



Special Delivery ONLINE

Colorado Rural Health Center

Summer Edition– June 2006

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CRHC News

15th Annual CRHC Conference: “Innovation in Action”

The Colorado Rural Health Center is a nonprofit 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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The 15th Annual Colorado Rural Health Conference, “Innovation in Action,” is just around the corner! The conference will be held in Longmont, CO, June 21-23, 2006. This two-day conference consists of educational seminars, workshops, an exhibitor showcase, and networking opportunities. Phenomenal speakers will discuss current, relevant topics to rural healthcare:

- Learn how Drs. Westfall and Deutchman are at the forefront of changes to medical education that will affect the future of rural healthcare;
- Hear Thelma McCloskey discuss how telehealth is making a positive impact on rural health;
- Listen to Dr. Taylor, Michelle Pemberton, and Janet Rowland provide information about how rural communities are effectively dealing with methamphetamine production and addiction;
- Share David Ginsberg's insights on the impact of electronic medical records on rural healthcare; and
- Laugh at Tom Westfall's humorous perspective on collaborating and integrating services.

For a complete listing of speakers, please see the registration brochure, available at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/Documents/conf06brochure.pdf>.

For more information please see our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/conference.htm>, or call us at 1-800-851-6782.



CRHC Announces the Posting of our **Count+ Profiles**

After months of research and revision, the 2005 County Profiles are finally online! These profiles were prepared by the Colorado Rural Health Center to provide an overview of the basic health services, infrastructure, and demographics of Colorado's fourteen non-metropolitan counties without a hospital. The profiles include a list of the health services that are provided within the county, a map and listing of all hospitals within 100 miles of the county seat, and a county demographics section.

These profiles were possible due to a grant from the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). We would also like to thank Christy Crosser for her research, CRHC staff, and the many health providers and locals who helped us to revise and correct our information.

The County Profiles are available online at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/countyprofiles.htm>. For more information, please contact us at 800-851-6782, info@coruralhealth.org, or use the error reporting tool on the County Profiles webpage.

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\$500 Scholarships Available!

For the many people outside of Colorado's 17 metropolitan counties, Marva Jean Jackson (MJJ) Scholarships offer incentive to "grow your own" by matching community or facility funds up to \$500 to train local healthcare providers. For example, Montrose Memorial Hospital applied for and received matching funds to support four LPNs attending Mesa State College's LPN to RN program. For information about how these funds can work for you, please contact Clint Cresawn at 303-407-2031 or 800-851-6782. Applications are accepted year-round.

More information on MJJ Scholarships is available online at: <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/MJJ.html>

CRHC Welcomes New Staff Members

CRHC is proud to announce our two new staff members Clint Cresawn, Workforce Programs Manager, and Monica Gehring, Administrative Assistant.



Clint came to CRHC in April 2006. Before coming to CRHC, Clint received his Masters from the University of Washington and taught courses in many educational settings. A native of rural North Carolina, Clint brings much experience and an invaluable perspective with him.

Monica joined CRHC in March 2006, after graduating in December from the University of Colorado at Denver with a B.A. in International Relations. Her wacky sense of humor and hard work are a wonderful addition to our office.

Ron Seedorf becomes CRHC's "Field Coordinator"

Coming Soon to a Community Near You... Ron Seedorf, who has been with CRHC since April 2005, has taken on the new position of Field Coordinator. Thanks to funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Hospital Preparedness Program, Ron will be spending a great deal of his time in and around rural Colorado. As Field Coordinator, Ron will be working with health facilities and communities in acquiring and utilizing the supplies and equipment distributed through the Hospital Preparedness Program. Ron, who came to us from Yuma, CO, is delighted with the new position and the opportunity to work at the local level.

To see if Ron is coming to a community near you, please call CRHC at 800-851-6782 or email us at info@coruralhealth.org.

Rural Mailbox Photo Contest!

In conjunction with our annual conference we are, once again, looking for the best rural mailbox photos! Your photo can be in any shape or size for the contest (but in hard copies, please). Turn in your entries at the conference registration desk when you check-in. Photos will be on display throughout the conference.

7th Annual Rural Health Clinics Forum Held in Denver

On April 4-5, CRHC held its 7th annual statewide Rural Health Clinics (RHC) Forum at the Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood, Colorado. There were 120 participants, which was an attendance record for the Forum. The RHC Forum provides an opportunity for education, training, and networking for Colorado's 45 certified RHCs and others interested in learning more about the program. The RHC program is a federal program that enables rural outpatient clinics (that meet certain criteria) to receive enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

This year's presentations included national RHC program updates, electronic medical records, HIPAA compliance, quality improvement, cost reporting, human resources management, and information on funding opportunities. The last session of the Forum provided clinics with information on how to apply for Colorado's Amendment 35 Primary Care Fund program, which supports facilities in caring for uninsured, low income patients. A raffle was held at the end of the Forum as well, and the winner of the raffle, Dr. Norman Haug from Del Norte, took home a brand new Medtronic Automated External Defibrillator.

CRHC would like to extend a special thanks to the organizations that sponsored this year's Forum: COPIC Companies, JSI Research & Training Institute, and Life Measure Labs. Special thanks also go out to the attendees who traveled from the far corners of the state to attend.

In addition to the annual Forum, CRHC provides a broad range of services to support Colorado's rural clinics, including billing & reimbursement assistance, human resources consulting, coding training, HIPAA, and information technology assistance.

For more information about the RHC Forum, or to see a selection of presentations, please visit our website at: <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/RHCForum.html>.

For more information about the Rural Health Clinics program, please contact CRHC at 800-851-6782 or info@coruralhealth.org.

CPR & AED Training Money Available



The Colorado Rural Health Center has CPR/AED training dollars available for agencies and facilities in rural Colorado. The limited funds will be distributed on a "first come, first serve basis" and are intended to be reimbursement for training expenses already incurred. If an agency or facility is interested in accessing the training funds, please contact Ron Seedorf at the Colorado Rural Health Center before submitting a request for reimbursement.

Items that need to be included in your request for reimbursement are:

- A copy of the instructor's certification card (in a recognized program, i.e., American Heart, Red Cross, etc.)
- A class roster with names, affiliation (Fire, EMS, PD, Hospital, etc.), date of class, and location
- A course evaluation – completed by each participant
- An invoice on company letterhead showing the total number of participants, breakdown of costs (i.e. instructor, books, certification cards), and total amount requested.

These funds will be coordinated by the Colorado Rural Health Center. Funding for this training is provided by the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/aed.htm>.



For more information, please visit the HRSA website, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/aed.htm>, or contact Ron Seedorf at 800-851-6782.

Logo Contest

We wish to thank Micro Business Development (MBD) for their assistance with our conference logo contest. *Micro Business Development is a Colorado non-profit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to economic independence for disadvantaged entrepreneurs, both youth and adults, through access to markets, resources and business capital.* MBD provides micro-enterprise support services, including: access to capital/micro-loans (\$500-\$60,000), business training and skills development, technical assistance, youth entrepreneurial development, access to resources, and access to markets. *Special Thanks* to Celia Herrera for designing this year's conference logo. Celia is a participant in YouthWorks, a program offered by Micro Business Development Corporation.

Please visit <http://www.microbusiness.org> for more information on YouthWorks and Micro Business Development Corporation.



CRHC Helps Promote Cancer Prevention Programs in Rural Colorado

CRHC is currently working with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) and the University of Colorado Cancer Center to help increase awareness and utilization in rural communities of two separate cancer prevention programs—the Colorado Women’s Cancer Control Initiative and the Colorado Colorectal Screening program.

The Colorado Women’s Cancer Control Initiative (CWCCI) has been administered by CDPHE since 1991, and was initially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The CWCCI program provides funding for breast and cervical cancer screening (mammograms, clinical breast exams, Pap tests, and pelvic exams.) Exams are provided free of charge for low-income women and women with limited insurance who are 40 to 64 years of age, with emphasis on women ages 50 to 64. CDPHE pays providers participating in the CWCCI program a fee per patient, per contract year, for these screenings.

The CWCCI program recently received additional funding from the Amendment 35 tobacco tax passed into law by Colorado voters in 2003. CRHC has agreed to assist the CWCCI staff in conducting outreach activities to expand the program’s usage in rural communities. CRHC promoted CWCCI at the Rural Health Clinics Forum in April, and will be distributing information about the program at the annual conference. CRHC is contacting rural facilities that are currently participating in the CWCCI program to obtain information about successes and challenges, and to determine how to increase patient participation. Additionally, CRHC is contacting rural facilities that are not currently participating to identify barriers and raise awareness about the program. For more information on CWCCI, contact Sandy Mortensen, Operations Manager, at 303-692-2598, or visit the CWCCI website, <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/cwcci/index.html>.

The Colorado Colorectal Screening program is a new program being developed by the University of Colorado Cancer Center. The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) received a grant from Amendment 35 tobacco tax funds to implement phase one of the program, and is currently awaiting approval of funding to expand the program statewide. Phase one involves participation by three test sites: Salud Family Health Centers, Denver Health & Hospitals, and St. Mary Corwin Medical Center.

The goal of the program is to increase colorectal screening compliance rates among Coloradoans ages 50 and older. To accomplish this goal, the program will provide free endoscopic colorectal screenings to qualified participants without health insurance whose income is under 250% of the federal poverty level. The program also provides patient support, navigation services, follow up, and treatment.

To date, 270 screenings have been conducted in the three test sites. Fifty percent of screenings resulted in the diagnosis of precancerous polyps, and two malignancies have been identified and treated.

CRHC is supporting the program by surveying rural facilities to assess the interest and capacity for participation in the program when expansion funds are available, and by increasing awareness of the importance of colorectal screening. A need for endoscopy training for rural providers has already been identified. In fact, UCHSC has developed a rural endoscopy training program; please see pg. 5 for details.

For more information about the training, visit <https://www2.uchsc.edu/ahec/sigmoid/>. For more information about the Colorado Colorectal Screening program, contact Sally Kiser at CRHC, or Holly Wolf, PhD, at the University of Colorado Cancer Center at 303-724-1273.

CRHC Board Officers Elected

The CRHC Board of Directors just approved the slate of officers for 2006. Randy Evetts, Executive Director of the Southeastern Colorado Area Health Education Center in Pueblo, will become the new President. Lisa Filipczak, a Senior Physician Relations Representative at The Children’s Hospital in Denver, will become our Secretary, and the inimitable Jim Brundige, who is co-founder and the Vice President of Lone Wolf Operating Company – with offices in both Denver and Haxtun, will be our Treasurer for another year. Brenda Higgins, Administrator of the Plains Medical Center in Limon, who has done a truly remarkable and entertaining job as our President these past two years, will remain on the board as Past President. These terms will all begin at the close of the Annual Membership Meeting, which will take place during the annual conference in June.

To read more about CRHC’s Board of Directors, please visit our website at: http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/aboutus/BoardBios_March2006.pdf

Endoscopy Training for Physicians

The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center is offering endoscopy training for physicians. In collaboration with the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) throughout the state, simulator training will be available in Greeley, Pueblo, Alamosa and Clifton (near Grand Junction.) Click here to contact the AHEC near you to participate in simulator training <http://www.uchsc.edu/ahec/>.

The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center works with AHECs throughout Colorado to fulfill their mission; “The mission of the Colorado AHEC program is to improve the supply and distribution of health care providers across the entire state; and to improve the access and quality of care provided by these health care providers.”

Didactic online training is available at the following website: <https://www2.uchsc.edu/ahec/sigmoid/>

For more information contact Jack Westfall, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Rural Health, CU School of Medicine, 303-724-9712, jack.westfall@uchsc.edu

Board Member Close-Up: Brenda Higgins



Brenda Higgins

An infectious laugh and zest for life characterize an extraordinary woman, Brenda Higgins. Brenda is the Executive Director at Plains Medical Center (PMC) in Limon; a position that she has held since 2000. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Brenda served for twelve years on the Board of Directors of Plains Medical Center.

Originally from the Holly-Lamar area, Brenda grew up on a farm outside of Genoa; it is the same farm, and not by accident, that she and her husband, John, and her two kids, Layne, 9, and Ashley, 12, live on today. Except for her college years, which she spent attending “Moo U,” as Brenda affectionately calls Colorado State University in Fort Collins, she has lived in rural areas all of her life. In fact, one of this “rural girl’s” favorite activities is driving tractors and combines. It is a tradition of hers to take a week off of work every harvest to drive the combine and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. If, by chance, she’s not

in the fields, Brenda might be found on the golf course or playing the guitar and singing in the Women’s Choir that she co-directs.

Once a deejay and “fill in” for *Myrtle the Turtle* on the “Myrtle and Ethel” commercials, Brenda worked in the insurance industry before Plains Medical Center. Brenda worked for Farmer’s Insurance for thirteen years and for twelve of those years sat on the Board of Directors of Plains Medical Center. While serving on the board, Brenda played a large role in recruitment for PMC and helped to successfully recruit Dr. Fox, who is still there today. When asked how working in the insurance industry affected her view on healthcare, she said that, in fact, the opposite happened. While working for Farmer’s, she became frustrated with health insurance – she realized that people in rural areas have neither as many choices nor as many opportunities when it comes to their healthcare – they are “penalized” for living where they choose to live. When the opportunity arose to join the board at PMC, she was excited to see the other side of health insurance. And, when Brenda became Plains Medical Center’s Executive Director in 2000, she was able to bring her experience with health insurance companies with her.

In June 2002, Brenda was elected to Colorado Rural Health Center’s Board of Directors and became the Secretary. She was elected President-Elect in July 2003 and in July 2004, Brenda became the Board President – the position she still holds today. She is a wonderful asset to our board and to the state of Colorado.

Online Grant Proposal Writing Class

CRHC sponsored-in-part six employees from Investing Member Organizations for an on-line grant proposal writing class. The participants learned the nuts and bolts of putting together a solid, fundable grant proposal. Keith Campbell, PhD, a professor at Fort Hays State University, taught the class. Another class is anticipated this fall, so look for information later this summer in the CRHC newsletter or on our website!

Ground-Breaking Ceremony for HRRMC's New Hospital!



The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center (HRRMC) hospital took place on April 24, 2006. The new 25-acre site will allow the hospital to grow to meet future needs and will replace the 3-acre site currently in use. The hospital will be located in the east end of the Division of Wildlife site, north of Salida. The new facility will employ state-of-the-art equipment and design—creating a comfortable place for patients and visitors and maximizing the efficiency of the hospital. If all goes smoothly, the hospital could be completed in as soon as two years.

For more information, please visit HRRMC's website: <http://www.hrrmc.com/> or call 719-530-8243.



Hope Sprouts for Farmer with Disability

"Hope sprouts for farmer with disability." *agJournal* 31 March 2006, pg. 19

MANZANOLA, Colo. — After almost two years of struggle, Manzanola farmer Bert Nesselhuf has a new lease on life. Nesselhuf has Multiple Sclerosis, but with the help of the Easter Seals Colorado AgrAbility Project and the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Nesselhuf can continue to work the land that has been in his family for over 50 years. "My father was a farmer, I'm a farmer and my son is a farmer," states Nesselhuf. "It's what we are."

Having purchased his own farm immediately after high school, Nesselhuf has known no other life than that of a farmer. He now runs his farm and the farm that belonged to his parents.

Being a wheelchair user for over 5 years, it became more and more difficult for Nesselhuf to do the work that he loves. But, it wasn't until he broke his leg in November 2004, that he seriously believed he would not be able to continue farming.

"Because he lost so much of his mobility, I needed to go everywhere with him," said Ellen Nesselhuf, Bert's wife. "We have a mini-van that was modified for his wheelchair, but that didn't work too well on the farm." It wasn't until a friend gave his name to Jason Beck, AgrAbility Project Coordinator with Easter Seals Colorado, that other avenues were

researched. AgrAbility, a program sponsored by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Easter Seals Colorado (ESC), helps make it possible for farmers, ranchers and their families, who are facing new obstacles due to injury or disability, to stay in this demanding line of work.

Beck contacted Nesselhuf and visited his farm and made an assessment of what was needed to keep Nesselhuf working his farm.

Beck coordinated with ESC Rural Rehab Specialist Bill Tiffany, to design and implement modifications to any farming equipment he might need. "After evaluating Mr. Nesselhuf's needs, it was decided he needed a vehicle that he could drive from his wheelchair," says Bill Tiffany. "He needed something that would give him independence."

Easter Seals Colorado had donated an electric wheelchair that gave Nesselhuf more freedom, so when Bill located the Kawasaki Mule, he designed the modifications that would accommodate it. He found that if the front seat was removed, the electric wheelchair fit perfectly. He then consulted with Mueller's Auto Inc. of Pueblo, Colo., to do the modifications and a ramp was then attached. Nesselhuf can now get on and off the Mule by himself.

"This has opened up the world to him," states Ellen; "It's given him back his independence. It's a whole new life for him."

With the support of the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, AV Hunter Trust and the Friends of Man, Nesselhuf received the modified Kawasaki Mule on February 22, 2006.

"It's been a really long process," states Beck. "But, it's been well worth it. That's what the AgrAbility Project is about. We have to do everything possible to help farmers and ranchers continue to do the work they love."

Injuries and disabilities that Colorado AgrAbility works with can include back pain and injury, Multiple Sclerosis, knee and shoulder pain, visual impairment, spinal cord injury, stroke, diabetes, hearing impairments and amputations. "There are so many injuries that need our attention," states Rhonda Covington, DVR Counselor. "It's great to be able to work hand in hand with an organization like Easter Seals Colorado and the AgrAbility Project."

For more information on the Colorado AgrAbility Project, contact Jason Beck at Easter Seals Colorado, 303-233-1666, ext. 244, or visit their website: <http://www.agrabilityproject.org/>. For more information on the *agJournal*, please visit their website at <http://www.agjournalonline.com>

Colorado AgrAbility—Easter Seals Colorado is an investing member of CRHC.

CRC Honors Denise Denton



This year, the Community Resource Center (CRC) is celebrating 25 years of providing success strategies for Colorado nonprofits. On June 21st, CRC is hosting a gala event at the Denver Botanic Gardens to celebrate and recognize 25 leaders who have made outstanding contributions to Colorado’s nonprofit community and to the state as a whole. Denise Denton, our own Executive Director, is one of the 25 leaders being honored by CRC—Congratulations, Denise!!

Resources

Colorado Health Snapshot

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) compiled State Snapshots from the information gathered in the 2005 National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR). Using a wide-variety of measures, the Colorado snapshot compares healthcare in Colorado to healthcare in other states in the nation.

For example, “Colorado’s Strongest Measures” are listed as: ACE inhibitor prescribed at discharge for heart attack with dysfunction, Antibiotic regimen within 24 hours of pneumonia admission, Avoidable hospitalizations -- diabetes, uncomplicated, Aspirin prescribed at discharge for heart attack, and Nursing home short-stay residents -- with pressure sores. “Colorado’s Weakest Measures” are listed as: Children fully vaccinated, Nursing home residents -- with moderate to severe pain, Home health care -- improved pain management, Easy planned appointments -- Medicare, fee for service, and Suicide deaths.

For more information, please see the State Snapshots section on AHRQ’s website, <http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov/qualityreport/2005/state/summary/intro.aspx>.

Colorado Health Report Card



The Colorado Health Foundation’s “The Colorado Health Report Card” gave Colorado an overall health grade of C+. Ten health indicators were determined and each was given a grade based upon its national rank, the changing of rank in recent years, and how close its rank is to the federal goals determined in Healthy People 2010 health promotion and disease prevention initiative. (Please see <http://www.healthypeople.gov/> for more information.)

The Report Card is meant to be a way to track improvement in Colorado’s overall health, to bring attention to health in Colorado, and to start discussions on ways to improve it. To see The Colorado Health Report Card, please visit: <http://www.coloradohealth.org/issues/report.cfm>.

For more information, please see The Colorado Health Foundation’s website, <http://www.coloradohealth.orgreport.cfm>.

Community Resource Center’s Summer Workshops

Below are the summer workshops that will be offered by the Community Resource Center (CRC). To register for classes, or for more information, please visit CRC’s website, http://www.crcamerica.org/training/upcoming_workshops.htm, or call (303) 623-1540.

Tracking Your Constituents with Excel	June 16	10am - 4pm
Legal Issues: What Every Nonprofit Needs to Know	June 16	9am - 4pm
Building Dynamic Boards	June 22	9am- 12pm
Fundraising Boards That Rock!	June 22	1pm - 4 pm
Tips and Techniques for Using Excel	June 27	10am - 4pm
Put the "Special" Back in Your Events	June 28	1pm - 4 pm

NRHA Conferences in Denver

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is hosting its 1st Annual Clinical Conference and 2nd Annual Quality Conference in Denver, July 26-29, 2006. To support the National Rural Health Association, and our Investing Members, we're offering to pay the mileage costs – and that's a big deal with today's prices – to attend these workshops for the first 10 rural Investing Members that request it. Let us know if you're planning to attend. The Quality Conference, "Advancing Safe and Effective Health Care for Rural America," will take place July 26-27. This conference will focus on using cultural change to increase quality in healthcare facilities. The Clinical Conference, "You Are Not Alone: Providing Quality Care in a Rural Setting," will focus on healthcare in rural and frontier areas and will allow workforce providers to network and learn from one another. Both conferences will be held at the Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood.



For more information about these conferences and for registration information, please visit NRHA's website, <http://www.nrharural.org/conferences/>.

Mental Health Resources and Services Locator



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's website provides a webpage, the National Mental Health Information Center, that contains mental health resources for Colorado. Facilities across Colorado, mental health organizations, resource guides, prevention organizations, and statistics can all be searched on this site.

More information on mental health programs, topics, and resources may also be found on the National Mental Health Information Center's website, <http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/>.

For more information and to visit the Colorado webpage, please visit the following webpage: <http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases/kdata.aspx?state=CO>.

The National Center for Frontier Communities

The Frontier Education Center is now the National Center for Frontier Communities. The National Center for Frontier Communities is the only national organization solely devoted to frontier communities. Established in 1997, the National Center for Frontier Communities strives to give a voice to frontier communities by serving on boards nationwide, attending national and state-wide meetings and conferences, communicating with state and federal policymakers, and by publishing reports on topics relating to frontier communities. Their website provides definitions of "frontier," frontier policy issues, maps, publications, and links to other frontier and rural-related websites and organizations.

For more information, please visit the National Center for Frontier Communities' website, <http://www.frontierus.org>, or call then at 505-820-6732.

Mystery Photo



Do you know the location of this mystery photo? The first person to answer correctly will win a prize! Please call or email Callie Preheim with your answer — (800) 851-6782, cp@coruralhealth.org

Congratulations to **Jack Westfall** and **Wayne Ogburn** for correctly guessing the mystery photo from CRHC's Spring Special Delivery! Dr. Jack Westfall is the Associate Dean for Rural Health at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Wayne Ogburn is the CEO at Yuma District Hospital in Yuma, CO.

The correct answer to the mystery photo was: Mark Deutchman. Dr. Deutchman was practicing his shooting skills at The Gateway Dynamite Shoot - Unaweep Fire Department's annual fund raiser.

Please visit <http://www.acsol.net/~firedept/dynamite.html> for more information.

MJJ \$500 Scholarships

For people outside of Colorado's 17 metropolitan counties, Marva Jean Jackson (MJJ) Scholarships offer incentive to "grow your own" by matching community or facility funds up to \$500 to train local healthcare providers. Applications are accepted year-round. Please call us, 800-851-6752, or visit our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/MJJ.html>, for more information.

Colorado Rural Outreach Program (CROP) Grants Available

Educational loan repayment awards of up to \$10,000 matching funds are available to facilities as a recruitment incentive for a healthcare professional not yet hired, or as a retention tool for a professional, who is currently on staff, and has educational loans. Healthcare professionals include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, providers of mental and dental health services, pharmacy, and allied health providers (i.e., lab or radiology technicians). For the Fall 2005 round of CROP awards, CRHC received 21 applications and 18 grants were awarded for a total of \$159,399.00. CROP grant cycles occur every spring and fall. The next CROP deadline is October 2, 2006. Please call us at 800-851-6782 or visit our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/crop/index.html>, for more information.

Rural Health Seed Grant Program

A digital projector, a CNA mentoring program, Medic Alert Kits, and a county-wide health-needs survey – what do all of these things have in common? They were all partially funded by CRHC seed grants. Seed money of up to \$500 is available to our organizational and corporate investing members in rural areas. Eligible projects must fit CRHC's mission, "enhancing the quality, delivery and coordination of healthcare services in rural Colorado," and the organization must match the grant funds received. Visit our website and go to [Seed Grants](#) under our programs page for project ideas and programs that we have funded. Additional information on criteria, eligibility, and applying are also available on our website or by calling us at 303-832-7493 or 800-851-6782.



Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZATION / CONTACT
June 21 - 23, 2006	15 th Annual Rural Health Conference Radisson Hotel and Conference Center Longmont, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center 303-832-7493 , info@coruralhealth.org
June 22, 2006	Exploring Rural Practice Poster and Networking Session Longmont, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center 303-832-7493, www.coruralhealth.org
July 7-9, 2006	Family Medicine Rendezvous at the Summit Annual Scientific Conference	Colorado Academy of Family Physicians 303-696-6655, www.coloradoafp.org
July 12, 2006	Coding Workshop Rocky Ford, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center 303-832-7493, www.coruralhealth.org
July 26-29, 2006	Advancing Safe and Effective Health Care for Rural America Lakewood, CO	National Rural Health Association (NRHA) 800- 525-3966, www.nrharural.org/
July 27, 2006	CRDC's Annual Membership Meeting 1445 Market Street, Denver, CO	Colorado Rural Development Council 303-934-9117, www.ruralcolorado.org
August 31, 2006	CAHSA 10 th Annual Golf Tournament Thorncreek Golf Course, Thornton, CO	CAHSA 303-837-8834, www.cahsa.org/
September 6-8, 2006	CHA's 81 st Annual Conference Vail, CO	Colorado Health & Hospital Association 720-489-1630, www.cha.com
October 26-27, 2006	CRDC's Fall Rural Issues Forum Trinidad, CO	Colorado Rural Development Council 303-934-9117, www.ruralcolorado.org

Did you know...



Angel Flight West provides free non-emergency air transportation to rural communities? This is a valuable service for rural community members who need to travel to metropolitan areas for doctor's appointments, procedures, surgery, and other healthcare needs. Angel Flight West's 250 volunteer pilots in Colorado flew 300 free trips in 2005. For more information, visit www.angelflightwest.org, call Jennifer Iverson at 303-825-4901, or visit the Angel Flight West exhibit booth at our conference in Longmont!

CRHC Welcomes New Members

The Colorado Rural Health Center wishes to thank our investing members. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit 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. We have had great success improving resources available to rural communities, and with their support, we will continue to do so. If you wish to become an investing member of CRHC, please visit our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/membership/index.html>, and download an investing member application; or, call us for more information: 303-832-7493, 800-851-6782.

Thank You to Our New Members!

New Member	Organization
David Adamson	Mountain Family Health Centers - Glenwood Springs
Mary Barrowman	Prospect Home Care-Hospice, Inc.
Vivian Gallegos	Costilla County Nursing Service
Jesse Hayes	Medical Monitoring, Inc.
Regina Korsvold	Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital/Health Service District
Gloria Latimer	CDPHE—Primary Care Office
Steven Lawson	Progressive Care Center
Leandra Lynch	Elk Avenue Medical Center
Karen Midkiff	Mercy Health Foundation
Nate Olson	St. Thomas More Hospital
Sharon Reed	Trinidad Medical Associates
Philip Riggleman	Wray Rehabilitation and Activities Center (WRAC)
Jennifer Sanchez	Trinidad Medical Associates
Katrina Schmidt	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Patsy Schutz	Washington County Nursing Home
Brenda Southward	Roaring Fork Valley Community Health Plan
Connie Sprague	Hillcrest Care Center
Kathy Steckel	North Folk Ambulance
Pam Woods	North Folk Ambulance

Please note that in CRHC's Spring Special Delivery, all member-types: Corporate, Organizational, Individual, and Student, were listed together.