



Colorado Rural Health Center Special Delivery ONLINE

Fall 2008

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CRHC News

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance healthcare services in Colorado. CRHC does this by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues.

There are numerous ways to be involved in CRHC's efforts, including membership. Simply call or write for more information. The Special Delivery Newsletter is posted quarterly on the Colorado Rural Health Center's website to give our constituents information about programs and resources available.

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Ron Seedorf	Emergency Preparedness Manager

Water Purification Units Distributed to Colorado Acute Care Hospitals

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Colorado Rural Health Center is donating these units



Ron Seedorf, CRHC's Emergency Preparedness Manager, showcasing one of the portable water purification units.

the units will be hand-delivered by CRHC personnel as they travel around the state for on-site visits. CRHC, which serves as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health, works with rural and urban health facilities on emergency preparedness activities in various capacities by participating in programs such as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Hospital Preparedness and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Programs. In fact, CRHC received the 2007 Emergency Response Partner of the Year award from CDPHE for its work with the emergency preparedness program. Ron Seedorf serves as CRHC's Emergency Preparedness Manager and oversees these initiatives.

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is providing 73 acute care hospitals throughout rural and urban Colorado with portable water purification units to augment their emergency preparedness programs and procedures. According to Lou Ann Wilroy, Executive Director,

"The recent incident with salmonella in Alamosa's water supply brought to light the need for hospitals to have alternative water sources," explained Wilroy. "We were able to cover the cost of these portable units through our unrestricted funding reserves." For more information, contact Ron Seedorf at rs@coruralhealth.org.

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Put This on Your Calendar!!

Tuesday, December 2: Attend Colorado's Statewide Health Professions Workforce Summit in Denver

The Colorado Rural Health Center, The Colorado Trust, and the Colorado Community Health Network are partnering to host a statewide Health Professions Workforce Summit on December 2 in the Denver area. The purpose of the Summit will be to:

- Serve as a forum for a statewide discussion about potential solutions to Colorado's healthcare workforce shortage
- Provide an opportunity to present the recommendations of The Colorado Trust's Health Professions Workforce Policy Collaborative that has developed a comprehensive, statewide policy agenda to address Colorado's health professions shortage
- Create consensus regarding recommended priority areas and action steps and present those recommendations to the Governor and policy-makers

The Health Professions Workforce Summit will be held on December 2nd at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, located at 360 Union BLVD, Lakewood, CO 80228. Make your hotel reservation now! CRHC has a block of rooms reserved at discounted rates for attendees (\$99 Singles; \$99 Double/Twins; \$169 Club; \$350 Suite). The rooms will be held until Nov. 10, 2008. To make your reservation, call (303)987-2000 and request the Colorado Rural Health Center room block or group code COL01A.

- Registration fee for participants is \$40.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- Contact Shelly Collings, Development Coordinator, at 720-233-5590 or sc@coruralhealth.org for the latest details and registration information.

CRHC Gathering Rural Patient Safety Input for Statewide Task Force

The Colorado Trust, is funding a Patient Safety Leadership Task Force in Colorado. The goal of the Task Force, led by the Colorado Patient Safety Coalition, and made up of numerous healthcare stakeholder organizations across the state, is to convene these organizations to determine a common patient safety agenda for Colorado.

The Colorado Rural Health Center is pleased to be a Task Force member and will be leading the rural subcommittee for the Task Force to gain input from rural communities on the rural vision for patient safety moving forward. If you have questions or would like to participate in the rural community sessions to discuss patient safety, please contact Cari Fouts at cf@coruralhealth.org or (303)832-7493.

Save the Date:**Telehealth Symposium Scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009**

- WHAT:** A one-day symposium to highlight current telemedicine and telehealth opportunities and obstacles in Colorado
- WHEN:** Friday, March 27, 2009
- WHERE:** At a location in the metro Denver area, to be announced
- WHO:** Co-sponsored by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) and the Colorado Neurological Institute (CNI)
- TOPICS COVERED:**
- Existing telemedicine programs in Colorado
 - Successful telehealth projects in and lessons gleaned from other states' programs
 - The need for specialty healthcare and education in rural and underserved Colorado
 - Opportunities and obstacles for the future of telehealth in Colorado
 - A possible statewide mechanism for telehealth communication and shared resources
- CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Shelly Collings at (720)233-5590 or sc@coruralhealth.org.

Register Now for Prize Drawing!!**Win an All-Expense-Paid Trip* to the 2009 NRHA Annual Conference in Miami Thanks to CRHC Member Gerri Lewis-Jenkins**

The trip has been generously donated by Ms. Gerri Lewis-Jenkins of COPIC Companies, who originally won it in the longest drive contest at the CRHC First Annual Golf Tournament. The tourney was held at Copper Mountain this past June in conjunction with the CRHC Annual Rural Health Conference. CRHC thanks Gerri for her generous donation!!

- WHO:** Any current member of CRHC from a rural community can enter to win the trip (as stipulated by Denverite Gerri).
- WHAT:** *The prize consists of round-trip airfare, a conference registration for one, hotel accommodations, and a per diem for meals.
- WHEN:** The NRHA Annual Conference is scheduled for May 5-8, 2009.
- WHERE:** The 2009 NRHA Annual Conference will be held in beautiful Miami Beach, Florida.
- HOW:** Email info@coruralhealth.org to place your name in the drawing to win the free trip. Please put "Contest Registration" in the subject line. Only one entry per person, please. All entries are due by Friday, October 31, 2008. Drawing will be held on November 3, 2008. Winner will be notified by email and announced in our Winter quarterly e-newsletter.

Breaking News:

CMS Announces Permanent Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) for Colorado

The article below is excerpted from a news release dated 10/6/08 issued by HCPro and written by Dominic Nicastro. Contact dnicastro@hcpro.com for more information or to view the entire news release.

CMS (the Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services) announced the new Medicare Recovery Audit Contractors for its permanent nationwide program on Monday, October 6. The contractor selected for the state of Colorado and Region C is:

Connolly Consulting Associates, Inc. of Wilton, CT: Region C, initially working in South Carolina, Florida, Colorado and New Mexico.

CMS said it chose the contractors and their regions based on three values:

- A “best value determination” that includes a strong technical approach and “exceptional” customer service
- Conflict of interest reviews
- Lowest contingency fee

Connolly and HDI (HealthDataInsights, Inc. of Las Vegas, NV) worked on the initial RAC demonstration

project that spanned over six states, collected more than \$900 million in overpayments, and returned nearly \$38 million in underpayments to healthcare providers, according to a CMS press release. CMS reports through June 30, 2008 that HDI led all contractors in the demonstration project with 239,205 overpayment determinations. Providers have been the most successful with appeals against HDI (11.5%). Connolly was second with 110,635 and had 4.2% overturned on appeals.

The new RACs will begin to educate and inform providers later this month and in November about the program, CMS said. Kimberly Anderwood Hoy, JD, CPC, director of Medicare and Compliance for HCPro, Inc., said one of the new elements of the permanent program is the RAC Validation Contractor, which will approve issues for review by the new RACs. In addition, the contractors will create a Web site to post new topics the RACs are investigating. For more information about Medicare Recovery Audits or CRHC services to assist hospitals, contact Cari Fouts at cf@coruralhealth.org or 303-832-7493.

Check Out Our New Ancillary Website: <http://searchcolorado.org/>

Supporting recruitment efforts of the Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) program and your community, this website's sole purpose is to link healthcare providers with Colorado communities.

Beyond the hiring organization itself, a number of factors come into play when a provider chooses a location in which to practice and conceivably live--alone or with a family. Some of these include school systems, potential for recreation, and weather, just to name a few. Knowing that recruiting and retaining providers is one of the biggest challenges in Colorado's rural health industry today, our CPR team has developed a website with the sole purpose of helping providers seeking work to locate a Colorado community that best suits their individual or family needs. Colorado communities have much to offer healthcare providers, and our goal is to get that



**Search
Colorado
Communities**

provided by the Colorado
Rural Health Center

Find Your Ideal Community
for Healthcare Practice

message out loud and clear! Because some rural towns do not have their own websites, this site also provides an opportunity for them to be visible to online job seekers as well.

Just launched in September, the new website provides an interactive map of Colorado and informative pages for communities with outpatient primary care clinics. Each community page includes information about local hospitals, clinics, climate, demographics, schools, summary of local economy, employers, recreation, nearby towns, airports, and much more! There are also many links to related or helpful websites, such as the community's Chamber of Commerce and the local newspaper. CPR's new

(Continued on page 5)

Ancillary Website (Continued from page 4)

website also includes links to pages describing the loan repayment programs that are available, how to calculate a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score, and how to determine whether or not a county is "rural".

The Colorado Provider Recruitment program was created seven years ago by CRHC to address the

healthcare workforce shortage in Colorado. This new website--which is free to all--is another in a series of powerful initiatives to help alleviate this shortage. If you would like to contribute information to be added to your community's page, photographs, or corrections, please contact Elke Webb at (303)832-7449 or ew@coruralhealth.org.

We welcome your input!

CRHC Welcomes New Investing Members

The Colorado Rural Health Center wishes to thank our Investing Members. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, CRHC is not funded by the state government. Our general activities are supported by membership dues, sponsorships, fee-for-service programs, and contributions. The commitment and interest in rural healthcare by our investing members enables us to provide an array of programs and services that reach numerous communities throughout Colorado. If you wish to become an Investing Member of CRHC, please visit our website at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/membership/index.html>, or call us for more information: (303)832-7493 or (800)851-6782 from rural Colorado.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS (from August 1 to October 6, 2008)!

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Stanley Brasher	Plan de Salud del Valle, Inc.
Jay Brooke	High Plains Community Health Center
Jackie Brown	Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service
Jim Brundige	CRHC Board Member
Debra Carpenter	Denver Health Medical Center
Susan Bristol-Chaffee	Chaffee People's Clinic
Raquel Alexander	Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Chris Packer	Washington County Clinic
Marva Jean Jackson	Consumer
Kathy Jensen	Arthritis Foundation
Laurel Petralia	The Colorado Trust
Patricia Riddell	Western Colorado IPA
Jim Robertson	Mt. San Rafael Hospital
Judy Sudmeier	Consumer

Please note that all member-types (Corporate, Organizational, Individual and Student) are listed together.

Primary Care Fund Awards Announcement

On September 2, 2008, the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) officially released its Primary Care Fund (PCF) award decisions for FY 2008-2009. On behalf of Jim Berg, Centennial Consulting Group, LLC and Rich Marquez, RHC Program Coordinator for the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), CONGRATULATIONS to the clinics that participated in the CRHC and Centennial Consulting Group PCF partnership and received a PCF award. The Centennial Consulting Group and CRHC partnership will again provide application support for the FY 2009-2010 funding cycle. CRHC will release information on how clinics can participate later in October. If you are interested in learning more about the PCF or how CRHC assists clinics in applying, contact Rich Marquez at rm@coruralhealth.org.

Grantees Assisted by CRHC		
Clinic	Location	Award Amount
Basin Clinic	Naturita	\$62,245
Northwest Colorado Community Health Center	Steamboat Springs	\$89,096
Olathe Medical Clinic	Olathe	\$57,207
SET Family Medical Clinics	Colorado Springs	\$161,167
Clinica Tepeyac	Denver Metro	\$370,028
Dolores County Health Association	Dove Creek	\$71,884

Attention Rural Health Clinics: Please Return Surveys ASAP

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) would like to thank those Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) that have already returned their 2008 RHC Surveys. But we need more returned and here's why:

Every 2 years CRHC surveys the state's 43 certified RHCs. Returned surveys provide a wealth of information that we use to better serve these clinics. With the addition of Terri Hurst, Policy Analyst, to the CRHC team, the 2008 surveys will be used to formulate RHC outreach, education and advocacy efforts to local, state and federal policy makers and leaders. From RHC reimbursement to HPSA designation and RHC regulations, data-driven advocacy that reflects the challenges your clinic faces will provide added strength to CRHC's policy efforts.

On August 11, 2008, Rural Health Clinics received a copy of the RHC survey electronically by email with the initial deadline of Monday, September 8th. Now in October, we plan to conclude the survey process soon. During the first week of October, Rich Marquez, RHC Program Coordinator, contacted your clinic by email to verify that your clinic's RHC survey has been received by the Colorado Rural Health Center. For RHCs that have yet to complete their survey, Rich will extend an invitation for ongoing support and assistance. With your help, the Colorado Rural Health Center will achieve its goal of a 100% response rate for the 2008 Rural Health Clinic Survey, which will enable us to better serve you. Contact Rich Marquez at rm@coruralhealth.org for more information.

Thank You, Chipotle, for Supporting CRHC's Provider Recruitment Program!

CRHC would like to thank the Chipotle located at Colfax and Wadsworth in Lakewood for donating 35 burritos for our residency recruitment visit on Sept. 18 at St. Anthony's North. We like to provide good food to those residents who take the time to meet with us. As a good corporate citizen, Chipotle makes contributions like this one through its local store marketing program and we thank and recognize the company as a "community partner" for our Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) program. We really value and appreciate their support!

CRHC Staff Is Growing to Better Serve Your Needs

We welcome the following new staffers:



Elke Webb

CRHC is pleased to welcome Elke Webb who joined us in May 2008 as a Program Assistant for the Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) Program as well as for Outreach and Communications. A Colorado native, Elke graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BA in Biology and Sociology. As an undergraduate, Elke interned with the JSI Research & Training Institute office. In her free time, Elke enjoys hiking, camping, dancing and reading.

Sheri Glischinski

Sheri joined CRHC in April 2008 as a Program Assistant for the Rural Health Clinics and Critical Access Hospitals Programs. She will assist in providing resources, information, education, and technical assistance. Currently working on an Associate of Arts in Health Information Technology, her specialties are research, event planning, database and record management. Sheri is an active volunteer for the Women's Vision Foundation, Donor Alliance, and the University of Colorado Hospital.

Kay Volkema

Kay Volkema joined CRHC in September 2008 as Director of Outreach & Communications. She has over 20 years of related experience, and has worked for some of Colorado's largest and most well known organizations including the University of Denver, Regis University, and US Medical, and has overseen communications for two international non-profits. Active in the Front Range marketing community, Kay was named "Advertising Pro of the Year" in 1995 by the Denver Ad Federation. She earned a BS in Education from Emporia State University (KS), as well as an MA in English. Kay will oversee public outreach, communications, brand development, policy and special events.

Andrea Williams

Andrea joined CRHC in May 2008 as the Executive Assistant. Originally from Ohio, Andrea served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1989-1996. After an honorable discharge, she began working in the non-profit sector at Pikes Peak Mental Health. From there, she worked for Community Partnership for Child Development, Pikes Peak Community Action Agency, America's Family, and the Pikes Peak Youth Assessment Center. She also volunteers on a subcommittee of the annual diversity forum for the city of Colorado Springs. Andrea is currently working on a BS in Business Administration at Colorado Christian University. She has lived in Colorado since 1995 and is the proud mother of three children.

Free Equipment to be Donated to Rural Hospitals

The Cardiac Vascular Institute at Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver has equipment to donate to rural hospital facilities.

The equipment includes:

- ◇ Quinton stress acquisition system version 2.0. With T- 55 treadmill preloaded with standard exercise and pharmacological protocols

- ◇ Treadmill – Trackmaster – silver series
- ◇ Arm Ergometers – Monark Rehab Trainer 881
- ◇ Recumbent Bicycle – Schwinn – HRC 920i

If interested in any of these items, please contact Ed Hawkins at HawkinsE@exempla.org or (303)837-7915 ext. 67915 to arrange for pickup and/or delivery.

You should have received a CRHC Ballot Analysis via email, which briefly outlines the 18 ballot measures Coloradans will have to vote on this November. If you missed it, please click [<http://www.coruralhealth.org.crhc/programs/policy/news.html>] to access the information. In addition to the ballot measures, there are some bills in Congress that ROAP is tracking, which include:

◆ **H.R. 1527 Rural Veterans Access to Care Act**

CRHC initially reported on this bill in July. This bill would require a pilot program be conducted in four Veteran Integrated Services Networks (Colorado is one of them) that would allow a highly rural veteran who is enrolled in the system of patient enrollment of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) to access health services through a non-VA healthcare provider. If passed, this bill would allow veterans in rural Colorado to access healthcare services at their convenience and choice instead of being forced to access a VA facility. It would provide our returning and active troops increased access to healthcare services.

This bill passed unanimously in the House on September 10th. It has now moved to the Senate where it has been read twice and referred to the Committee of Veteran's Affairs.

◆ **S. 1577 Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act**

This bill would amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to require screening—including national criminal history background checks—of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers. This bill also prohibits the hiring of abusive workers at such facilities.

On September 22nd, the Senate Committee on Financing reported on this bill and it was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. As of September 30th, it had not yet been put to a vote.

◆ **H.R. 6898 The Health E-Information Technology Act of 2008**

This bill would use Medicare payments to encourage health care providers to adopt health information technology (HIT) systems. This bill would offer payment incentives to physicians who are early adopters of health IT, such as electronic health records, and impose penalties on providers that delay implementation or fail to switch to the technology.

This bill was introduced on September 15th, and was referred to the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation.

A similar bill [*H.R. 6357 Pro(TECH)T Act of 2008*] was introduced in June of 2008 and is currently in the House Committee on Ways and Means. This bill would amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the adoption of HIT, but would not penalize providers.

◆ **H.R. 2583 Physician Workforce Enhancement Act of 2008**

This bill would require the Secretary of Health & Human Services to establish a loan program that would provide loans to eligible hospitals to establish residency training programs. The programs would have to be either allopathic or osteopathic residency programs in family, internal, or emergency medicine, obstetrics or gynecology, or general surgery. Preference would be given to hospitals in rural areas.

This bill passed the House by voice vote on September 23rd and has been referred to the Senate.

◆ **H.R. 1343 Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008**

This bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was presented to the President for his signature on Sept. 30th. This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize appropriations for FY2008-FY2012 for health centers to meet the healthcare needs of medically underserved populations. The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) considers this a very important piece of legislation as it includes Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Community Health Centers, the National Health Services Corp and Rural Health Outreach Grants. The NRHA was able to include language in the bill that corrected a technical issue regarding health professional shortage areas, which would have impacted most RHCs. Instead, this bill will now benefit hundreds of RHCs, protecting access to healthcare in the most underserved rural communities.

The bill passed unanimously in the Senate. In the House, there were 393 yes votes and 24 no. Two Representatives from Colorado (Doug Lamborn - 5th District and Tom Tancredo - 6th District) voted no.

In the upcoming weeks, updates on these bills and more will be added to the Policy & Advocacy section of the of the CRHC website. Please be sure to visit the website. Keep in mind the Policy & Advocacy section is a work in progress, but you will already find posted news updates, articles of interest, and links to other rural health organizations. Please contact Terri Hurst, Policy Analyst at th@coruralhealth.org with feedback, comments, or suggestions on how we can make the Policy & Advocacy section more useful and beneficial to you, our members!

By Melissa A. Katsimpalis

A Bountiful Harvest of Another Kind: a Renewed Critical Access Hospital for Kit Carson County

Harvest time will bring something more than wheat and corn this year in Kit Carson County—a 27,000 square-foot addition of acute care space and another 2,200 square-feet of remodeled existing space for Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital (KCCMH).

On Nov. 13, the transformed hospital opens its doors to the community during a celebration of the hospital's history and a "hats off" to a critical access hospital re-designed to meet current and future healthcare needs of a demographically changing Eastern Colorado. Located in Burlington, Colorado, near the Kansas state line, the hospital serves approximately 8,650 Kit Carson County residents.

"County residents are excited by the transformation of the hospital, which was built in 1948," says Diane Mettling, KCCMH communications and fundraising director. "At the beginning, area residents were rather reserved in their acceptance of a renovated hospital instead of a brand new one. Now people are saying,

'Wow, the renovation is a lot bigger than I expected.'

"Seeing how the old hospital was turned into a really beautiful modern expanded one has won over area residents. People were able to watch the whole construction process and see how The Neenan Company achieved such a dramatic improvement of the original hospital at half the cost of building a new and less conveniently located one."

The Neenan Company, a Colorado-based design-build construction firm, designed and renovated the hospital, having guided the hospital's board, administration and staff through a two-year planning process that led to the decision that renovation could bring vast physical and service improvements within a prudent budget. The Neenan Company is a national leader in rural hospital design-build.

The outcome of the careful planning—which included a market assessment indicating the



Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital

population in the hospital's service area is aging—is a hospital that offers expanded outpatient services, a higher level of patient care, operational efficiency and addresses changes in delivery of healthcare services that might otherwise be sought from Front Range medical facilities and practitioners. For more information contact Michael Curtis, The Neenan Company, at (303)710-1873 or Diane Mettling, Kit Carson County Community Hospital, at (719)342-3747.

Governor Proclaims October as Family Health Month

Governor Bill Ritter Jr. has proclaimed October, 2008 as Family Health Month in Colorado in recognition of the role of family physicians in ensuring the health of families across the state. The executive proclamation cites family physicians for their historic dedication to the health of the state's citizens by emphasizing the family and providing primary care and medical treatment to all patients.

- For more information on the proclamation, contact Raquel Alexander at Raquel@coloradoafp.org.
- For more information about the role and activities of family physicians in Colorado, visit the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) website at www.coloradoafp.org.

Another Event Scheduled for Early December

Colorado Public Health Summit on December 1-2, 2008

Registration for Colorado's upcoming **Public Health Summit: From Vision to Action**, set for December 1-2, 2008, is now open online at the Public Health Alliance of Colorado website at: www.publichealthalliance.org.

Public health directors and nurses, environmental health directors, public health partners, county commissioners and other elected officials, and representatives of public health stakeholder groups are all encouraged to participate. The Summit is co-hosted by the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](http://www.cdphe.state.us), the [Public Health Alliance of Colorado](http://www.publichealthalliance.org) and the [Caring for Colorado Foundation](http://www.caringforcolorado.org).

Following a process set in motion by Gov. Bill Ritter's signing of the Public Health Reauthorization Act in June, people from many areas in public health will gather to begin developing the state public health improvement plan required by the Act. The legislation requires identified boards, agencies, and public officials to collaboratively develop state and local public health plans that set priorities for the public

health system in Colorado. The primary purpose of the Act is to assure that core public health services are available to every person in Colorado.

Registrants for the Summit are invited to select areas of interest or specialty in which they would like to engage in planning including everything from workforce or data collection to standards and communications.

Colorado is one of several states nationwide revamping its public health system, in part recognizing the evolution of issues that challenge the public health workforce. Today's public health issues include the safety of food and water, emerging diseases such as West Nile Virus, obesity and childhood immunizations. For more information, visit the websites of the sponsoring organizations:

www.caringforcolorado.org, www.cdphe.state.us, or www.publichealthalliance.org. For online registration, go to www.publichealthalliance.org.

Governor's Healthcare Roundtables

In the 2008 legislative session, Governor Ritter introduced a plan called the Building Blocks to Health Care Reform in which the legislature approved 100 percent of the policy to enhance efforts in containing costs, improving quality, and expanding access to healthcare for all Coloradans. Many of the successful Building Blocks proposals were based directly on recommendations from the 208 Commission. Senior members of Governor Ritter's administration will be traveling to nine communities throughout the state to host healthcare roundtables this fall. The roundtable discussion will be an important opportunity to express views, concerns, and priorities around healthcare reform in Colorado. Please RSVP to Liza Fox at liza.fox@state.co.us or (303)866-4234 by to attend a scheduled meeting.

Steamboat Springs

Monday, October 20, 8:30 - 10:00 A.M.
Yampa Valley Medical Center
1024 Central Park Drive

Greeley

Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.
Monfort Family Clinic
2930 11th Avenue Evans

Limon

Thursday, October 23, 2008, 9:00 - 10:30 A.M.
Limon Community Building
477 D Avenue

La Junta

Thursday, October 23, 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.
Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center
1100 Carson Avenue

Colorado Regional Conference on the Healthcare Response to Domestic Violence

- **When:** December 7–9, 2008
- **Where:** [Grand Hyatt Denver](#)- Denver, Colorado
[View Brochure](#)
- **For Registration:** <http://admin.cudenver.edu/regForm/registration.php?formId=1>
- **Presented by:** The Center on Domestic Violence, [University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs](#)
- **Jointly sponsored by:**
 - ◊ University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education
 - ◊ University of Colorado Denver College of Nursing
 - ◊ University of Colorado Denver School of Dental Medicine

For more information, contact Angela Kurr at akurr@coloradoguidelines.org.

Save the Date: November 12-13, 2008

2008 Chronic Disease Conference in Colorado Springs

Presented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, this two-day conference will be held at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. The theme for this year's conference is "Moving Mountains: Making a Difference in Chronic Disease Prevention." Sessions will focus on: public health core competencies, Colorado's chronic disease report card, evidence-based strategies for addressing chronic disease risk factors, policies that support healthy choices, chronic disease self-management, and the social determinants of health. For online registration visit www.regonline.com/chronicdisease.

What Do You Know About Healthcare?

Start a Conversation in Colorado About Health Care Reform

How does our healthcare system work? How did we get here? How can we have healthcare that reflects our values? How do we move from individual problem to shared solution? Find out the answers through SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH CARE, a joint project of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) and the Colorado Center on Law & Policy, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH CARE is an educational presentation that can be scheduled at your next community meeting, brown bag lunch or neighborhood function. This presentation and facilitated discussion addresses all these questions

and offers key health care concepts and issues designed to help everyday Coloradans engage in the health care debate. Audiences of all kinds have enjoyed this presentation including community groups, legislative town hall meetings, membership associations, continuing education classes, church groups, etc. The length of the program is 30-90 minutes depending on the request. The audience can range from 5-150. To schedule a presentation or get more details, contact Kelly Shanahan, CCHI Policy Director at (303)839-1261 or kelly@cohealthinitiative.org.

T.E.A.C.H.—Teaching Equity to Advance Community Health

If You Serve the Underserved, Consider Joining the T.E.A.C.H. Academy

Is your organization working to reduce disparities in cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic pulmonary diseases? Then being a T.E.A.C.H. trainee may help you! T.E.A.C.H. is financed by a grant from the Office of Health Disparities so there is no cost to participate. The project team will bring to your region their targeted training, technical assistance and support to community-based organizations (CBOs).

For more information, timelines, project personnel and more information on the T.E.A.C.H. program or to sign up, please contact the Project Coordinator: Jennifer McIntyre at jennifer.mcintyre@ucdenver.edu.

Go For The IMPACT:

Improving Pediatric Asthma Care Training—a Continuing Education Program

- *OCTOBER 25 AT LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN LAMAR, CO (registration deadline is 10/17)*
- *NOVEMBER 15 AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN AURORA, CO (registration deadline is 11/3)*

If you are a physician, nurse or medical assistant, consider attending IMPACT--a FREE innovative and evidence-based Pediatric Asthma continuing education

(CE) program. Facilitated by asthma and education experts at The Children’s Hospital, IMPACT is designed to improve pediatric asthma outcomes in your office. IMPACT is not a typical CE program. Their team has done focus groups, a physician survey and one-on-one asthma training in offices to determine the educational needs of asthma providers and their practices. With a focus on physicians and their practice needs, IMPACT uses an enjoyable problem-based approach to build upon what you already know and are doing to manage your patients’ asthma. Each practice will receive a FREE Asthma Education Toolkit! Space is limited to the first 35 practices to register for each session. For more information about IMPACT, contact Diane Herrick at herrick.diane@tchden.org or (720)777-6601.

The Children’s Hospital is a Corporate Investing Member of CRHC.

Colorado Hospital Association Sponsoring “Boards On Board” Session

This program is designed specifically for CEOs, Board Trustees, CMOs, CNOs, Quality Directors, Patient Safety Officers, and other senior leadership.

For registration information please visit: <http://www.cha.com/images/stories/PatientSafety/registration%20form.doc>.

Mystery Photo

Congratulations to **Marci Givens, East Morgan County Hospital in Brush**, for correctly guessing the location of the Mystery Photo, an elk outside a sporting goods store, from the Summer *Special Delivery* Newsletter! The correct answer is Kremmling, Colorado.

SHIP Grant Funding to Be Disbursed in October

The “Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program” (SHIP) is a grant program administered by HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) and distributed through Colorado Rural Health Center. This program provides grants to small rural hospitals to support any or all of the following activities:

- 1) Implementation of PPS (prospective payment system);
- 2) compliance with provisions of the HIPAA; and
- 3) reduction of medical errors and support for quality improvement.

Hospitals are eligible if they are:

- A) Located in a non-metropolitan area (that means NOT in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver,

- Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, or Weld counties); and
- B) have 49 or fewer beds.

Each year the SHIP grant guidance is released by the ORHP in the late spring, and awards are disbursed in the Fall. Thirty-two Colorado hospitals submitted applications for 2008 funding in February. The Colorado Rural Health Center will distribute payment for 2008/2009 funding (\$8,282 per hospital) in October 2008.

For additional information, contact Cari Fouts at cf@coruralhealth.org, or Sheri Glischinski at sq@coruralhealth.org.

Southeast Colorado Hospital District Awarded Seed Grant by CRHC for High Capacity Digital Handrail Scale

Seed Grant Funding for Rural Health Projects Still Available!!

In September, the Colorado Rural Health Center Board of Directors approved a seed grant of \$500 to Southeast Colorado Hospital District to help purchase a high capacity digital handrail scale. CRHC Seed Grant funding was also awarded to other CRHC members for a digital projector, a CNA mentoring program, Medic Alert Kits, and a county-wide health-needs survey. Seed money of up to \$500 is still available to our Organizational and Corporate Investing Members in rural areas. Eligible projects must fit CRHC’s mission: *“enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages,*

tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues”; and the organization must match the grant funds received. Please visit our website at www.coruralhealth.org and go to “Seed Grants” under our programs page for project ideas and programs that we have funded. Not sure what would be eligible? Call us and we can discuss potential projects. Additional information on criteria, eligibility, and the application process is available on our website or by calling us at (303)832-7493 or (800)851-6782 from rural Colorado.

Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant

Grant Deadline: November 21, 2008

About:

- Grants are awarded to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses) by providing student scholarships or stipends, pre-entry preparation, and retention activities.
- Eligible applicants are schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, other public or private nonprofit entities including faith-based and community

organizations, and for-profit organizations capable of carrying out the legislative purpose. Schools of nursing involved in project activities must be accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) to be eligible applicants.

For more information visit:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webexternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=AF0E72B0-AF4A-4F01-9113-2E49A508FC35&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=True&pageNumber=1>

Recruit Physicians to Your Site With Loan Repayment: Up to \$150,000 Total Per Physician Is Available

Next Deadline for Applications is March 20, 2009

If your site has an open slot for a physician--in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN or Pediatrics--this extraordinary program is designed to help you fill that slot by providing an educational loan repayment program to entice practitioners to certain underserved communities in Colorado. As the largest in the state and one of the largest in the US, this physician loan repayment program is funded by The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) and was developed in partnership with the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) and the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC).

A physician could receive up to \$150,000 for repayment of educational loans over a 3-year period through this program. With that incentive in hand, you still have about 6 months for the recruiting process before the March 20 application deadline arrives. And, if a provider candidate is undecided, consider suggesting that s/he find out first if an award from this program will be forthcoming before making a commitment to join your practice.

MUA, and MUP designations. Although taken into consideration, these designations are not a requirement for these awards. Rather, the major consideration will be how long the site has been searching for a provider, and the degree to which the particular practice site is accepting and serving Medicaid, the State Children's Insurance Program (SCHIP/CHP+), and any services to indigent and/or uninsured patients. Community Health Centers (also referred to as FQHCs) in rural and urban areas are eligible to apply.

There will be up to 12 awards given each year, spread across respective areas of need. The final award decisions are made by The Colorado Health Foundation

Awards Committee. The loan repayment award may be taxable and if awarded the provider should contact his/her CPA for guidance.

- For more program information, visit http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/lrp/application_pkt.pdf
- For rural or other providers, contact cc@coruralhealth.org
- For FQHC providers, contact Tanah@cchn.org

The program provides up to \$50,000/year for three years for use in repaying the physician's educational loans. In return, the physician must agree to practice at a qualified rural or urban underserved Colorado site for three years. Please note that a prior community or practice site match is not required.

Eligible sites are those that serve underserved population groups in Colorado—whether they are rural or urban. The program's definition of "rural" is any non-urbanized part of Colorado. "Underserved" populations can be evaluated by using the HPSA,

Article by Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, CDPHE

Apply for an EMS Provider Grant

The FY2010 EMS Provider Grants application will become available on Dec. 15, 2008 at www.coems.info and will be due by Feb. 16, 2009. Regional grant workshops will be held across the state beginning in November. The schedule is not yet completed, but will be posted to the above Internet site when finalized.

For ground transport agencies, participation in the statewide data collection system is a required prerequisite. Any transport agency not submitting data to

the MATRIX will be unable to complete a grant application, unless requesting funds in the data collection category.

For more information, please contact Jeanne-Marie at (303)692-2987 or at jeanne.bakehouse@state.co.us or contact your RETAC coordinator.

Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse is the EMS Provider Grants Program Manager at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Community Health Scholarships Available: Applications Accepted Year-Round

As is now widely known, many rural areas in Colorado--as well as across the country--face a chronic shortage of healthcare providers. It is also well known that it is easier to retain a healthcare worker in your community if he or she is already from your community, rather than recruiting someone from the outside that you hope will engage and stay long-term. Organized attempts at educating, hiring, and retaining healthcare workers from your own community are called "grow your own" efforts. To support these efforts in our state, CRHC has created the Marva Jean Jackson (MJJ) Rural Community Health Scholarship Program. If your facility is interested in assisting a current employee with any education associated with working in healthcare, with the goal that the employee will function in that new capacity at your facility when the education/training is finished, MJJ can enhance your funding with a two-to-one match! Here's how it works:

- The amount of the scholarship is up to \$1,500 per year for the student. It must be re-applied for every year.
- Because this is a matching scholarship, up to \$500 of this award must come from the facility where the student currently works (or was employed before starting school); the other award up to \$1,000 is from MJJ. This makes for a two-to-one match. The application must be submitted by the healthcare facility, not by the student. The facility must be located in a rural area of Colorado. The student can be in any type of healthcare educational training program. Please ask us if you have questions about qualification.
- The student must be committed to return to work at the sponsoring facility after completing the training.
- Applications are accepted at any time throughout the year.

To find out more about the Marva Jean Jackson Rural Community Health Scholarship Program or download an application, visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/mji.php>. The Marva Jean Jackson Community Health Scholarships are funded through The Health Professions Initiative. The Health Professions Initiative is an initiative of The Colorado Trust.

Health Professions Scholarship from the Colorado Area Health Education Center System (AHEC) and The Colorado Trust

This is a 2-year scholarship to assist graduate level Health Professions students by paying for a significant portion of their education. Target groups for this scholarship include graduate level nursing, graduate level allied health, dental, pharmacy, public health and medical students who plan to practice in a rural community.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled either at least half-time or full-time in a graduate level health professional program (Master's or Doctorate level); agree to practice in a rural and/or underserved

community or faculty position upon completion of training for a minimum of 2 years; and be enrolled in an accredited Colorado institution of higher education. Online programs may be acceptable as long as the home institution is accredited in the State of Colorado.

The scholarship is for up to \$15,000 yearly for 2 years, with \$7,500 yearly for students enrolled half-time. The total value of the scholarship is up to \$30,000. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, housing, books/fees, travel required for school attendance, childcare required for school attendance and other reasonable costs associated with the education program. Scholarship may not be used for materials and activities not directly related to the educational program in which the student is enrolled. For more information, contact Dan Navarro at Dan.Navarro@uchsc.edu or Beth Ingram at Beth.Ingram@uchsc.edu.

Funding Opportunities

Get Connected with a Healthy Connections Grant!

The Colorado Health Foundation is pleased to announce the release of the second *Healthy Connections* Request for Proposals (RFP). *Healthy Connections* was launched in 2007, and the first year of the program included grants of nearly \$2.5 million to 21 healthcare organizations around the state. The initiative will continue to provide support to eligible healthcare organizations through 2010, with an additional \$6 million in funding available for individual organizations and community-based or regional collaborations to improve access to high-quality,

coordinated healthcare through the use of health information technology (HIT) and development of health information exchange (HIE).

Now available by clicking here, the RFP outlines the requirements of individual organizations and collaborations interested in submitting a proposal. **The next deadline for applications is January 15th, 2009. CRHC is offering grant application assistance to any clinic that would like to apply for a grant!** Please contact Rich Marquez at rm@coruralhealth.org if you plan on applying for a grant or if you would like assistance in preparing your application.

CAH Program Technical Assistance Grant to Be Released in November

Colorado is the recipient of the Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) grant from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to support the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Program. A major portion of the Flex grant funds is distributed to Critical Access Hospitals and their communities each year. In November, CRHC will release grant guidance that will provide information about the CAH Technical Assistance Grant Program and the resources available. Each year the statewide CAH Advisory Council helps determine the priorities and expectations for the allocation of these grants.

The Colorado Rural Health Center is the recipient of the Flex Grant and provides oversight for the CAH program, houses the program staff, and administers the technical assistance grants available to rural hospitals. CRHC serves as Colorado's independent, not-for-profit State Office of Rural Health. Other program partners include the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Hospital Association, and the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care.

To be eligible for a CAH Technical Assistance grant, the facility must be certified as a **CAH or be eligible and seriously considering conversion**. CAH Technical Assistance grant funds are intended to:

1. Assist facilities and their communities with the CAH conversion process;
2. Assist certified CAH's and their communities in maintaining CAH status; and
3. Strengthen the rural healthcare infrastructure in CAH communities.

Each CAH facility or community may apply for a **maximum of \$20,000 in a single Flex grant fiscal year**. The fiscal year is from September 1 to August 31st, and funds are subject to Colorado's federal funding allocation. For 2009 funding, applications will be due in December of 2008.

For additional information, contact Cari Fouts at cf@coruralhealth.org, or Sheri Glischinski at sq@coruralhealth.org.

Laura Jane Musser Rural Initiative Program Deadline Nears

The Laura Jane Musser Fund is accepting grant applications for its Rural Initiative Program. The program will consider projects that encourage collaboration and will place priority on proposals that show a broad range of collaboration; encourage

diversity; contain short-term, measurable outcomes; and aim to make a positive impact on the community.

Up to \$30,000 is available per project: \$5,000 for planning and \$25,000 for implementation. Proposals are due **November 5, 2008**. For more information, please visit <http://www.musserfund.org/rural.php>, or contact (612) 825-2024 or ljmusserfund@earthlink.net.

Kaiser to Expand Medical Plan

This is an excerpt of the article "Kaiser to Expand Medical Plan" by Bob Mook, originally published in the *Denver Business Journal* on 10/1/2008. To see the complete contents of this article, please visit: <http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2008/09/29/daily41.html>

Kaiser Permanente Colorado announced Wednesday it will expand its Medicare Advantage program into Southern Colorado. The plan will be available to residents of El Paso, Teller, Pueblo and Fremont counties, beginning Nov. 15. Medicare Advantage,

also known as Medicare Part C, is a program that lets beneficiaries enroll in private health plans to receive Medicare-covered benefits.

Kaiser's Medicare Advantage product will be available in two plans, a Core Plan with a \$0 premium and a Silver Plan with a \$39 monthly premium. The Silver Plan offers lower co-payments and non-emergency transportation for medical services. Currently, Kaiser's Medicare Advantage covers about 62,000 people in the Denver-Boulder area, making it the second-largest private Medicare plan in the state.

Where Have All the Primary Docs Gone?

This is an excerpt of the article "Where have All the Primary Docs Gone?" by Brian Morrelli, originally published in the *Press-Citizen* on 10/2/2008. To see the complete contents of this article, please visit: <http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081002/NEWS01/810020331/1079>

The number of medical students entering primary care is declining, according to a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The study found that only 2 percent of graduating medical students planned to work in primary care internal medicine, which is down from about 9 percent, according to data from a similar study in 1990.

The effect of the decline is being felt most in rural communities, inner cities and among the elderly in areas where health insurance requires visits to primary care doctors, said Paul James, professor and head of the UI Department of Family Medicine. Primary care, which includes the fields of family care, internal medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology, essentially refers to first-stop doctors. Many patients must see these doctors before receiving specialized procedure-based care.

Ground Broken on Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children

This is an excerpt of the article "Ground broken on hospital" originally published in the *Denver Post* on 7/21/2008. To see the complete contents of this article, please visit: http://www.denverpost.com/healthcare/ci_9338976

HealthONE broke ground this summer on the Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children on the east side of Presbyterian/St. Luke's campus at 1719 E. 19th Ave. The \$113 million, 100,000-square-foot project will shift newborn and pediatric care to one facility. Included in the new hospital will be a 22-bed emergency department and an 84-bed neonatal intensive-care unit, which HealthOne says will be the largest in Colorado. The hospital will have a capacity of 170 beds. In addition to the hospital, P/SL will add a four-story medical office building to the campus. The building will include an ambulatory surgery center.

While the hospital and the name are new, the pediatric unit started in 1977 when the University of Colorado School of Medicine had an obstetrical residency program at St. Luke's. Since then, the team has expanded from 10 physicians to more than 300 affiliated physicians. Completion of the hospital is expected in the spring of 2010.

HealthONE is a Corporate Investing Member of CRHC.

Calendar of Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Organization / Contact</u>
October 15-17	National Rural Health Association Critical Access Hospital Conference	National Rural Health Association www.ruralhealthweb.org
October 16	The Colorado Health Foundation Applicant Information Session	Colorado Health Foundation www.coloradohealth.org/grantmaking/
October 20-23	Governor's Healthcare Roundtables Steamboat Springs (October 20) Greeley (October 21) Limon (October 23) La Junta (October 23)	Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives Liza Fox, liza.fox@state.co.us
October 23	2008 Rocky Mountain Conference on Aging	Colorado State University www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/LARIMER/
	Documentation & Coding Workshop	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org
October 25	IMPACT—Improving Asthma Care Training Lamar	The Children's Hospital Asthma Program Diane Herrick, herrick.diane@tchden.org
November 4	Election Day	
November 12-13	Chronic Disease Prevention Conference	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment www.regonline.com/chronicdisease
November 15	IMPACT—Improving Asthma Care Training Aurora	The Children's Hospital Asthma Program Diane Herrick, herrick.diane@tchden.org
November 21-23	ProBE—Professional/Problem Based Ethics Program	Center for Personalized Education for Physicians www.cpepdoc.org/probe.htm
December 1-2	Colorado Public Health Summit	Public Health Alliance of Colorado http://www.publichealthalliance.org/
December 2	Colorado Workforce Summit	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org
December 5	Patient Care Documentation Seminar	Center for Personalized Education for Physicians www.cpepdoc.org/
December 7-9	Colorado Regional Conference on the Health Care Response to Domestic Violence	University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs www.ucdenver.edu/domesticviolence/conference
March 27	Telehealth Symposium	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org
April 6-8	Rural Health Clinics Forum	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org

Find information on these events and additional events, www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events!