



Colorado Rural Health Center

"Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues"

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Board of Directors May 2007

Danny Barela
Northwest Colorado RETAC
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Delta, CO 81416

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Danny Barela is the coordinator for Colorado's Northwest Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. He also serves as one of the governor-appointed members of the State's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (SEMTAC), where Danny serves on a variety of taskforces and committees. For 25+ years, Danny has provided rural assistance in many ways and through many positions including Flight Paramedic, EMS Instructor, Mine Rescue Team Medic, and Ambulance District Manager. He is a graduate of Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs and has since received a wide range of specialized EMS, Trauma and Healthcare Management training. In his spare time, Danny enjoys studying history, Native American crafts, Experiential Anthropology, camping, and other outdoor activities.

- *Danny was elected to the Board in August 2004.*

Maribeth Berry, Ex-Officio
1620 S. Quebec Way #2
Denver, CO 80231

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Although she has recently moved to Denver, Maribeth Berry has lived in rural areas for over 25 years; seven of those in Oklahoma and nineteen years in Wray, Colorado. Her work experience includes being Assistant to Medical Directors for Rocky Mountain HMO and Business Manager of the nursing home in Wray. Maribeth has a wide range of experience on boards, also, including the boards of Centennial Mental Health, Wray Public Library, and the Wray Rehabilitation and Activity Center. She is a past President of the Colorado Medical Society Alliance. Maribeth is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado and has a degree in accounting.

- *Maribeth was elected to the Center's Board in 1997. She served as Secretary in 1998 and 1999. She became the President in June 2001; served a second term in 2002; and a third term in 2003 & 2004. Since July 2004, she has been the Board's Past President and in June 2006 became an Ex-Officio Member of the Board.*

Jim Brundige, Treasurer
Lone Wolf Operating Company
Tabor Center- 1125 17th Street, Suite 2290
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Jim is a co-founder and the Vice President of Lone Wolf Operating Company, an independent oil and gas operator, headquartered in Denver, with an office in Haxtun and operations in Texas and Kansas. A native of Haxtun, Jim served as the Administrator of the Haxtun Hospital District, a sixteen bed acute-care and 32-bed long-term care facility from 1996 to 2000. He has a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Northern Colorado, and is also one heck-of-a card player, always playing according to Hoyle.

- *Jim was elected to the Center's Board of Directors in 1998. He has served as the Treasurer in 2000 and 2001. Jim served as President-Elect in 2003 and as Treasurer again in 2004.*

Randy Evetts, President
Southeastern Colorado AHEC
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Randy is the Executive Director of the Southeastern Colorado Area Health Education Center. Previously, his work included managing rural health clinics in the Rocky Ford area and directing the Office of Rural Outreach at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He is currently a board member for the Colorado Prevention Center and serves as Board Chair for the Pueblo Community Diabetes Project. Randy also chairs the Pueblo School District 60 Health Advisory Council. Randy is a graduate of Colorado State University, where he received a B.S. in biological sciences, and

of the University of New Mexico, from which received his Masters in Public Administration. In his spare time, Randy enjoys spending time with his wife and son. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and snowshoeing.

- *Randy was elected to the Center's board in July 2003. In August 2004, he was elected the Board's Secretary and in June 2006, Randy became Board President.*

Lisa Filipczak, Secretary
Senior Physician Relations Representative
The Children's Hospital
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Lisa Filipczak is a Senior Physician Relations Representative at The Children's Hospital in Denver. Her position and previous work experience involve visiting health care providers and hospital administrators in rural and metro areas of CO, KS, MT, NE, and WY. Lisa also has experience working as a meeting and event planner. The University of Connecticut awarded her a BA in Medical Sociology in 1992. Lisa has served as a Council Member of the Colorado Rural Health Center and the Colorado Health and Hospital Association. Lisa's community volunteer work includes volunteering at The Samaritan House, a homeless shelter in downtown Denver, and volunteering with the Colorado Special Olympics. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, camping, traveling, snowboarding and cheering on the UConn Huskies basketball teams.

- *Lisa was elected to the Center's board in May 2004. As of June 2006, Lisa has served as the Board's Secretary.*

Brenda Higgins, Past President
27451 CR 3H
Genoa, CO 80818

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Brenda is the Past Administrator of the Plains Medical Center in Limon. Prior to this position, Brenda worked in the insurance industry for thirteen years. Currently, she serves on several boards: the Lincoln County Economic Development Committee, Colorado Community Health Network, and Colorado Community Managed Care Network board of directors. Brenda is also an avid golfer and, in the fall, when the courses are closed, she co-directs the Women's Choir. Brenda, her husband, and her two children live on a farm northwest of Genoa.

- *Brenda was elected to the Board of Directors in June 2002 and also became the Secretary. In July 2003, Brenda was elected President-Elect in addition to serving another term as Secretary. In July 2004, Brenda became Board President, and past president in June of 2006.*

Robert Omer
Pioneers Medical Center
345 Cleveland
Meeker, CO 81641

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Bob Omer is the Chief Executive Officer of Pioneers Medical Center, a facility that includes Pioneers Hospital, Walbridge Wing (SNF), and The Meeker Family Health Center (PB-RHC). Bob also serves on the Boards of The Western Healthcare Alliance and The Colorado Association of Healthcare Executives. His nearly 30 years experience in executive management includes tertiary, community, rural hospitals and nursing homes, physician clinics and practices, and rural healthcare in the Midwest and Mountain West. Bob is a graduate of both The University of Utah (B.S.) and Washington University (MHA) in Saint Louis. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Bob and his wife Debbie enjoy hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and traveling to visit family and friends.

- *Robert was elected to the board in June 2005.*

Toloo Pearl
100 5th Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252

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Toloo Pearl is the past-Administrator of the West Custer County Hospital District. In addition to her experience in health administration, Toloo worked in the Custer County Clinic in various areas for twelve years. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1997 and, along with her work at the Custer County Clinic, worked part-time for two years in a nearby emergency room. Toloo was raised in Cotopaxi, Colorado, a rural community on the Arkansas River, and moved to Westcliffe in 1982. She is married and has three teenage children. Toloo is a member of the Custer County Chamber of Commerce and volunteers her time as an EMT for the Custer County Ambulance Corps.

- *Toloo was elected to the board in June 2003.*

Richard Rivera, PA-C
Physician Assistant
15 Antelope Road
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Rich Rivera is currently under contract with Rio Grande Hospital as the Manager/Physician Assistant for the Creede Medical Clinic. He is also the provider for the Montrose County Correctional Facility. Two days a month, Rich works at the Olathe Clinic, which he helped get started in 1993. Rich also helped to design and plan the new rural health clinic in Creede, Creede Family Practice of Rio Grande Hospital. Rich is a graduate of the US Army PA Program, 1977. He obtained his MS degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 1984. He retired from the military in 1990 and was an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston 1990-1993. He is a Past-President of the Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants. Rich has been on a committee to advise Scott McInnis on health policy needs. He was a past board member of the Colorado State Migrant Health Program, and he mentors PA and FNP students.

- *Rich was elected to the Center's board in 1999 and after restructuring in 2001, served on the Rural Health Council. He was elected again to the Board of Directors in June 2002.*

Vonie Weaver
Senior Reasons
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Vonie Weaver has been involved with senior health and wellness for the past 13 years and is currently involved in promoting heart health and mental health on the Eastern Plains, as well as owning and operating her personal business, "Senior Reasons." Vonie was the Senior Coordinator at the Wray Rehabilitation & Activities Center for 7 years and is currently instructing a variety of health and wellness classes at that facility. She is a member of the Yuma County Adult Protection Team and works closely with the many different entities in her community that pertain to the senior population. Vonie was employed by Eastern Colorado Services for the Developmentally Disabled from 1992-1998 and worked with seniors residing in a nursing home setting. Living in rural communities, Vonie also has experience living on a farm, raising cattle, growing wheat, and working at a veterinary clinic. Vonie has been married for 25 years; she and her husband Tom have 2 grown children who reside in the Denver area.

- *Vonie was elected to the board in June 2005.*