutz*, December 28)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health Offers Free COVID-19 Home Test Kits](#) (*MontanaRightNow.com*, December 30)
- ★ Rural Health Care, Inc.: [Avera Marshall and Rural Health Care, Inc. Collaborate for Primary Care Clinic at New Location](#) (*Avera*, January 3)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Partnership Health Center to Close Satellite Clinic in Superior](#) (*Clark Fork Valley Press/Mineral Independent*, January 5)
- ★ Family HealthCare: [Free COVID Test Kits to be Available](#) (*KSAL.com*, January 10)
- ★ Partnership Health Center: [Health Department Releases COVID Conversation with Physicians](#) (*NewstalkKGVO.com*, January 10)
- ★ Glacier Community Health Center: [Krapf Proud of the County-Wide Relationships Built During Her Tenure as Health Department Director](#) (*Cut Bank Pioneer Press*, January 12)
- ★ Montana Primary Care Association: [Montanans Signing Up for Healthcare Through ACA Hits High Point with Days Left to Go](#) (*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, January 12)
- ★ Peak Vista Community Health Centers: [Peak Vista Names Florida Health Care Executive as CEO](#) (*The Gazette*, January 13)
- ★ Denver Health: [Denver Health CEO to Retire](#) (*Denver Business Journal*, January 13)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health Giving Away Free COVID-19 Testing Kits in Billings](#) (*KTVQ*, January 14)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health Explains Changing COVID Guidance](#) (*KULR8.com*, January 15)
- ★ PureView Health Center: [PureView Opens Downtown Helena Clinic in Newly Constructed Seeley Building](#) (*KTVH*, January 17)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health Distributes More Than 1,500 At Home COVID Tests in Billings](#) (*KTVQ*, January 18)
- ★ Green River Medical Center: [How FQHCs Are Standing Up, Sustaining Remote Patient Monitoring Programs](#) (*mHealth Intelligence*, January 21)
- ★ FourPoints Health: [Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Celebrates New Health Care Center, Brings Additional Resources to Cedar City](#) (*Salt Lake Tribune*, January 21)
- ★ Helena Indian Alliance: [Leo Pocha Memorial Clinic Offering Narcan Use Training](#) (*KTVH*, January 21)
- ★ Denver Health: [Denver Health to Offer COVID-19 Vaccines at the Latin Dance Exposition in Aurora](#) (*9News*, January 24)
- ★ MarillacHealth: [MarillacHealth Launches 12th Annual Valentine's Day Fundraiser](#) (*NBC11News*, January 24)
- ★ RiverStone Health: [RiverStone Health to Give Away Free COVID-19 Test Kits in Billings](#) (*KTVQ*, January 26)
- ★ Glacier Community Health Center: [Sign Up for GCHC's Free Heart Healthy Program, Membership to Civic Center is Included!](#) (*Cut Bank Pioneer Press*, January 26)
- ★ Montana Primary Care Association: [More Montanans Enroll for Health Insurance on Exchange Than in Recent Years](#) (*Independent Record*, January 28)
- ★ FourPoints Health: ['No Song is Ever the Same': Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Cedar Ban Presents Traditional Music and Dance](#) (*St. George News*, January 30)
- ★ Pueblo Community Health Center: [New "Green" Health Center Expands Access in East Pueblo](#) (*Public News Service*, January 27)
- ★ Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD): [Report: Heart and Dementia Risk Factors Overlap](#) (*KXLG*, February 1)
- ★ Denver Health: [Learning to Save Lives at 16: Denver Teens Train to Become EMTs Amid Colorado Shortage](#) (*Colorado Sun*, February 7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

[NACHC Policy & Issues Forum](#)

February 14-16, 2022

[CHAMPS Healthcare for the Homeless Collaborative](#)

February 16, 2022
11:30 AM MT | 12:30 PM CT

[HRSA Improving Health Care Digital Literacy Among Latino/Hispanic Populations Webinar](#)

February 16, 2022
11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT

[Star² Center PCA-HCCN Workforce Professional Development Series](#)

February 16; April 13; June 14, 2022

[MPCA ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine Course](#)

February 17-18, 2022

[ACU Webinar The ACE-15 Survey Tool: Measuring "Teamness" in Your Organization](#)

February 24, 2022
12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT

[MPCA ASAM Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Course](#)

February 24-25, 2022

[MPCA Engaging Patients with Substance Use Disorder: Interventions and Best Practices Training](#)

February 24-25, 2022

[MCN, Farmworker Justice, & FUTURES Intimate Partner Violence + Exploitation During COVID-19 in Farmworker Communities Learning Collaborative](#)

February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 2022

March

[MPCA Moving Beyond the Barriers of Treating Opioid Use Disorder Course](#)

March 3, 2022
9:00 AM MT | 10:00 AM CT

[Today with Macrae: Health Center Program Updates](#)

March 8, 2022
12:00 PM MT | 1:00 PM CT

[ACU Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's 2022 Conference](#)

March 14-18, 2022

[HRSA Racial Disparities in Maternal Health: Challenges and Opportunities Webinar](#)

March 16, 2022
11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT

[CDC Climate Change & Health: The Risks to Community Health & Health Care Utilization Webinar](#)

March 17, 2022
11:00 AM MT | 12:00 PM CT

[National Center for Farmworker Health 30th Annual Midwest Stream Forum](#)

March 28-30, 2022

April

[National Nurse-Led Care Consortium Health Justice: Supporting Patients with Unmet Legal Needs Webinar](#)

April 1, 2022
8:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM CT

[CHAMPS Resiliency Collaborative](#)

April 1; May 6; June 3; July 1; August 5, 2022

[MPCA Moving Beyond the Barriers of Treating Opioid Use Disorder from OB/GYN Focus Webinar](#)

April 7, 2022
9:00 AM MT | 10:00 AM CT

[CHAMPS Spanish for Oral Health Providers Training](#)

April 11-12, 2022

[CHAMPS 2022 Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals Training](#)

April 14-15 & April 21-22, 2022

[MPCA Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Webinar](#)

April 14, 2022
8:30 AM MT | 9:30 AM CT

[CHAMPS Spanish for Behavioral Health Providers Training](#)

April 18-19, 2022

[CHAMPS Medical Spanish for Advanced Spanish Speakers Training](#)

April 25-26, 2022

[CHAMPS CORE Competencies for Health Center Supervisors and Managers Training](#)

April 27; May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022

[AUCH EMDRIA: Approved Basic EMDR Training Course Session 1](#)

April 28-30, 2022

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