



Special Delivery ONLINE

Colorado Rural Health Center

Spring Edition – March 2007

CRHC News	1-3	Resources.....	9-10
Member News.....	4-7	Calendar.....	11
Funding Opportunities.....	8		



CRHC News

CRHC is Recruiting a New Executive Director

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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- Clint Cresawn**
Workforce Programs Manager
- Natalie Duran**
Accounting Clerk
- Amy Hanson**
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- Callie Preheim**
Marketing & Outreach Associate
- Ron Seedorf**
Field Coordinator
- Shelley Smart**
CAH Program Specialist
- Lynne Swanson**
Business Manager
- Lou Ann Wilroy**
Acting Director, CAH Program Director

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is currently recruiting a new Executive Director. CRHC's Board of Directors is conducting a national search. For detailed information and the job description, please visit www.coruralhealth.org. Interested parties may email cover letters and resumes to EDSearch@coruralhealth.org; no phone calls, please.

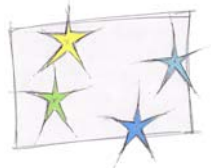
Rural Health Clinics Forum!

On April 3 & 4, CRHC will sponsor the 8th Annual Forum for Colorado's Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) 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. 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 all interested parties are welcome to register and attend. This year's sessions include NPI Implementation, 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, a "Rural Health Clinic Basics" session will be held as a pre-conference workshop. CRHC will raffle off an AED at the last session!

For more information, including the registration form and tentative agenda, please visit: <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/RHCForum.html>. We will accept registrations through

2007 Annual Rural Health Conferences!

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 its 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 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.

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CRHC Welcomes New Corporate Investing Member!

East Morgan County Hospital in Brush and Sterling Regional Medical Center have joined forces under the leadership of CEO Larry Learning and together have become a single Corporate Investing Member of the Colorado Rural Health Center! This is the first time that two separate facilities have joined together to become a Corporate Investing Member. In fact, these two hospitals, in addition to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa—who became a Corporate Investing Member in 2006—are the only rural hospitals who are Corporate Investing Members of CRHC. Welcome, East Morgan County Hospital and Sterling Regional Medical Center, and thank you! More information on these rural hospitals is available online at www.bannerhealth.com.

2007 Colorado Safety Net Symposium

May 4th at the Denver Marriott West

The 2007 Colorado Safety Net Symposium is a unique event that will bring together safety net providers, community leaders, and policymakers at all levels to focus on strengthening healthcare access for vulnerable Coloradans. Symposium attendees will have the opportunity:

- To celebrate success stories and learn what's working as communities strive to provide physical, dental, and mental healthcare access to those who currently seek services
- To share and discuss the challenges of serving Coloradans who are uninsured, underinsured, or enrolled in publicly financed healthcare programs
- To participate in interactive problem-solving around the tough access issues faced by local decision makers and safety net providers
- To explore issues critical to the future sustainability of Colorado's healthcare safety net
- To get better acquainted with their colleagues across the state and the role each plays in ensuring the safety net is a vital, working system

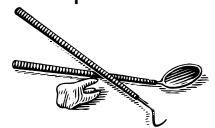
For more information and scholarship opportunities, please visit: http://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/eBlast/SafetyNet/SafetyNet_agenda.html

Dental Provider Recruitment

Did you know that the Colorado Rural Health Center's Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) can recruit a dentist or dental hygienist for your community? CPR has placed 7 Dentists and 3 Dental Hygienists in the last four years in rural or underserved Colorado. We want to place our providers in your community!

When you contract with CPR to find a dental provider, you will receive:

- Online job postings
- Candidate prescreening
- Links to a national recruiting network
- Access to providers specifically interested in rural practice
- Assistance in developing recruitment and retention strategies
- Many other benefits!



Contract fee waived for all areas with a Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) Designation. For more information, please contact Amy Hanson, Recruitment Specialist, at (800) 851-6782.

Rural Healthcare Excellence Award

Now Accepting Nominations!

CRHC is now accepting nominations for the Rural Healthcare Excellence Award! This prestigious award is given annually to honor someone who has made a notable contribution to health, healthcare, or to a healthcare delivery system in rural Colorado. This year, in coordination with our four rural health conferences, four people will be awarded—one from each region. The awards will be presented during the Annual Rural Health Conferences this summer. The winners and their families will be invited to attend the conferences as guests of CRHC. A volunteer committee of CRHC members will be appointed to oversee the difficult task of selecting the winners of the Excellence Award from among the deserving nominees.



Healthcare providers, board members, administrators, volunteers and others are eligible for nomination. Despite their enormous contributions, CRHC Board Members are not eligible for nomination while serving on the Board.

For more information, please visit the Excellence Award page on our website, <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/ExcellenceAward.htm>.

Board Member Close-Up: Lisa Filipczak

What do the UConn Huskies, The Children's Hospital, yoga, and Iceland have in common? Lisa Filipczak – Board Member and Board Secretary of the Colorado Rural Health Center! Lisa is a Senior Physician Relations Representative at The Children's Hospital in Denver, has served on our Board of Directors since May 2004, and was elected Board Secretary in June 2006. Incidentally, Lisa is also the Board's reigning watermelon seed spitting champion!

Originally from East Hartford, Connecticut, Lisa attended the University of Connecticut. She has a Bachelors of Arts in Medical Sociology, giving her a broad knowledge-base in the health field. A big Huskies basketball fan, Lisa is the co-president of the UConn Alumni Association in Colorado. She also enjoys hiking, snowboarding, camping, volunteering, and traveling – her last big trip was to Iceland! She is currently finishing her yoga teaching certification and plans to teach at The Children's Hospital Yoga Program.



Lisa at Dettifoss, Iceland

Lisa moved out to Colorado in the fall of 1993 with her sister and began working as an event and meeting planner. Her career path eventually lead her to HealthONE Outreach. It was in that role that she saw firsthand the unique challenges that rural providers and facilities face throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

As a Senior Physician Relations Representative at The Children's Hospital, Lisa serves as a liaison between the hospital and providers in her area – Northern Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Among her many duties, Lisa coordinates site visits with pediatric and family medicine providers, addresses their customer service questions, coordinates the installation of electronic medical records to link community providers to Children's, and develops marketing and educational materials for medical professionals.

The Children's Hospital, a non-profit healthcare system, is the only fully-dedicated children's hospital between Salt Lake City, Utah and Omaha, Nebraska. Children's is the only Level 1 Trauma Center for kids in the Rocky Mountain Region. Lisa coordinates Children's CME lectures and their Lunch and Learn Program to share the expertise of Children's physicians and specialists with providers throughout the region. Interested providers and facilities are encouraged to contact Children's Physician Relations Department at (303) 861-6676 for more information.

CRHC is both very lucky and proud to have Lisa on our Board of Directors!

More information on The Children's Hospital is available online at www.thechildrenshospital.org or by calling (800) 624-6553.

St. Joe's Donates EKGs to Rural Communities!

Exempla St. Joseph Hospital, a Corporate Investing Member of CRHC, recently donated 7 EKG machines to rural and underserved communities across Colorado. The EKGs were advertised in our February Express Delivery, a one-page bulletin sent out monthly to our Investing Members. Among the recipients were North Park Medical Clinic, Family Health West, Kremmling Memorial Hospital District, Bent County Healthcare Center, Salud's Commerce City Clinic, Mountain Medical Center of Buena Vista, and The Pediatric Associates in Montrose.



To visit Exempla St. Joseph Hospital and learn more about their Cardiovascular Program, please contact Joanne Young, Invasive Clinical Manager, at (303) 837-6870, or visit St. Joe's website: <http://www.exempla.org/care/facilities/ESJH/>.

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New "Free Care" Programs at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center

This is a paraphrase of an article provided by San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center

The San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (SLVRMC) is now offering three new "free care" programs for the uninsured. More than 25 percent of the San Luis Valley is uninsured, and SLVRMC is committed to developing health options for all of the residents of the San Luis Valley. Each program is overseen by a patient navigator or a case manager who will be able to determine program eligibility (based on income and age), help schedule appointments, and answer participant questions. The three programs are described below.



Diabetes Care Program The Diabetes Care Program helps people with diabetes to manage their blood glucose levels and reduce complications. The program provides three visits with Dr. Abreu, the newest internist, who has completed a fellowship in diabetes management; lab tests; and 10 hours of diabetes education. The Diabetes Care Program Clinic is conducted on Wednesdays, and participants will be able to visit with a diabetes educator, a registered dietitian, a pharmacist, and a doctor. Diabetes education classes are offered weekly; evening sessions are available and bilingual classes may be scheduled. Appointments are necessary; please contact Valerie Atencio, Case Manager, (719) 587-1309, for more information or to determine eligibility.

The Carefree Colon Program Early detection is the key to surviving cancer. The Carefree Colon Program provides free screening to low-income people over the age of 50 and to people who have an increased risk of colon cancer. People interested in participating may contact Ruth McWhirter, (719) 587-6321, to determine eligibility for the program. Ruth assists in scheduling the colorectal screening and help the participant understand the procedure and its preparation. Any polyps found during the procedure will be removed and sent to pathology for diagnosis, free of charge. Should cancer be detected, there are limited funds to help with treatment. The navigator will help patients diagnosed with cancer to better understand their medical condition and to identify available resources. The Carefree Colon Program is funded by the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, and Pulmonary Disease Grants Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative The Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative (CWCCI) provides free cervical and breast exams to eligible women. This program is also offered by Valley Wide Health Systems and Planned Parenthood. The program is a great resource to women in the Valley, and SLVRMC is excited to be able to offer this valuable service to its patients. The program provides a free cervical and breast exam, and a mammogram. If cancer is detected, treatment monies are available. For more information, or to determine eligibility, please contact Deborah Clark at (719) 587-6321.

SLVRMC would like to thank its partners who have allowed the hospital to offer all these services to the San Luis Valley. More information on SLVRMC is available at <http://www.slvrmc.org>.

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.



Free (& For Sale) Medical Equipment!

A Corporate Investing Member of CRHC, East Morgan County Hospital in Brush would like to donate several items to interested parties. Additionally, East Morgan County has an Analyzer and Cam Tent for sale. For more information, please contact Edith Pemberton at East Morgan County Hospital, (970) 842-6721. Please note that all equipment will be donated/sold "AS IS" and that the purchasing party will be responsible for shipping and transportation.

East Morgan County Hospital would like to list the following items for **donation**:

Total Gym Exercise System (EFI)
Year Purchased: 1992

Table, Examination (CABCO) Model #702E
Year Purchased: 1991

Tent, Ohio Pediatric Aerosol - Model #370
Year Purchased: 1991

East Morgan County would like to list the following items for **sale**:

Analyzer, COAG (2201) Model #CA540
Year Purchased: 2000
Current Book Value: \$6,000
Will accept best offer

Cam Tent, Thermoelectric (Mist) Model #D-055
Year Purchased: 1998
Current Book Value: \$200
Will accept best offer

An Example To Us All – Physician Recruitment

Chuck Bill, the Administrator of Southwest Memorial Hospital in Cortez has begun a recruiting endeavor that is an example to us all! Feeling the painful difficulty of physician recruitment, he is reaching out to the community of Cortez for assistance. Mr. Bill requested the opportunity to speak to town business leaders regarding the physician shortage. He, along with two local physicians, Dr. Karla Demby, and Dr. Robin Page, explained the difficulty in recruiting and presented ideas for ways that the community business owners and leaders could become involved in helping the town meet their need. The attendees were inspired and hopeful, and an initial response began with a local banker putting up \$5,000 as a "challenge grant" to other businesses in town. As other local businesses have joined the challenge, the initial \$5,000 has turned into over \$80,000 that will be used towards physician recruitment and retention. Many of these funds will double as they are matched by available loan repayment programs. As an added incentive, local bankers are offering business and home loans to newly relocating physicians at a rate of prime less 4%! Already, these efforts are encouraging more interest in Cortez practice opportunities. Providers are excited to hear of a community that is exerting a group effort into meeting its own needs, and they are enticed by the home loan benefit and recruitment dollars. Who knows what the future may hold! Cortez is doing exciting things, and we are confident they will have new providers soon!

For more information on Southwest Memorial Hospital, an Organizational Investing Member of CRHC, please visit <http://www.swhealth.org> or call the main hospital phone number, (970) 565-6666.

Rural Health Research Gateway

The Rural Health Research Gateway is an online resource that provides up-to-date rural health resources and studies. The resources available are provided by the Rural Health Research Centers funded by the Office of Rural Health Policy; included among these centers is Colorado's own WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) Rural Mental Health Research Center. The gateway is accessible at the following website: <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/>.

A Conversation With...

Karen Donkle, Director, Bent County Family Medical Center, and Administrator, Bent County Nursing Service

Source: Colorado Health Institute's CHI Health Talk January/February 2007.

Available online at: http://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/Documents/newsletter/CHI_HealthTalk_2-07.pdf.

The Colorado Health Institute is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that serves as a health data and policy analysis resource. CHI's mission is "To advance the overall health of the people of Colorado by serving as an independent and impartial source of reliable and relevant health-related information for sound decision-making." *CHI Health Talk* is CHI's newsletter.

Q: The Bent County Family Medical Center was the result of a merger. Can you explain its evolution?

Donkle: We had two county clinics competing for the same patients -- Bent County Rural Health Center and the Family Medical Center. There were two boards, duplicative services and neither one was financially sustainable. In September 2006, we merged into one entity – Bent County Family Medical. We are a full clinic and a designated rural health clinic. This merger made a lot of sense because we can target our services and serve the population more effectively. We also work closely with the Bent County Nursing Service, which is our county public health department. I wear two hats – director of Bent County Family Medical (BCFM) and administrator of Bent County Nursing Service. The nursing service has 13 employees and BCFM has four plus a contracted nurse practitioner one day a week and a doctor two afternoons a week. I'm a nurse practitioner and see most of our patients.



Q: As a certified rural health clinic, BCFM serves seven southeastern counties, Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero and Pueblo. How many miles and people does this represent, what services do you provide, and how does the staff serve them successfully?

Donkle: We provide full clinic services including primary care and different preventive services such as well-child visits, vaccinations, and some OB/GYN screenings. I have a memorandum of understanding with a couple of doctors who provide pediatrics and OB/GYN services when we need them. I split my time by seeing patients in the morning and focusing on administrative duties in the afternoon. On Wednesdays, we send a mobile clinic van out to our communities in Bent and other surrounding counties. We've been strategic in how we select the communities we visit. We don't want to step on any toes where a clinic might already exist. We band together and make it work with other partners. For instance, the nurse practitioner in Kiowa County is pregnant and had to go on bed rest, so we're doing our best to serve her area. When a crisis occurs, we face problems together and get them solved.

Q: As you travel around your area, what do you see as the major health issues facing your clients and your staff?

Donkle: Our population is predominantly elders. We see a lot of hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol. I coordinate a program in our health department called STAR – Screening, Treatment, Assessment and Resources. With a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for cardiovascular, cancer, and pulmonary disease prevention, we established this program to help folks better manage their conditions. I try to enroll as many people as I can so they can be monitored, but also live healthier lives.

Q: As the number of uninsured continue to grow, how will you continue to serve this population and others? What does the future look like?

Donkle: Right now, about 45 percent of our clients are uninsured or underinsured. My underinsured can't pay their co-pays or high-deductibles so they come to us. If I enroll an uninsured patient into the STAR program, the grant that established STAR will allow the patient \$250 worth of services. That funding is then transferred to BCFM to cover an individual's costs. That's a big help. We do get Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance clients. Every day, we see 10-12 new clients. To be honest, I'm not fully sure where they're coming from. I'm optimistic that the merger will prove to be a success and we'll be financially stable when our grant runs out in June 2008. In BCFM and the Bent County Nursing Service, I have an independent staff. They hold their own and we get the job done.

Bent County Nursing Service is an Organizational Investing Member of CRHC.

More information on Bent County Nursing Service is available by calling (719) 456-0517.

Colorado AgrAbility Conference: Rehabilitating Farm & Ranch Families

On June 15-16, Colorado AgrAbility will hold a conference for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, COTAs and PTAs. The conference, "Rehabilitating Farm and Ranch Families: Practical Assistive Technology Interventions for Farm and Ranch Families Affected by Disabilities," will provide resources and information to better equip OTs, PTs, COTAs, and PTAs to provide care for agricultural populations. Colorado AgrAbility is an organization formed by a partnership between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Easter Seals Colorado. For more information, please visit <http://www.eastersealscolorado.org>, CRHC's Online Events Calendar, or contact Jason Beck, Project Coordinator of Colorado AgrAbility, at (303) 937-7713 ext. 224.



After January storms, Colorado CAHs in the AHANews!

Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center, Southeast Colorado Hospital District, and Prowers Medical Center were all featured in the January 22nd edition of the American Hospital Association's AHANews. The hard work, generosity, and ingenuity of these three hospitals during the winter blizzards was praised in the article. Not only did hospital staff work long shifts and *live* in the hospital for days, but the communities also pitched in. Spouses of hospital workers, volunteers, and local pharmacists and grocers joined forces to keep the hospitals running. Greg Gerard, CEO of Prowers Medical Center in Lamar, is quoted in the article, "For the first 48 to 60 hours if patients came here they were not leaving," he said. People from the community pitched in to pick up and drop off staff. And emergency department physicians arrived during the worst day of the storm and 'covered almost 52 hours,' Gerard said, adding that 'it's times like these that you see people pull together.'"

The complete article is available online at http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/downloads/ahanews_1.07.pdf.

General News

Ground Breaking for New College of Osteopathic Medicine

On March 23rd, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine broke ground on its new medical campus in Parker, Colorado. The school is focused on the education of primary care doctors dedicated to providing excellent healthcare to rural, underserved, and underrepresented populations.

The school will concentrate on recruiting students from Colorado and the west, increasing opportunities for medical education for students in the region. The institution will open in August 2008 with a class size of 150 osteopathic medical students and will reach a total enrollment of 600 students by 2011.

Rocky Vista University will operate as an independent, privately funded organization with a local Board of Directors. The school hopes to complement the research mission of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and will collaborate with it on advancements in healthcare and health access for citizens of Colorado.

The University is actively exploring developing a nursing program and is in discussions with professional educators to see if collaborative arrangements for RN or BSN programs are possible, as well as the development of independent BSN and MSN programs on its campus. If all programs currently explored are eventually developed, the total enrollment at Rocky Vista University could reach 3,000.

"The university chose to locate in Colorado specifically because we recognized the need for additional physicians to serve the people of Colorado and the mountain west," said Ron Martin, D.O., CEO of Rocky Vista University. "Although Colorado is the 22nd most populated state and the fifth fastest growing, we are 31st in the number of medical school graduates and rank even lower in the number of primary care physicians. RVU will play a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the state and region."



More information is available by calling (303) 373-2008.

EMS Recruitment & Retention Grants

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is now accepting grant proposals for innovative projects supporting EMS Recruitment and Retention programs. These one-time grants, each up to \$1,500, are funded through the support of the Health Professions Initiative. Health Professions is an initiative of The Colorado Trust. Projects must be completed, grant funds expended, and the report submitted to CRHC by October 1, 2007. Preference will be given to innovative R&R projects that fit within a larger R&R program effective in the applicant’s area. Rural and frontier EMS agencies, rescue squads, Quick Response Teams, RETACs, and fire departments for projects to enhance EMS R&R are eligible to apply. For the purposes of this grant, a rural area is defined as outside one of Colorado’s metropolitan counties. However, applicants from small towns and cities within the five counties that were designated as metropolitan in 2003 based upon percentage of commuters (Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin, Park and Teller) are also eligible to apply. The spring deadline for grant submissions is **May 1, 2007**. Please visit www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/workforce.htm to learn more about the Rural EMS Recruitment and Retention grants and to download application criteria.

For more information, please contact Clint Cresawn, Workforce Programs Manager, at (303) 832-7493, (800) 851-6782, or ccr@coruralhealth.org.

Hearst Foundations’ Health Grants

The William Randolph Hearst Foundations’ Health Grants seek to improve healthcare in underserved rural and urban areas. Applications are accepted year-round, and may be found online at www.hearstfdn.org/fp_health.html.

Electronic Health Record Grant

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has developed the Electronic Health Record Implementation Initiative to support the implementation of Electronic Health Records. Additional information is available at www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=13058

USDA’s Community Development Initiative

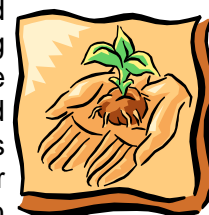
USDA Rural Development, through their Community Development Initiative, has developed a Rural Emergency Responders Initiative, to provide funds to emergency service responders and agencies located in rural areas. Grant funding may be used for equipment, vehicles, or towards the building of emergency facilities and organizations. For more information, please contact your regional representative (lists available at www.rurdev.usda.gov/co), or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/Emerg_Responder_rural_emergency_responders_initi.htm. Interested parties are encouraged to apply either this spring or next fall.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Call For Proposals

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Local Initiatives Funding Partners announced its 2008 Call For Proposals. The Local Initiatives Funding Partners Program (LIFP) is a partnership between The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and local grant-makers to fund projects aimed at significantly improving the health of vulnerable populations. LIFP is looking for innovative projects that involve community collaboration. Matching grants of \$200,000-\$500,000 for a three-four year period are available. The grant deadline is July 10, 2007. For more information, please visit <http://www.rwjf.org>.

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.



Online Grant Writing Course

An 8-week grant writing course, offered through Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, begins **May 1st**. Student feedback has been extremely positive; several of the Colorado Rural Health Center's members have been very pleased with the course! This class was designed for working people who don't have time to attend regular classes. Most students are full-time professionals who work in rural health. The next class begins May 1st! For more information, please contact Colette at cgnad@fhsu.edu or log on to www.fhsu.edu/sociology/grantsprogram.shtml. More information is also available on the Workshops Section on CRHC's website, www.coruralhealth.org.

NHSC Loan Repayment Program



The deadline for applications to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program is March 30, 2007. Applications are available in hard-copy only and must be mailed to prospective applicants. For more information, please visit <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/>, or call toll-free, (800) 221-9393.

Operation Mountain Move: Mass Casualty Incident Exercise

Coordinated and conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the third Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Exercise will take place Wednesday, June 13 in Summit County. The exercise is conducted using the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). Dispatch centers, ground and air medical transport agencies, and hospitals are needed! The goals of this exercise include: coordination of EMS mutual aid, coordination of dispatch communication, and patient tracking. Grant funding is available for participants. Meetings begin March 27. Please visit www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events/Documents/07_opmtmove.doc for more information; or, go directly to www.co.train.org to register (the course id is 1007935).

Telehealth Technical Assistance Manual

The Telehealth Technical Assistance Manual, a short publication published last October by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), is available on their website, and details the "Seven Steps of Telehealth Planning for Program Success." The steps are: Evaluate Needs, Develop Care Services Plan, Develop Business Plan, Plan Technology, Train Personnel, Test Care and Technology Plans, Evaluate Outcomes. Please visit www.nrharural.org/pubs/pdf/Telehealth.pdf to view the complete publication, or contact NRHA at (816) 756-3140.



Study on Antibiotic Resistance

"Few public health developments present greater challenges to modern society than the growing resistance of many infectious diseases to antibiotics. In a sense, medical research has become a victim of its own success: creating wonder drugs that heal millions yet could be rendered obsolete through sheer overuse" (Extending the Cure: Policy Responses to the Growing Threat of Antibiotic Assistance). The first comprehensive study to explore the possibility of establishing incentive-based policies that would attempt to control the growing problem of antibiotic resistance is now available online. *Extending the Cure: Policy Responses to the Growing Threat of Antibiotic Assistance*, a report produced by Resources for the Future (RFF) is available online at www.extendingthecure.org.

Pocket Guides to Good Health

The United States Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed several healthcare tools and resources that can serve as "pocket guides" for individual health. The pocket guides available include: Adult Preventive Care Timeline; Women/Men: Stay Healthy at Any Age; Pocket Guide to Good Health for Adults, Children, Adults over 50; and more! To view these guides, and for more information, please visit AHRQ's website: www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ppipix.htm.

Win a Free AED!

The Colorado Rural Health Center will raffle off an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during the last session of the 8th Annual Rural Health Clinics (RHC) Forum! The Forum is April 3-4 at the Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood, CO. Please see page 1 of this newsletter, or visit our events page online for more information: <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events>.

9Health Fair is Coming this April!

The 28th Annual 9Health Fair is just around the corner! This year, the fair runs from April 14-22, and will take place at hundreds of sites throughout Colorado. The 9Health Fair provides free and low-cost screenings and educational resources. All sites offer basic screenings, which include: Blood Chemistry Analysis, Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), Colon Cancer Screening



Take Home Kit, Pulse and Blood Pressure Screening, Height/Weight/Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening, Vision Screening, Talk with a Health Professional; the 18 additional screenings are not offered at every site. To find a 9Health Fair near you, and to see which optional screenings are offered, please visit www.9healthfair.org/find/find.aspx. Volunteers are an integral part of the fair—for more information on volunteering, please visit www.9healthfair.org/volunteers/volunteers.aspx.

Please visit www.9healthfair.org or call (800) 332-3078 for more information.

HIT Roadmap

Prepared by the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, the “Roadmap for the Adoption of Health Information Technology in Rural Communities,” completed last August, walks the reader through the development, implementation, and maintenance of a HIT program. The complete roadmap and more information is available online at www.raconline.org/HIT_Conf2006.

Nursing Recruitment and Retention

The Idaho State Office of Rural Health, in coordination with the Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing, Idaho Nursing Workforce Center, and Boise State University, has developed a Nursing Recruitment and Retention Toolkit. The toolkit is a compilation of recruitment and retention strategies used by Idaho hospitals. The toolkit is available online at www.inwc.org/recuritretain.html.

New Members

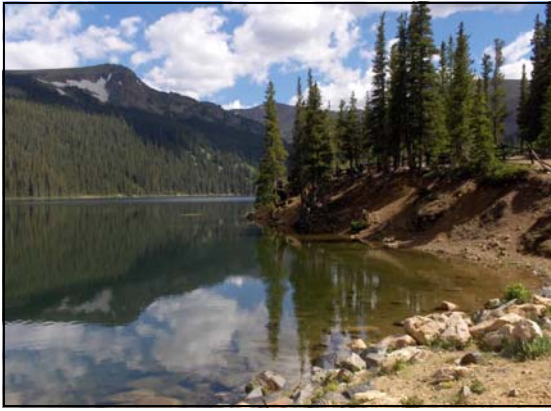
CRHC Welcomes New Investing Members

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!

Name	Organization
Larry Leaming	Banner Health, Sterling Regional Medical Center & East Morgan County Hospital
Belinda Prawdzik	Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)
Richard Ropolo	Companion Technologies
Jann Shaw	Companion Technologies
Donna McDonnall, RN	Custer County Public Health Nursing Service
Dan Jacobs	Memorial Health System
Julie Wesseling	Telluride Medical Center DBA Telluride Hospital District

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



Do you know the name and location of the lake in this mystery photo?

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

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZATION / CONTACT
March 28	Promoting Successful Tobacco Cessation Web cast Colorado Community Managed Care Network & CHAMPS	email: andrea@championline.org (303) 861-5165 x285
April 3-4	Rural Health Clinics (RHC) Forum Sheraton Denver West, Lakewood	Colorado Rural Health Center Shelley Smart, (303) 832-7493
April 11-12	Grant Seeking Clinic CRC, Denver	Community Resource Center (800) 516-6284
April 12	Health Disparities Conference, Burlington Prairie Pines Golf Club	Rural Solutions, (970) 526-3616 www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
April 13	Health Disparities Conference, Sterling Northeastern Junior College	Rural Solutions, (970) 526-3616 www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
May 1	EMS Recruitment & Retention Grant Deadline www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/resources/EMSGrants.html	Colorado Rural Health Center Clint Cresawn, (303) 832-7493
May 1	Online Grant Writing Course Begins Online, 8 week course	Fort Hays State University Colette Gnad, cgnad@fhsu.edu
May 2	Colorado CAH Workshop Breckenridge, CO	Colorado Rural Health Center (303) 832-7493, (800) 851-6782
May 2-4	30th Annual Rural Hospital Conference Breckenridge, CO	Colorado Hospital Association Peggy McCreary, (720) 330-6034
May 4	Safety Net Symposium Golden, CO	Colorado Health Institute Jo Donlin, (303) 831-4200 ext. 219
May 15-18	NRHA Annual Conference Anchorage, AK	National Rural Health Association www.nrharural.org
June 7-8	Colorado Rural Health Conference—Trinidad Quality Inn, Trinidad	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
June 13	Mass Casualty Incident Exercise National Disaster Medical System	Colorado Dept. Public Health & Environment www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
June 14-15	NRHA Skill-Building Workshop New Orleans, Louisiana	National Rural Health Association www.nrharural.org/conferences
June 15-16	Rehabilitating Farm and Ranch Families CSU, Fort Collins	Colorado AgrAbility www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events
June 28-29	Colorado Rural Health Conference—Burlington Community Center, Burlington	Colorado Rural Health Center www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/events