



Special Delivery ONLINE

Colorado Rural Health Center

Spring Edition– March 2006

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CRHC News

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. Just call or write for more information. The Special Delivery Newsletter is posted on the Colorado Rural Health Center's web site quarterly to give our constituents information about programs and resources available.

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CRHC Embraces Seniors



L-R: Ron Seedorf, Kathy McCune, Denise Denton

Over 150 years of experience in life!! Three of CRHC's employees turned the big five-oh (50 years old) recently. Ron Seedorf celebrated his 50th February 23rd, Kathy McCune celebrated her 50th on March 6th, and CRHC's Executive Director, Denise Denton, celebrated her 50th on March 8th. Happy Birthday!!

CPR Attends Rocky Mountain Dental Convention

Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) staff attended the Rocky Mountain Dental Convention, January 19-21, for the purpose of finding dentists and dental hygiene candidates to help fill dental opportunities in rural and underserved Colorado. CRHC's exhibit booth was shared with Amber Galloway from the Colorado Community Health Network and Andrea Miller from the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States. Since its inception, CPR has placed eight dentists and four dental hygienists throughout rural and underserved Colorado.



Pictured are dental hygiene students from Colorado Northwestern Community College, Rangely, CO. L-R: Vennessa Dorrance, Lan Le, Megan Brennan, and Lisa Westhoff.

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AED Poem Contest Winner!

Four Mile Emergency Services in Florissant and Walsh EMS each received a new AED for their agencies. CRHC was looking for the most creative poem, short story, or verse from a rural facility or agency that best demonstrated a need for an AED. Below is Four Mile's submission, entitled ***Shockable Rhythm featuring the AED Rapper***.

It could be you, your neighbor or me,
It could be your mother-in-law to be

We could be dying, lacking a jump start,
Due to a flaw in the rhythm of our heart

AEDs are common in city places,
But scarce out here in the open spaces

They may be in malls, shops, and airports too,
But we have few of them, if we turn blue

We don't need the Shock Jock and Sirius,
What we need is nothing mysterious

We need folks like you to step forward please,
And take charge of some local AEDs

We'll provide the unit and the training part,
Just play your role in shocking a heart

**A Brief History of Saint Patrick's Day...**

Saint Patrick was believed to have been born in Britain, the son of a Christian deacon. It is believed that he was captured as a boy, and sent to Ireland where he lived another few years before returning to Britain. According to legend, St. Patrick heard a voice telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Back in Ireland, St. Patrick incorporated traditional, native religion into his portrayal of Christianity—celebrating Easter with bonfires and placing a circle on the cross to symbolize the sun. It is believed that St. Patrick died on March 17, [460-61] A.D.

Source: The History Channel

CRHC Seeks Workforce Manager

CRHC is looking for a Program Manager to manage various programs and projects that address healthcare workforce shortages in rural Colorado. This includes loan repayment and scholarship programs, projects in communities and facilities that expose students to healthcare careers, and a fee-for-service recruitment program. Skills and requirements for the position: Bachelor or Masters degree; experience in project management and employee supervision; exceptional, proven presentation skills with large and small audiences; ability to manage multiple projects and timelines; excellent organizing and writing skills; experience with various health professions and health facilities; ability to work independently; proficient computer skills: Microsoft Office with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Outlook and a sincere interest in working with rural communities and healthcare facilities. Full-time position with benefits; \$33 - 43,000 based on experience. Send resume to km@coruralhealth.org.

SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

The 15th Annual Rural Health Conference
will be held June 21-23, 2006 in Longmont, Colorado.

CRHC Announces New EMS Grant Funding Program

New grants up to \$1,500 are available to rural and frontier EMS agencies to address recruitment and retention issues. A total of \$15,000 is available in 2006 calendar year. The Colorado Rural Health Center is providing these funds thanks to a rural workforce grant received through The Colorado Trust's Health Professions Initiative.

Eligible organizations are rural and frontier EMS agencies, rescue squads, Quick Response Teams, RETACs, and fire departments for EMS activities only. Applications are due May 1, 2006.

For additional eligibility information, funding priorities, or to download the application please visit:

<http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/EMSGrants.html>

CRHC encourages applications from EMS agencies that utilize innovative and standard recruitment and retention strategies that are effective in your area. For a list of recruitment and retention ideas please visit:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/txt/publications/fa-157.txt>

NOTE: *These funds are separate and distinct from the existing R & R program offered through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Grant guidelines, application, payment requests, and reporting are different than those used by CDPHE.*

Applications must follow the CRHC EMS R & R Application Format to be considered.

Health Professions is an initiative of The Colorado Trust.

Rural Health Clinics Forum to be Held in Denver on April 4-5

On April 4-5, CRHC will sponsor the 7th Annual Forum for Colorado's Rural Health Clinics at the Sheraton Denver West. Rural Health Clinics are located in non-urbanized, medically underserved areas, and are certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to receive enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid. There are currently 44 certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) located throughout rural Colorado.

Although the annual forum was created by CRHC to provide RHCs with an opportunity for addressing issues, networking, and education, many of the topics presented at the forum are applicable to any type of outpatient clinic, and anyone interested is welcome to register and attend. This year's sessions include electronic medical records, HIPAA compliance, quality improvement programs for clinics, billing and reimbursement, and human resources, to name a few. For newly certified RHCs, or clinics interested in becoming certified, an "RHC for Beginners" session will be held as a pre-conference workshop.

Returning attendees have made the following comments about the RHC Forum:

"I attend the Rural Health Clinic Forum each year, because this is the only place that I can find out about changes to the regulations governing RHCs and any changes to the billing rules. RHCs are such a different animal that it helps to hear a validation of the rules each year. The providers are constantly questioning my understanding and interpretation of the rules. I am concerned about charging everything I can, but not charging for the non-allowed. I enjoy networking with the other RHCs in the state and finding out how they address specific issues that we have in common."

-Marilee Riley, Buena Vista Family Practice Clinic-St. Vincent General Hospital District

"The RHC Forum deals with real issues that affect rural health clinics. It is very informative. Also, having the chance to network with other rural health clinics is invaluable."

-Judy Rafferty, Wet Mountain Valley Community Clinic-West Custer County Hospital District

"I worked in a Rural Health Clinic for 5 years before I became the owner. When I purchased the clinic, I realized that I needed to have a better understanding of the nuances related to the operation of an RHC.

I attended the last two forums. The first year, I left with a much better understanding of what the RHC was all about. Last year, I built on what I learned before. I am looking forward to returning this year to increase my knowledge of the operation of a RHC, to stay abreast of changes, and to maximize my profits in order to keep my doors open.

This is a two-day event that is well worth the time away from patient care!"

-Doug Miller, Family Nurse Practitioner/Owner, Rocky Ford Family Health Center, LLC

To download the registration information, click on <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/RHCForum.html>. The original registration deadline was Monday, March 20; however, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER! We will be accepting registrations through Tuesday, March 28. Please note, however, the deadline for the \$85/night room block at the Sheraton Denver West is Tuesday, March 21.

CRHC's Linking Rural Needs to Services Program (LiRNS)

If you are a member of CRHC and a highly skilled consultant with a particular expertise, you can participate in our LiRNS program. Designed to link rural communities with technical consultants, the LiRNS program includes those who specialize in the following areas:

Grant Writing	Strategic Planning
Needs Assessment	Marketing and Outreach
Coalition Building	Network Development
Program Evaluation	Fundraising
Conflict Management	Practice Management
Business Plan Development	Not-for-profit Setup

If you have an area of expertise that would benefit our rural communities and it is not one of those listed above, please contact us.

How does LiRNS work?

A Colorado rural community contacts CRHC. We will review our database of LiRNS participants and match the community's needs with a listing of suitable consultants. After choosing a consultant, the community negotiates all fees and services. CRHC will follow-up with community within 60 days of the assistance to evaluate how well LiRNS worked for the community and if they found the consultant helpful.

If you are a consultant and want to become a participant in the LiRNS program, please complete a membership application and the LiRNS form located on our website at www.coruralhealth.org or call us at 303-832-7493. You must be an individual, organizational, or corporate member to be eligible to participate in the LiRNS program.

Funding Opportunity for Inclusiveness and Diversity in Rural Colorado

Source: Community Resource Center

The Denver Foundation announces the opportunity to submit a letter of intent to apply for funding for inclusiveness, diversity, or race relations activities in rural, small, and resort communities in Colorado.

In 1990, a lawsuit was filed in Federal District Court in Colorado. The case (Whitfield et al. v. The Board of County Commissioners of Eagle County, Colorado, et al., Civil Action No. 90-K-1541) alleged racial profiling by law enforcement officers. The case settled without a trial, and there are still funds available from the settlement. Under the legal doctrine called *cy pres*, when it is impossible to use funds precisely as intended, the funds should be used for a purpose that preserves the original intent as closely as possible. Federal Judge John Kane, with assistance from The Denver Foundation, plans to distribute the remaining dollars from this settlement (about \$280,000) according to the *cy pres* doctrine. Specifically, the funds will be used to: (a) provide education about cultural differences, race, and ethnicity, (b) improve racial and ethnic relations and tolerance, and c) improve relationships between law enforcement officers and members of diverse communities. The geographic scope of this work is limited to rural, small, and resort communities in Colorado.

Please visit www.denverfoundation.org to download full guidelines for this request for letters of intent. Click on the heading "Funding for Diversity." **The deadline for letters of intent is Friday, April 21 at 5:00 pm.**

If you have questions, or difficult downloading the guidelines, please contact Oz Spies, Philanthropic Partnerships Officer, The Denver Foundation, at 303-300-1790 ext. 130 or ospies@denverfoundation.org.

CRHC's USWAP Program Helps Match Old Equipment with New Needs



Did you know that you can donate your used equipment, furniture, and other healthcare items through the USWAP program? You can post the items on the CRHC website with your contact information. For more information, contact CRHC at 303-832-7493 or 800-851-6782.

NRHA Policy Institute—Rural Health Advocacy

Source: Bob Omer, CEO Pioneers Medical Center

Rural Colorado was well represented by Bob Omer and Shirley Baney at the February meeting of the National Rural Health Association’s (NRHA) Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. Bob is the CEO of Pioneers Medical Center in Meeker, and serves on the CRHC Board of Directors. Shirley is the Director of the St. Thomas More Foundation in Cañon City.

The Institute includes a variety of meetings and workshops, as well as NRHA Constituency Group meetings and visits to federal legislators on Capitol Hill. Each year, the Policy Institute includes a meeting of the NRHA Rural Health Policy Board, a group representing many different rural health issues and NRHA Constituency Groups. This Board sets policy and directs research of rural health issues for NRHA.

In addition to attending educational and advocacy sessions, Bob and Shirley visited with the staffs of Representative John Salazar and Senator Ken Salazar, carrying the message to preserve funding for rural health programs, services, and facilities. Shirley also visited Senator Wayne Allard’s offices to advocate for rural health appropriations legislation.

The Policy Institute was a great opportunity to participate in rural health advocacy, as well as to understanding the activities and priorities of the NRHA.



Community Resource Center Offers Training Workshops in March and April

Source: Community Resource Center

Following are the Community Resource Center (CRC) workshops for the rest of March and April. All of them are held at CRC’s office, 655 Broadway, Denver. Anyone can register for the workshops either by visiting CRC's web site at www.crcamerica.org or by calling CRC at 1-800-516-6284.

March 22	9 am-4 pm	"Corporate Partnerships (including a Corporate Funder Panel)" (Fee = \$100)
March 29	1 pm-4pm	"Prospect Research: Using the Online Colorado Grants Guide" (Fee = \$50)
April 4	10 am-4pm	"Tracking Your Constituents with Excel" (Fee = \$100)
April 6	9 am-4 pm	"Creating a Winning Individual Donor Program" (Fee = \$100)
April 10	3 pm-5 pm	"How to Complete Form 990: Accounting Networking Group" (Fee = Free)
April 11	1 pm-4 pm	"Get Organized with Outlook" (Fee = \$50)
April 18	1 pm-4 pm	"Tracking Your Donors in Access" (Fee = \$50)
April 20-21	1 pm-4 pm	(Day 1) and 9 am- 4 pm (Day 2), "Grant Seeking: The Process and the Proposal" (Fee = \$150)
April 26	1 pm - 4 pm	"Understanding Nonprofit Financial Statements" (Fee = \$50)

CRC can produce any of these workshops in rural communities if an organization is interested in serving as a local partner for CRC.

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services Update

Source: Sue Birch, Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.

Colorado is fortunate to have one of its own serving on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. Susan Birch, R.N., M.B.A. of Steamboat Springs, who works with the Visiting Nurses Association in Routt and Moffat Counties, was appointed by the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to serve a three-year term. She provides us with regular updates regarding the work of the Committee. Here's the latest:

The Committee held meetings in Washington D.C. at the end of January. The final 2006 report with topic areas of Family Caregiver Support, Health Information Technology and Pharmacy/Part D was finalized and is available on the website. The topics for the 2007 Report to the Secretary include: Medicare Advantage, Head Start, and Substance Abuse. Key researchers and policy advisors presented their findings and discussion points to the committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Campden, Maine, in early June. Please feel free to contact Sue Birch if you would like further information or have thoughts/comments on how the topics impact Colorado. Sue can be reached at sbirch@nwcovna.org.

For more information about the Committee and its reports and recommendations, visit: <http://ruralcommittee.hrsa.gov>

CAHSA Announces "Time to Bloom" Campaign

Source: Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

The Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (CAHSA), Colorado's largest nonprofit association representing providers of aging services, announced that it has launched an association-wide fundraising campaign. "Time to Bloom with CAHSA," is a spring flower bulb sale that officially takes root on March 2.

Participating CAHSA member facilities will sell pre-potted flowering bulbs to family, friends, board members and members of the local community to help benefit the association and brighten the lives of senior residents. The sales period runs through March 24, with deliveries of the beautiful plants April 3-12...just in time for that perfect Easter or Passover remembrance.

Sales progress will be charted with 'Flower Power' stickers to adorn members' campaign posters placed in facilities. Sales efforts will be rewarded and the highest achievers in various categories will be recognized with prizes and complimentary registrations to CAHSA's Annual Convention held May 11-12 in Vail. The "Time to Bloom" project features the very essence of growth and aspires to create a better environment for our elders. The project aims to achieve three goals:

1. Recognize and engage staff, activities directors and family members in CAHSA;
2. Raise awareness of CAHSA's work and the benefits that CAHSA provides to residents; and
3. Honor and brighten the room, day, and future of senior residents.

For more information about CAHSA's "Time to Bloom" project, please contact CAHSA's own Flower Child/Campaign Chairman Bill Brummett at 720-570-2302, wba@brummettarchitects.com, or visit www.cahsa.org to learn more.

CRHC Presents the 7th Annual Colorado Rural Health Clinics Forum

April 4 - 5

Sheraton Denver West - Lakewood, CO

Hospital to Build Rural Outreach Program

Source: Saint Joseph Hospital, a CRHC Investing Corporate Member

Saint Joseph Hospital is ready to rebuild its outreach program and is looking for physicians interested in providing care to rural communities.

“The purpose of a good outreach program is to travel to a community and determine what health care services it needs, then provide the physicians required to meet those needs,” said Charles Frankum, MD, medical director of outreach medicine for Saint Joseph Hospital. “Serving rural communities is also personally rewarding.”

Frankum is a general surgeon; but, two years ago, his primary focus became outreach medicine. In a typical week, he spends four days on the road and one day at Saint Joseph Hospital caring for outreach patients who require procedures too complex or delicate to perform in rural facilities. Ideally, he tries to treat as many patients as possible in their own hometowns, which he feels benefits both the patient and the local facility.

“The outreach program Saint Joe’s is planning to build will be different from other Denver-based programs because our purpose will be to benefit the rural community and not just take all of their patients and bring them to Denver,” Frankum said. Frankum serves six rural communities: Springfield, Burlington and Hugo/Limon in Colorado; and Colby, Atwood, and St. Francis in Kansas. Physicians with a connection to a rural community, or those interested in outreach medicine, are encouraged to contact Ann Wilcox, physician services for Saint Joseph Hospital, at 303-837-6547.

Resources

New Search Engine Provides Faster Access

Source: “Pennsylvania Rural Health News,” Fall 2005, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health

The Kaiser Family Foundation’s Web sites now feature a new search tool to provide faster and easier access to the thousands of foundation reports, news summaries, web casts and data analysis on Medicaid, Medicare, HIV/AIDS, the uninsured, health insurance, disparities in health care, public opinion and more.

Based on the Google search engine, the new search provides the functions and familiarity of Google. Advanced search features on kff.org and kaisernetwork.org allow for highly customized searching, such as the exclusion of specified words and searching within a date range. A “quick search” tool on kaisernetwork.org is available that provides quick access to recent news summaries and web casts that match keywords.

The new search is now available on www.kff.org, www.kaisernetwork.org, www.statehealthfacts.org, www.kaiserEDU.org and www.GlobalHealthReporting.org. For more information, contact webmaster@kff.org.

**Database for Rural Health
Research in Progress**

*Source: Rural Health Research In Progress in the Rural Health Research Centers Program, 10th Ed.
Maine Rural Health Research Center*

<http://www.rural~health.org/database.htm>

Information about current rural health services research conducted by the Rural Health Research Centers Program of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) and many other investigators is available on the internet. The Maine Rural Health Research Center at the University of Southern Maine receives funding from ORHP to maintain a searchable database of rural health services research and policy analysis in progress. This database includes all ORHP-funded studies, as well as research funded by other federal agencies, major private foundations and other sources.



This photo was taken at an unusual fundraising event for a fire department in Western Colorado called the Dynamite Shoot. Each shooter gets two shots at a given target. Each shot costs \$2.00. If the target is hit, it will explode and the shooter splits the pot for that target with the local Fire Department. If they miss, they get back in line. Iron sights, pistol, running deer, hunting rifle, black powder and long range shooters are all welcome. If you are the first one to guess the location of this exciting event, you'll win a prize. If you also guess the name of the shooter - a city boy - turned rural family doc - turned teacher, we'll throw in a bonus.

Funding Opportunities

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
April 4 -5, 2006	7th Annual Rural Health Clinics Forum Sheraton Denver West, Lakewood, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center 303-832-7493 or sk@coruralhealth.org
May 3-5, 2006	Annual Critical Access Hospital Workshop and Rural Hospital Conference Breckenridge, CO	Colorado Health and Hospital Assoc. 720-489-1630 peggy.mccreary@chha.com
May 17, 2006	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Annual Conference Denver, CO	Colorado Coalition for the Homeless www.coloradocoalition.org
June 21 - 23, 2006	15th Annual Rural Health Conference Radisson Hotel and Conference Center Longmont, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center 303-832-7493 , info@coruralhealth.org

CRHC Welcomes New Members

The Colorado Rural Health Center wishes to thank our investing members. 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've 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 download an investing member application on our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/membership/index.html>, or call us for more information: 303-832-7493, 1-800-851-6782.

Thank You to Our New Members!

Dana Abbey	
Joy Akey	Golden Plains Area Cooperative Extension
Sylvia Alvarado	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Julie Arana	Walsh Healthcare Center
Pamela Bachorski	The Pediatric Associates
Tommy Barnhart	Dixon Hughes, PLLC
Chrystal Black	Olathe Medical Clinic
Marilyn Bouldin	Colorado Northwestern Community College
Carol Breslau	The Colorado Trust
Kathy Brown	COPIC Companies
Paul Buisseret	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Marcus Button	Button Family Practice
Cherith Chapman	Colorado Rural Health Center
Mary Christenson	
Michael Curtis	The Neenan Company
Ralph Dean	Exempla St. Joseph Hospital
Brandy Drake	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Natalie Duran	Colorado Rural Health Center
Carina Estrada	Bent County Nursing Service
Charles George	EMTS
Autumn Hammer	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Mischa Haroutunian	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Kelly Havig	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Susan Hill	Caring for Colorado
Mike Huotari	Colorado Association of Health Plans
Lark Jacobsen	Montrose Memorial Hospital
Russell Johnson	San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center
Joseph Kelly	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Sally Kiser	Colorado Rural Health Center
Toshiko Luckow	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Konnie Martin	Valley Wide Health Systems, Inc.
Kathy McCune	Colorado Rural Health Center
Anne Marie Murphy	Matrix Capital Bank
Josina O'Connell	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Denny O'Malley	Craig Hospital
Ivan Olson	
Jason Paret	Mt. San Rafael Hospital
Callie Preheim	Colorado Rural Health Center
Chris Rhodes	The Children's Hospital
John Rich	North Park Hospital District
Scott Samuelson	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Gary Secino	HealthONE Outreach Services
Brenda Shelton	Colorado Plains Medical Center
Lisa Souba	LAS Practice Management & Coding Services
John Suits	Memorial Hospital
Bob Thorn	Banner Health
Lurline Underbrink Curran	Grand County
Jenna Lee Valdez	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track
Robert Wallace	St. Anthony Hospitals, Centura Health
Jack Westfall	University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
Andrea Wisman	UCHSC - Department of Family Medicine - Rural Health Track