



Special Delivery ONLINE

Colorado Rural Health Center

Summer Edition 2007

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CRHC News

The Colorado Rural Health Center 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.

Staff:

- Cherith Chapman**
Recruitment Program Coordinator
- Clint Cresawn**
Workforce Programs Manager
- Natalie Duran**
Accounting Clerk
- Rich Marquez**
RHC Program Coordinator
- Aaron Ortiz**
Recruitment Specialist
- Callie Preheim**
Marketing & Outreach Associate
- Ron Seedorf**
Field Coordinator
- Sarah Strasser**
Administrative Assistant
- Lynne Swanson**
Business Manager
- Lou Ann Wilroy**
Acting Director, CAH Program Director

2007 Annual Rural Health Conferences!

Burlington June 28-29 • Delta July 19-20 • Craig August 9-10

Register Now! The Colorado Rural Health Center is coming to a community near you! This year, we are very excited to host our conference in four rural communities: Trinidad, Burlington, Delta, and Craig. We have a new conference format and look forward to increased attendance and outreach. We have tailored each conference to the needs of each region, and we hope to provide tangible information and solutions to these issues. Topics vary at each conference, but include the medically uninsured and underinsured, healthcare reform, funding, recruitment, EMS, mental health, methamphetamine, long term care, and staffing issues. The conferences will provide participants from a variety of healthcare sectors with information, resources, and networking opportunities. Each conference will consist of a Thursday evening reception and Friday sessions.



For agendas, registration information, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org>, or contact Callie Preheim at (303) 832-7493 or (800) 851-6782.



Colorado...here we come!

CRHC Conference Staff as we head out to our first conference in Trinidad.

(Left to Right): Cherith Chapman, Rich Marquez, Callie Preheim, Natalie Duran, Aaron Ortiz, Clint Cresawn, Lou Ann Wilroy, and Katie Overton (former staff and volunteer)

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 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, www.coruralhealth.org and go to "Seed Grants" under our programs page for project ideas and programs that we have funded. Additional information on criteria, eligibility, and the application process are available on our website or by calling us at (303) 832-7493 or (800) 851-6782. Applications are accepted year-round.

Colorado Rural Health Center
225 East 16th Avenue, Suite 1050
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: 303-832-7493
From rural Colorado:
800-851-6782
Fax: 303-832-7496
Email: info@coruralhealth.org
Website: www.coruralhealth.org

CRHC Board Members

Danny Barela

Northwest Colorado RETAC
690 Veinte Dr.
Delta, CO 81416
Phone 970-640-1024
dbarela@bresnan.net

Maribeth Berry, Ex-Officio

Consumer/Accountant
1620 S. Quebec Way #2,
Denver, CO 80231
Phone 303-619-7754
jandmberry@gmail.com

Jim Brundige, Treasurer

Lone Wolf Operating Company
1125 17th St., Ste 2290
Denver, CO 80202
Phone 720-904-6949
jim@lonewolfop.com

Randy Evetts, President

Southeastern Colorado AHEC
503 N Main St., Ste 422
Pueblo, CO 81003
Phone 719-544-7833
randy.evetts@secahec.org

Lisa Filipczak, Secretary

The Children's Hospital
1056 East 19th Avenue, B425
Denver, CO 80218
Phone 303-861-6952
filipczak.lisa@tchden.org

Brenda Higgins, Past-President

27451 CR 3H
Genoa, CO 80818
(719) 763-2414
jbhiggins@starband.net

Robert Omer

Pioneers Medical Center
345 Cleveland
Meeker, CO 81641
Phone: 970-878-9260
Fax: 970-878-9262
romer@pioneershospital.com

Toloo Pearl

110 5th Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Phone 719-783-2691
toloo@centurytel.net

Richard Rivera

Creede Family Practice
15 Antelope Road
Creede, CO 81130
Phone 719-658-0929
riverar144@aol.com

Vonie Weaver

Senior Reasons
33566 CR HH.5
Wray, CO 80758
Phone: 970-332-5147
vonie@plains.net

CPR Places Doc in Del Norte

Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte, CO is very grateful for the recent hire of Dr. Claude Bays, an Internist, and a candidate referred by the Colorado Provider Recruitment Program (CPR). Recovering from the recent loss of their beloved CEO, Dr. Norman Haug, Rio Grande is very happy with this new provider and his assistance in the transition. Dr. Bays was an Internist in the Metro Denver area from 1977-2007. Since moving to Del Norte two months ago, he is now living his dream of settling in rural Colorado and serving the local population. Dr. Bays has experience with and a heart for Geriatrics – a perfect fit for this new position. CPR has been working with Dr Bays for 1 ½ years to help him find that ideal site – we are happy that the match has been made! Dr. Bay's wife, Julie, was instrumental in this process. Thank you, Julie! And thank you, Dr. Bays, for serving the people of Rio Grande County.

For more information on CPR, a program of the Colorado Rural Health Center, please contact CRHC at (800) 851-6782, email cpr@coruralhealth.org, or visit www.coruralhealth.org/cpr.

CU Rural Track Med Students at CRHC

Two Rural Track Medical Students from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Dan Renner and Ryan Gamble, are spending part of their summers at CRHC! They are working on a project for CRHC, in coordination with the School of Medicine, which aims to examine the efficacy of loan repayment programs across the state for the recruitment and retention of providers in rural and underserved Colorado. The loan repayment programs studied include the Colorado Rural Outreach Program, the Colorado Health Professional Loan Repayment Program, the State of Colorado's Loan Repayment for Dentists and Dental Hygienists, and the Colorado Medical Society's program. We hope to use this data to strengthen loan repayment programs across the state.

CROP Grant Deadline August 1st

Originally started by the Colorado Medical Society, the Colorado Rural Outreach Program (CROP) was taken over by the Colorado Rural Health Center in the fall of 2005. CROP grants support rural communities in recruitment and retention of healthcare providers by providing funds for repayment of medical education loan debt. This funding allows communities and sites to attract and keep quality physicians and healthcare workers.

In the spring of 2007, 31 CROP grant applications were submitted, requesting \$272,650 – more than twice the amount allocated for this funding cycle. However, 22 CROP grant awards were made, totaling \$121,650; of that, \$42,500 was earmarked to recruit new providers to rural Colorado.

Expansion of geographic diversity and provider-types benefiting from the grants were two exciting aspects of this round of funding. Three new counties benefited: Jackson, Lake, and Morgan; and, 2 new provider types were funded: an Audiologist and a Medical Lab Tech.

CROP's next funding cycle deadline is **August 1, 2007**. For more information, or to download grant guidelines, please visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/crop/index.html>. CROP funding comes in part from the Health Professions Initiative. Health Professions is an initiative of The Colorado Trust.

You will be greatly missed, Dr. Haug

Following is "Haug set standard for rural doctors," an article published in the Denver Post.

a colorado life Haug set standard for rural doctors

By Virginia Culver, Denver Post Staff Writer, Source: http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_5913335

Dr. Norman Haug "was a hero" for the rural doctor, said Dr. [Jack] Westfall, a former rural doctor who now trains others in the same field. "Norm was the role model for just doing it, instead of talking about doing something," said Westfall, who teaches at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

Haug was 69 when he died May 6. He had been a doctor in Del Norte for years, served as coroner and jail physician and spearheaded the drive to open a \$10 million hospital after the Del Norte hospital closed. He was hospital administrator for that institution, the Rio Grande Hospital, and that is where he died. Haug worked to get much of the \$10 million for the hospital through a Housing and Urban Development grant. He also was medical director for the Colorado State Veterans' Center in Homelake, near Monte Vista.



Dr. Norman Haug

In 1998 he and his wife, Rebecca Haug, a nurse, went to Honduras to help those injured in Hurricane Mitch. He was named Rural Health Practitioner of the year in 2003 by the National Rural Health Association. "He was a gentle soul who never got up in arms or raised his voice. He just quietly led," Westfall said. "Customer care" was a speciality of Haug's, said his son James Haug of Denver. "He was good listener, liked to get to know his patients and had a full page of each patient's history, not just a paragraph." "He was their doctor, confidant, and friend," Westfall said.

Norman Haug was born in Lakewood on Dec. 14, 1937, and graduated from Regis High School and Regis University in Denver. He earned his medical degree at the University of Colorado and a master's degree in public health at the University of Oklahoma. He was a Peace Corps doctor in Malaysia in the early 1960's and later helped set up the Vietnamese health system.

In 1980 he married Rebecca Sue Sutterfield and moved to Del Norte the next year. Haug liked the idea of living in a small town and of having a few farm animals. He grew up on a small farm outside Lakewood. "We always had some sheep, chickens, horses and geese," said James Haug. "It was kind of recreational farming."

In addition to his wife and son, Haug is survived by two other sons: Frank Haug of Boulder and Anthony Haug of Denver; and sisters Jeanne Haug and Dorothy Healy, both of Lakewood.

Staff writer Virginia Culver can be reached at vculver@denverpost.com or at 303-954-1223.

National Advisory Committee Comes to Colorado

Submitted by Sue Birch, Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association, Inc. (VNA)

As a member of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS), I was honored to see how graciously the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) and member agencies hosted the NACRHHS at a recent field meeting in Fort Collins, June 10-12, 2007. As many of you know, each year the Committee conducts two field meetings to speak with local rural health and human services experts in order to glean information for the Committee's Annual Report.

The Committee visited Northeastern Colorado to learn more about issues related to the 2008 Report. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Committee, and the report will discuss key issues and successes over the past two decades. The report will also look to the future of rural health and human services, anticipating the opportunities and challenges likely to confront rural providers.

Two site visits in Colorado afforded Committee members a chance to visit rural communities. The Health Subcommittee visited East Morgan County Hospital, a Critical Access Hospital in Brush, while the Human Services Subcommittee visited Northeastern Colorado Area Agency on Aging, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-funded agency, in Fort Morgan. Findings from the field meeting and site visits will be available in the 2008 Report. We would like to thank both of these organizations and their communities for taking us in and allowing us a glimpse of their daily operations, challenges, and successes.

Within the next several months, the Committee will work to finalize a draft of the 2008 report. The next field meeting will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, from September 12-14, 2007. More information on the NACRHHS is available online at <http://ruralcommittee.hrsa.gov/>.

The Primary Care Office Turns Over a New Leaf

Steve Holloway, the new Director of the Primary Care Office (PCO) at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, took on his new role in December of last year. Steve visited our office this spring and spoke to us about the PCO – what it's done, what it hopes to do, and where it's headed.

A Colorado native, Steve grew up in Broomfield, although his family hails from the Central City and Bayfield areas. Steve attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and received a degree in biochemistry. He now lives in Denver with his wife and newborn son.

Steve has always been interested in health and healthcare, and, before working in a public health capacity, he was the Executive Director of the National X Foundation. The Foundation researches the Fragile X chromosome – the chromosome that is related to autism and Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) – “the most common cause of *inherited* mental impairment” (please see www.fragilex.org for more information). The Foundation's research focuses on ways to lessen the negative health consequences of the Fragile X chromosome. Before coming to the Primary Care Office, Steve worked as the State Genetics Coordinator for the Maternal and Child Health section of the state health department.



Steve Holloway

The Primary Care Office is the section of the state health department that focuses on primary care services in areas of Colorado with shortages of healthcare professionals or lack of access to care. The PCO aims to help these communities and organizations develop healthcare services. The office coordinates the state's shortage designations: Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs), and Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs); the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program; the National Interest Waiver Program; and also works closely with the state department's Oral Health Program and with the Colorado Rural Health Center to address rural healthcare needs in Colorado.

The Primary Care Office is currently working towards providing better assessment data on provider characteristics, including the number of providers and specialists in different areas of the state. The PCO also hopes to increase the number of HPSAs in the state, since many national and state programs use HPSA designations to determine eligibility. The office is working on a public database to provide comprehensive information on each HPSA. The PCO is also working towards coordinated care and cultural competency with regards to children, especially those with special needs. This is an issue increasingly in the spotlight as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization and Medicare/Medicaid legislation is debated in the legislature.

We are very excited about these plans and projects, and are eager to see what results may transpire. Welcome, Steve, and thanks for all of your hard work to improve the healthcare of rural and underserved Colorado!

More information on the Primary Care Office available online at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/primarycare>.

Steve Holloway may be contacted at steve.holloway@state.co.us.

Member News

CNA Convention Coming to Pueblo!

The Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) will hold its Annual Convention and Continuing Education day at the Pueblo Convention Center, September 28 and 29. The theme is “Real Nurses: Real Challenges; Real Solutions.” All RNs and LPNs are welcome to attend! Friday, September 28 will be the Continuing Education Day. For more information, please visit the Colorado Nurses Association's Website, <http://www.nurses-co.org>, and click on the Calendar of Events.

Yuma District Hospital Moves to New Facility

The Mason's cornerstone ceremony and the ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, May 30, 2007 marked the grand opening of the new Yuma District Hospital and Clinics.

State dignitaries and a huge crowd from the community were on hand as the 68,000 square foot, state-of-the art facility opened its doors. Guided tours by hospital staff provided the public with a glimpse of the improved healthcare services afforded by the new hospital and clinic, from patient privacy, to a therapy pool.

This Northeast Colorado Critical Access Hospital received a \$7 million Community Facility Direct Loan and a \$17.5 million Community Facility Loan Guarantee from USDA Rural Development for the project.



For more information on Yuma District Hospital and Clinics, please visit www.yumahospital.org.

Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act

Congressmen Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and Greg Walden (R-OR) recently announced H.R. 2860, the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act (H-CARE). H-CARE, co-sponsored by 55 congressmen, including Colorado's John Salazar, aims to improve rural access to care by creating an availability of Health Information Technology (HIT) grants, giving CAH's flexibility in the number of beds they may fill, requiring Medicare prescription drug plans to pay rural pharmacies in a timely manner, requiring that the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission has appropriate rural representation, establishing a Rural Health Quality Advisory Commission, increasing Medicare reimbursements for RHCs, and continuing certain expiring Medicare adjustment payments. For more information, please visit the Rural Assistance Center's website: http://www.raconline.org/news/news_details.php?news_id=6794.

Colorado Board of Health Seeks Applicants

The Colorado Board of Health is seeking applicants to serve on the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Competitive Grants Program Review Committee. There are currently three vacancies on the committee; these vacancies are designated for a public health professional, a primary care provider, and a health disparities expert. Please contact Gloria Latimer, Chronic Disease Branch Director at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, at (303) 692-2562 or gloria.latimer@state.co.us for more information.

North Park Medical Clinic to Build New Facility

North Park Medical Clinic in Walden, in cooperation with the town of Walden, Jackson County, the North Park Hospital District, the North Park School District, the Yampa Valley Medical Center, and various community providers, have developed the North Park Community Strategic Health Care Plan. The plan would—among its other objectives—plan, finance, and construct a multi-purpose, integrated care medical office building staffed by a full-time physician. For more information, please contact the Town of Walden, at (970) 723-4344 or the North Park Medical Clinic at (970) 723-4255.

The country doc: Rural health care in Colorado

written by: Gary Shapiro , 9NEWS Morning Anchor

Source: <http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=70347>

DENVER - On 9NEWS, we like Cheyenne County – that have financial incentives available for introduced viewers to Dr. Gary great medical facilities, but need rural health professionals, Grasmick. He gave up his doctors on a full time basis. including a re-payment of medical successful practice in Boulder to Visiting doctors often fill a school loans. To someone who become a "Country Doc" in vital need in rural parts of the owes up to \$100,000 dollars or Cheyenne Wells, Colorado, about state – but having a full time more, that is huge. The financial 200 miles southeast of Denver. doctor available is preferable. incentives come from state and

In Boulder he was one of a Some counties have one or two federal grants – and sometimes group of doctors who saw doctors – others don't have any. from the communities themselves. thousands of patients a year in Medical experts say there We have provided a their clinic. In Cheyenne Wells, he are many reasons doctors and number of resources on this page is one of two doctors in the entire other health professionals should to give you more information on county. consider rural medicine. rural health care in Colorado,

Dr. Grasmick told us he From a professional including some of the financial made the move for several standpoint, they are challenged incentives available and a map of reasons. It provides him a new every day because they see so where the need is the greatest. professional challenge, a much many different patients with such

needed change in lifestyle, and he a wide range of issues. The small more information from the links to said the incentives made the town lifestyle is often attractive for the Colorado Medical Society, and the University of Colorado School move financially worthwhile. people who are tired of long of Medicine Rural Track Program.

His story prompted us to commutes, high cost of living and of the stress that often comes with look into the need for "Country Docs" in the state. the big city.

There are many counties And there are many

This article is available online at: <http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=70347> or at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources>.

SCHIP Reauthorization

SCHIP (the State Children's Health Insurance Program) is up for reauthorization this year at the congressional level. Created in 1997, SCHIP combines federal and state dollars to fund health coverage for low-income children who are not qualified for Medicaid but whose families cannot afford private insurance. While many congressional leaders are calling for an increase in funding, President Bush's plan for SCHIP would keep funding at its current level. In Colorado, it is estimated that there are at least twice as many children who are eligible for the program as there are children enrolled. The costs of enrolling and funding these children will exceed the current budget proposals.

Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) is Colorado's SCHIP plan. CHP+ covers children between 100-200% of the federal poverty level – or up to around \$40,000 annual income for a family of four. As of January of this year, around 50,000 children and more than 1,300 pregnant women were enrolled in CHP+. Unfortunately, there are over 56,000 kids in Colorado who are eligible for the coverage, but are not enrolled and go without needed healthcare services.



Reauthorization of this program is being debated now. As a rural healthcare professional, if you are interested in taking action, you may contact our Colorado senators—Senator Salazar (202) 224-5852 or Senator Allard (202) 224-5941—or your state senator or house representative (please visit www.leg.state.co.us for contact information). For more information on Colorado's SCHIP Coalition, please visit www.coloradoschip.org or call (720) 201-7307.

The Colorado Health Foundation's Applicant Information Sessions

In an effort to learn more about healthcare needs and issues throughout Colorado, The Colorado Health Foundation has hosted a series of Applicant Information Sessions around the state this past year. Ten of these Sessions are in rural communities. The meetings consist of a networking breakfast with a few local community leaders, followed by lunch and a region-wide community meeting. During the community meeting,



The Colorado Health Foundation staff provides information on their health funding opportunities, engages the participants in discussions regarding the major health issues in their region, and provides information about the Foundation's Community Regranting Project, which makes \$10,000 available to each host region to award through small, health-related grants.

Organizations must attend a session in their region to learn about the Regranting opportunity and to apply. The Colorado Health Foundation's general grant funding priorities include: health policy, healthcare access, and personal health empowerment.

The upcoming Applicant Information sessions will be held in Craig on August 8, in Glenwood Springs on September 13, and in Gunnison and Breckenridge in October. For more information, please visit <http://coloradohealth.org/grantmaking/sessions.cfm>.

More information on The Colorado Health Foundation is available by calling (877) 225-0839 or visiting the Foundation's website, www.coloradohealth.org.

Study Reports More Obese Rural Kids Than City Kids

According to a recent study by the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, children growing up in rural areas are more likely to be obese than are children growing up in metropolitan areas. The study was based on data provided by the Centers for Disease Control. The University began the study after seeing reports that rural adults were more likely to be obese than were adults in metropolitan areas. The study does not delve deep into the reasons behind increased obesity, but does conclude that rural children with higher risk for obesity tended to watch TV and play on the computer for more than three hours a day, and to be female, Caucasian, and uninsured. The study will be published by the University this October. For more information, please visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/downloads/ruralchildobesity.pdf> or <http://mystateline.com/content/fulltext/?cid=4554>.

Most tractor rollover accidents are preventable

By Anthony Petterson, contributor

This is an excerpt of the original article. Source: AgJournal, March 2, 2007

"One man's death is a tragedy, a thousand is a statistic." - Joseph Stalin

FORT COLLINS – In early Spring, 1960, on a small dairy farm in North Dakota, a milk truck spun out in the mud. Enlisting the help of the indispensable farm wife the truck driver hooked a chain to a tractor, the woman popped the clutch, the tractor overturned, a husband lost his wife, and four young girls were without a mother.

More recently, in an accident reported in the Fort Collins' *Coloradoan*, a Larimer County property owner was killed when the tractor he was using to extricate a stranded pickup from the snow, fell on him.

According to Dr. Juhua Liu, a research scientist, and director of the Roll-over Protection System (ROPS) research centered at CSU [Colorado State University], it is often the case that the tractor is too small for the load that it is expected to pull...

Dr. Stephen J. Reynolds, director of the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS) at Colorado State University, says that more than 300 of these tragic deaths, including [the deaths of] children, happen each year.

"Tractors are the number one cause of farm related accidents among children," according to Marilyn Adams, founder and president of Farm Safety Just for Kids. "Adults need to bear full responsibility."

Forty plus years of preventable, farm-tractor related deaths. You do the math.

Agriculture is the most hazardous occupation in the United States, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Safety Council data. In a typical year, approximately 800 people lose their lives while working in agriculture, the source of our food supply, and an additional 150,000 suffer disabling illness and injuries...

Numerous individuals and organizations have been trying to do something about farm accidents for decades with little success. Until now.

Under the aegis of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the federal government

is getting serious about addressing the problem. In an effort to educate farmers about the safe operation of equipment, and the life-saving benefits of Roll Over Protection Systems (ROPS), NIOSH is spearheading the National Agricultural Tractor Safety Initiative... "We have tractors manufactured in the fifties and sixties still going strong," Reynolds says. "There is a trend toward smaller acreages. Some of this equipment is being operated by inexperienced people. We don't really have a good handle on the number of injuries and the actual costs," he adds.

That is one of the missions of the NIOSH centers. Using statistics gathered from Worker's Comp., trauma registries, death certificates, police and newspaper reports, and other sources, the organization hopes to develop a database which would be accessible to all who need them, enabling an investigation of the true cost of farm accidents, and a determination of why farmers resist practices that could literally save their lives.

According to Reynolds, part of the solution is "social marketing," similar to the kind of ad campaign that was used to convince the public to pass laws requiring the use of seat belts in cars, and to encourage passengers to use them.

But regulations are a "hard sell," he says. "Machinery dealers are kind of a focal point in our educational effort. They could be a key player and we are now talking with them about barriers and potential incentives for their participation."

...However, it's been shown that many farmers would not use ROPS even if it was free. "It's part of the culture," Reynolds says. "Often farmers find the (protective devices) to be a hindrance and remove them...working in an orchard for example." But there are solutions.

Under the direction of Dr. Paul Ayers, who started the retro-fitting design program at CSU in 1991, and later under the guidance of Liu, engineers have designed ROPS which could be installed on 75 percent of existing pre-1985 or pre-ROPS tractors...

There about 4.8 million working Ag

tractors in the U.S., according to Liu, and more than half of them are without ROPS, despite the fact that Roll-over protection equipment has been federally mandated to be installed on new tractors since 1985. As early as 1975, OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] has required roll-over protection on tractors used in operations with more than 11 employees; a grossly inadequate regulation given that some 90 percent of U.S. farms have fewer than 11 employees.

As of 2005 engineers have designed ROPS for 75 percent of unprotected tractors. "That leaves 180,000 tractors without the availability of rollover protection equipment," Liu says...

In addition to rollover protection, Liu's research team is developing a tractor mounted computer system which will compute variables such as the tractor's dimensions, speed, and the slope of the terrain on which the tractor is operating to warn the operator if the tractor is being operated unsafely.

According to the NIOSH documents, the benefits of using ROPS is irrefutable. For example, in Sweden, the number of fatalities per 100,000 tractors was reduced from 17 to 0.3 between 1960 and 1990 as a direct result of regulations requiring ROPS. In Norway, fatalities were reduced from 24 to 4 per 100,000 tractors during a similar period. Other European counties, Australia, and Canada, have experienced comparable results.

Should older tractors which can't be retro-fit be forcibly retired? Should small farms be exempted from regulation? In upcoming meetings involving the major players in the National Tractor Safety Initiative, recommendations will be developed addressing these and other tractor safety issues...

...In the words Marilyn Adams, who lost a son in a farm accident, "It's easier to bury a tradition than a child."

To read this article in its entirety, please visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources>. Information on NIOSH is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>. For information on Colorado AgrAbility, a project housed in CSU Cooperative Extension office, whose mission is to promote success in agriculture for people with disabilities or other physical challenges, please visit <http://hdfs.caahs.colostate.edu/agrability/agrability.htm>.

USDA Broadband Grants

Grants \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 are now available to rural communities without broadband service. The grant funding comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program. Grant funding may be used to provide the community with residential broadband service and also to connect community facilities such as police stations, fire stations, healthcare organizations, libraries, and schools. Grant applications are due by **August 20, 2007**. Please visit <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm> for more information.

EMS Recruitment and Retention Grants

Small grants up to \$1,500 are available through the Colorado Rural Health Center to support rural and frontier EMS organizations as they address recruitment and retention issues. Eligible organizations include EMS Agencies, Rescue Squads, Quick Response Teams, RETACs, and fire departments.

The next EMS Recruitment and Retention funding cycle deadline is **October 1, 2007**. Innovative projects targeting recruitment and retention of volunteer staff will be given preference, as will applications demonstrating financial need and a close linkage between the proposed project and a larger Recruitment and Retention program.

For more information, or to download grant guidelines, please visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/EMSGrants.html>.

USDA Rural Community Development Grants

Matching grants of \$50,000 to \$300,000 are now available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Program. The RCDI grants aim to provide financial and technical assistance and training funds to intermediary organizations, private or nonprofit, who are looking to develop their housing, community facilities, or community and economic development project capacity. Applications are due **September 6, 2007**.

For more information, please visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi>.

Rural Health Network Development Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced its Rural Health Network Development Grant Program, a program designed to support organizations that wish to strengthen collaborations among healthcare organizations. Applications are due **October 15, 2007**. The Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program, a separate but related program, will provide funds to organizations wishing to develop rural health networks. Applications are due **October 5, 2007**. Please visit www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm#rural.

Caring for Colorado Foundation’s Health Grants

The Caring for Colorado Foundation has three health funding areas with October application deadlines quickly approaching. The Caring for Colorado Foundation will provide grant funds in the following categories: Community Health, Health Infrastructure, and Enabling Informed Health Decisions. Proposals addressing the following conditions will be given priority: underserved populations; increased access, availability, and eligibility for care; and prevention strategies for at-risk communities and individuals. More information is available online at www.caringforcolorado.org or by calling (800) 463-7713.

New State Loan Repayment Program

A new loan repayment program will be available soon for healthcare providers. Senate Bill 232, recently signed into law by Governor Bill Ritter, creates a loan-repayment program for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals who work in rural areas for up to two years. Healthcare workers are eligible for up to \$35,000 a year in loan repayment. The bill will also create a Health Care Community Board to review applications for participation in the loan repayment program; the Colorado Rural Health Center has been appointed to participate on this community board. Governor Ritter said of the bill: “By offering incentives to rural healthcare workers, we can do a better job of delivering services to agricultural communities and other hard-to-reach areas of Colorado.” The state loan repayment program will join other loan repayment programs already available in the state of Colorado: The National Health Service Corps, The Colorado Rural Outreach Program, The Colorado Health Foundation’s Physician Loan Repayment Program, and The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s loan repayment program for Dentists and Dental Hygienists.

To view Senate Bill 232 in its entirety, please visit: http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2007a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/FE2E3E3C8F2F4A168725728B005FBE6D?open&file=232_enr.pdf For more information on loan repayment options, please contact Clint Cresawn, CRHC’s Workforce Programs Manager, at (800) 851-6782 or ccr@coruralhealth.org.

Rural Assistance Center—They're Here to Help!

The Rural Assistance Center (RAC), located in Grand Forks, North Dakota, not only offers a wonderful, resource-filled website, but also customized, personal assistance. RAC information specialists will perform web and database searches on rural topics and funding sources, will help connect you to partner organizations, and provide you with publications from RAC's resource library. The Center's website, www.raconline.org, contains a variety of well-organized and easy-to-find information ranging from funding sources to information guides and maps. To contact a RAC information specialist, please call (800) 270-1913 or email info@raconline.org.



Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) has announced the Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program. This program will fund a community for one year in its efforts to plan and start an integrated health network that involves collaboration with three or more organizations and that has no history of significant collaboration. Grant awards are estimated between \$25,000 and \$85,000. Rural, non-profit, public, faith-based, community-based, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply. Applications are due **October 5, 2007**. Interested parties are invited to participate in a Technical Assistance conference call on August 23, 2007; please contact Mary Collier at mcollier@hrsa.gov for more information. For more information on the Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program and application, please visit <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/networkplanning.htm>.

Rural Health Disparities Information Guide

RAConline, the Rural Assistance Center's website, provides a variety of Information Guides on a variety of issues of interest, including healthcare. One of their new guides, the Rural Health Disparities Information Guide, can help answer such questions as: what are rural health disparities? Where are they found? What are the statistics? And, which agencies are working toward closing this health gap? The Rural Health Disparities information guide is available at www.raconline.org/info_guides/disparities. To search the information guides for more health-related topics, please visit www.raconline.org/info_guides.

Issue Paper: Rural Veterans, A Special Concern for Rural Health Advocates

"27 percent of those who have been killed in Iraq are from rural areas while only 19 percent of our nation lives in rural areas and small towns." In addition, "More than 22 percent of U.S. military recruits come from rural areas, Pentagon figures show. In contrast, 14 percent come from major cities." Statistics such as these have led the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) to publish an issue paper on rural veterans. *Rural Veterans: A Special Concern for Rural Health Advocates* (February 2007) examines the infrastructure that is in place in rural communities to handle the primary care and mental health services of returning veterans. In Colorado, the proportion of veterans living in rural and frontier areas is 14.1% - above the national average of 12.7% (2000 Census data). The full issue brief is available in the Resource Section of our website: http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/downloads/ruralvets_nrha.pdf. To see more of the NRHA's issue papers and policy briefs, please visit <http://nrharural.org/advocacy/sub/PolicyBrf.html>.

CRC's Grant-Seeking Clinics Free!

The Community Resource Center (CRC) will be holding Grant-Seeking Clinics this August in Pueblo and Steamboat Springs. *Grant-Seeking: The Nuts and Bolts* is designed for directors, board members, and development staff at non-profit organizations. The workshops will cover the components of a proposal, need statements, goal and objective development, methods of program evaluation, different types of funding, budget development, and the Colorado Department of Health Disparities' Health Disparities Grant Program. These workshops are sponsored by Office of Health Disparities, an office of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Organizations "serving racial and ethnic minorities in rural areas" are eligible for the Health Disparities Grant Program Funds. Pueblo: August 14; Steamboat Springs: August 29

For more information about these clinics, please contact CRC at (800) 516-6284 or www.crcamerica.org/training; or, contact Corrina Lucera at CDPHE at (303) 692-2144 or online at www.cdphe.state.co.us/ohd.

Suicide Prevention in Southeastern Colorado

Southeast Mental Health Services, serving Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers counties, developed their Project HOPE program in April 2004. Project HOPE, a program funded by The Colorado Trust, is a suicide prevention effort involving more than fifty agencies and community members. The program trains “gatekeepers” in QPR – questioning, persuading, and referral. Gatekeepers learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to question, persuade, and refer someone to a mental health professional for help. QPR training is available to all community members, and the 90 minute training is free of charge. Project HOPE also provides an online self-assessment tool for Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Generalized Anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress. Please visit www.semhs.org for more information.

More information on Project HOPE and Southeast Mental Health Services is available by calling (719) 384-5446 or (800) 511-5446.

Mystery Photo



In which rural community is this musician located?

The first person to answer correctly will win a prize! Please call or email Callie Preheim with your answer — (303) 832-7493, (800) 851-6782, cp@coruralhealth.org

Just For Fun!

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The following is an excerpt of Colorado poet Peggy Godfrey’s poem, “Newcomer’s Orientation I”

2
 This valley doesn’t need you
 She’s not poor, though she may appear so by your standards
 She doesn’t need your ornamental scars to make her beautiful
 She’s not a “fix-er-upper”
 She won’t be possessed, domesticated, or contained
 By your botanical garden ideas, arrogance, and ignorance.
 She’s not like you.
 She doesn’t march to your drumbeat
 nor speak your native tongue.
 Watch her – the way she dresses
 Inhale her fragrance
 Feel her seasonal rhythms
 Treasure the moments of her sidelong glances
 Listen for the rustle of her gowns
 Leave your windows open
 She may sing you a 2am love song
 Or whisper a joke just for your ears
 When she gets to know you well enough
 She may ask you to dance
 Then, again, she may not.

CRHC Welcomes New Investing 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. If you wish to become an Investing Member of CRHC, please visit our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/membership/index.html>, or call us for more information: (303) 832-7493, (800) 851-6782.

Thank You to Our New Members!

Audrey Holt, Howard
 Freddie Jaquez, San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center, Alamosa
 Ann Olson, Total Longterm Care, Denver
 Judy Sudmeier, Broomfield

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

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZATION / CONTACT
July 24	NPI 102: The Basics and Beyond, Webinar 11am MTN	HealthCare IT Transition Group www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
July 31	Governor Ritter's Transportation Panel—Akron Washington County Events Center	Governor's Office transportation_panel@state.co.us
August 1-2	Rural EMS Budget Model Training South Bend, Indiana	Nat'l Org of State Offices of Rural Health dpanosorh@comcast.net
August 9	Managing Cardiovascular Disease in Your Practice Craig, CO	University of Colorado Family Medicine bonnie.jortberg@uchsc.edu
August 9-10	Colorado Rural Health Conference—Craig Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Craig	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
August 13-15	Charting New Frontiers in Rural Women's Health Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC	Office on Women's Health (DHHS) www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
August 23-26	2007 Minority Women's Health Summit Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services www.womenshealth.gov/mwhs
September 5-7	CHA 82nd Annual Meeting Vail Marriott Mountain Resort, Vail	Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) www.cha.com , (720) 489-1630
September 12	Gestational Diabetes Training Rawlings Library, Pueblo	CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment mandy.mcculloch@state.co.us
September 12-14	Rural Health Information Technology Conference Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, MO	Rural Health Resource Center www.ruralcenter.org/HITconference07
September 13	Gestational Diabetes Training San Juan Basin Health Dept., Durango	CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment mandy.mcculloch@state.co.us
September 17-19	Public Health in the Rockies 2007 Conference Hilton Hotel, Fort Collins	Colorado Public Health Association (303) 285-9660
September 20-22	Medical Spanish Language Intensive Training Holiday Inn Cherry Creek, Denver	CHAMPS www.championsonline.org , (303) 861-5165
September 28-29	Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) Convention Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo	Colorado Nurses Association (CNA) www.nurses-co.org , (303) 757-7483
October 17-19	Economic Development Council Fall Conference Marriot, Golden	Economic Development Council of Colorado Michelle Alcott, malcott21@comcast.net