Western Colorado AHEC Joins HRSA & AHECs Across Colorado to Identify Needs of Seniors

By: Nicole Heil

WCAHEC is excited by the opportunity to join other Area Health Education Centers across Colorado in the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Healthy Aging Project. The project engages stakeholders to share information about the needs, resources, challenges, successful programs, and practices of rural older adults across Colorado.

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SWCAHEC and National Jewish Health Implement Asthma Toolkit Program

By: SWCAHEC Staff

SWCAHEC will continue to partner with National Jewish Health of Denver to offer the Asthma Toolkit Program to local practices. National Jewish Health has been named the #2 respiratory hospital in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in its 2014-15 ranking of leading hospitals in the nation.

Asthma Toolkit Training
Sat Oct 11, 8am - 1pm
Annex Community Rm, Southwest Memorial Physicians, 20 S. Main St, Cortez

The Asthma Toolkit aims to increase the capacity for primary care and pediatric practices by helping providers manage, diagnose, and treat Asthma and other respiratory disorders in accordance with the latest evidence-based practices and diagnostic equipment. Toolkits and Spirometry equipment available through the training will help to more accurately assess a patient’s lung function. Additionally, providers may receive local, ongoing coaching and support services through both SWCAHEC and National Jewish Health. Contact Jamie at 970-375-3250 for more info.
In June, the Southeastern Colorado Area Health Education Center (SECAHEC) welcomed Doreen Gonzales as its new Executive Director. Doreen brings with her over eight years of experience as a professional grant and financial manager for academic programs including composing and managing HHS-HRSA, private donor grants, managing external sponsored grants from corporate, federal, and private sponsors. Prior to SECAHEC, Doreen was the Program Associate for Colorado State University-Pueblo, Nursing Department where she managed departmental budgets, grants, student scholarship funds and awards, and community outreach events. Additionally, Doreen was a Fiscal Manager for Sponsored Programs at Montana State University. Doreen earned her Master’s of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, Colorado Springs, CO and is a Doctoral Candidate for Business Administration from Capella University. Doreen and her husband keep a very busy lifestyle as owners of a pub in Southeastern Colorado. They have two sons, Paul of Fowler, CO and Patrick and his wife Laci of Bozeman, MT. Doreen finds time to enjoy her favorite hobby sewing bridal and formal gowns and biking. Doreen finds SECAHEC to be a vital partner in its 16 county region. She looks forward to finding partnerships and relationships crucial to address the healthcare needs of Southeastern Colorado underserved and rural communities.

The Colorado AHEC Program Office is pleased to welcome Monica Daniels-Mika as Centennial AHEC’s Executive Director. Monica took up her new post in February 2014 and has shined in this new position. Previously, Monica was the Weld County Director of Finance and Administration and Weld County Director of Administrative Services. She earned a BA and a MS from Kansas State University and completed a Fellowship in 2006 at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She has been an adjunct lecturer at the University of Northern Colorado teaching business management for nonprofit.

Mark is the Youth Programs Coordinator at Central Colorado AHEC (CCAHEC) and the newest member of our team! Mark served with CCAHEC over the last year in the inaugural Youth Mental Health First Aid Corps. During that time, Mark also assisted with career fairs and special awards with the Denver Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Lanning has worked in the education field for 12 years as a mentor, outdoor education instructor, and classroom teacher. Mark has won awards as the Mental Health First Aid instructor of the year, Serve Colorado corps member of the year, and received recognition from the State of Colorado for his work in suicide prevention with youth. While a teacher, Mark helped his school earn the prestigious Centers of Excellence Award for exceptional growth with low income students. As the co-chair of the education subcommittee for Mental Health Colorado, Mark leads 11 different organizations to collaborate to provide trainings, technical assistance, and consultation implementing large scale cultural reform in the areas of mental health prevention, identification, referral, and support measures for students. Mark is a current graduate student in the Educational Psychology program at the University of Colorado Denver studying the social and emotional development of youth. Mark loves to explore the outdoors with his dog, Tattoo, and his favorite color is yellow.
Dr. Rapport recently joined the AHEC Program Office as Associate Director of Post Professional Programs. She is a Professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Rapport is faculty in the Physical Therapy Program at the University of Colorado and Director of the University of Colorado Pediatric Physical Therapy Residency Program. She teaches several courses in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and enjoys mentoring faculty and DPT students. She is a member of the Academy of Medical Educators on the Anschutz Medical Campus and is the co-director of the Teaching Scholars Program. Dr. Rapport is a pediatric physical therapist with more than 30 years of experience with the last 15 years focused in early intervention (for children birth to 3 years) and academic physical therapist education. Dr. Rapport was on the faculty of JFK Partners as the Interdisciplinary Training Director and served as the OT/PT State Consultant for the Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP) in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These roles provided great experiences and helped her better understand the diverse geography and populations across the state of Colorado. She received her Master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education and her PhD in Special Education and Education Administration from Kent State University in Ohio, and her Bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University. She also earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Colorado in 2009. She has a long history of involvement in the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and specifically in the Section on Pediatrics, with recognitions and awards from both. Her numerous publications and presentations have addressed pediatric physical therapy practice, physical therapy education, and the impact of law on policy on children and families. She has been recognized by the APTA as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow. Dr. Rapport has two young adult children and a wonderful husband and enjoys living in Colorado with all that it has to offer. She enjoys the outdoors, running, cooking, and traveling.

Jamaluddin Moloo is an Associate Professor with appointments in General Medicine, Cardiology, and Radiology. Dr. Moloo is taking the reigns from Dr. Allegra Mellilo who developed the Urban Underserved Track (CU-UNITE). Dr. Moloo’s primary passion is working with and serving underserved populations. He has a background in Public Health and developed the Colorado Refugee Wellness Center, which serves a large population of refugees who are building their new lives in the Denver-Aurora metro region. As a member of Cardiology and Radiology he directs the Cardiac CT program at the University of Colorado Hospital and is an Associate Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine publication, Journal Watch. Dr. Moloo looks forward to working with and learning from the faculty and students of CU-UNITE.
Program Assistant: Bonnie Caywood joined the AHEC Program Office team in June of this year. She assists the AHEC Administrator in managing the finances and is the human resources liaison for the AHEC Program Office. Previously, she worked in the Department of Medicine as a medical student coordinator for third and fourth year medical students and was deeply involved in advising students interested in Internal Medicine residencies. She has been working on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus for 4.5 years. Bonnie grew up near Houston, Texas and earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Southern Methodist University. She has been living in Colorado for the past ten years and enjoys all that Colorado has to offer including the fall colors, the beautiful snowfalls and the plethora of biking and hiking trails all over the city and in the nearby mountains. She is married and has three children. In her spare time, she is an avid reader, Zumba enthusiast, and loves to enjoy the Colorado outdoors with her family and her three dogs.

Team Leader: Shannon Shaw is a post-baccalaureate student of the University Of Colorado School Of Medicine. She graduated with honors in May 2014 from Western State Colorado University with a Bachelors of Arts in biology with an emphasis in pre-medicine and a minor in chemistry. While in school she was an active member of Tri-Beta and Spectrum, was secretary for the Chemistry Club, and co-founded the Pre-Health Club. Currently she is a team leader for the Colorado AHEC office working in a number of summer programs for participants ranging from high school students to college professors. She was a CREATE Health Scholar in 2011 and 2012 and will begin medical school in fall of 2015.

Program Assistant: Renee Johnson, B.S., is a new Program Assistant at the Colorado AHEC Program Office. She just graduated from the University of Colorado Denver with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Physics and a minor in Mathematics. She has coordinated job shadowing for students participating in the Colorado Health Professions Development Scholars (CO-HPD) as well as the Summer Health Careers Institute (SHCI) and has also participated as a Team Leader. Ms. Johnson was a CREATE Health scholar in 2012 and 2013 and is currently applying to DO school for the 2015 cycle. When she is not in the office, she loves to read, and go for walks with her dog.
Meet Our Summer Intern

By: SWCAHEC Staff

Graduate student, Sarah Stannard is serving as SWCAHEC’s summer intern. Sarah is a Master of Public Health student from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. She is currently working with SWCAHEC to identify the determinants of successful public health internships and develop an undergraduate internship program plan for future Bachelor of Public Health students. A native of Farmington, NM, Sarah is currently employed by the Kleberg County Adult Literacy Council as the General Education Development coordinator and is working with the organization to develop health literacy programming. Sarah is a 2006 graduate of the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science (teaching certification). After graduation, she spent four years serving as a public affairs officer with the United States Army in multiple overseas locations. Sarah is especially interested in improving health literacy among those who speak English as a second language. She is considering applying to a public health doctoral program. The SWCAHEC staff is extremely grateful for Sarah's hard work, and it is our hope that we will see her back in our local community successfully working in her desired health field one day!

Clinical Rotations Program Brings Qualified Professionals to SW Colorado

By: SWCAHEC Staff

SWCAHEC coordinates the Clinical Rotations Program for health professions students completing rural rotations from the University of Colorado-Denver Anschutz Medical Campus. The program is multi-faceted with coordination of Students, Providers/Preceptors, and Host Homes. This summer issue of our newsletter highlights a past student experience and her true success story. Allie Anderson currently works at the San Juan Basin Health Department as a Nurse Home Visitor in the Nurse Family Partnership Program and at Mercy Regional Medical Center as the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) RN and Program Coordinator. Allie says she was first introduced to AHEC as an undergraduate nursing student in 2009. “The powerful impact AHEC offers its participants cannot be quantified or measured. My AHEC experience changed my life, my story, and has come full circle. After learning about rural health nursing through AHEC, I participated in two rural health rotations. I was hosted by AHEC host families; one in Salida, CO while I did my Senior Practicum in the Emergency Department at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center and the other in Durango, CO where I completed my Public Health rotation at San Juan Basin Health. AHEC offered the knowledge and networking that ultimately brought me back to Durango and to the health department.” Allie added that AHEC made such a profound impact on her life that as soon as she was settled in her new home she immediately called the SWCAHEC office, “I registered to become a host home myself. I want to host those students, who, like me, are interested in rural healthcare.” Allie, also a 2014 recipient of the Colorado Health Foundation's Health Professions Scholars Award administered through the Colorado AHEC Program, said she is grateful for the Clinical Rotations Program, “AHEC gives students, like myself, the opportunity to engage in communities they normally would not consider. The AHEC organization enhances rural health and I truly believe it was because of my involvement with AHEC that I can call Durango my home.” The SWCAHEC Fall and Winter Newsletters will continue to highlight the Clinical Rotations Program with future interviews and articles about preceptors and host homes.
Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center (SWCAHEC) was recently awarded a grant from The Colorado Health Foundation to design and implement a Center of Excellence in Care Coordination (CoECC). Nora Flucke, RN, MS of Global Care Professionals has been contracted as the Project Director to provide leadership for the CoECC.

SWCAHEC’s CoECC will merge research, evaluation, innovation, resources, and evidenced-based practices which promote health, wellness and access to care; reduce health disparities; and improve health outcomes.

Through recent collaborative work across an eight county region in southwest Colorado (Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel), SWCAHEC became aware of numerous similar initiatives being implemented in several communities to improve access to quality healthcare services. Flucke explained, “The projects from the varying communities reveal individual preferences, philosophies, cultures, and budgets. While those are very important considerations, we hope to identify best practices for the entire region. We want to achieve excellence in care coordination by aligning our goals and working together.”

To better coordinate those initiatives, the CoECC will develop care coordination databases to improve quality and streamline systems that benefit the patient experience; ultimately increasing access and quality and lowering costs in an effort to improve the health of all Coloradans. Flucke continued, “We will be working with the program leaders from all over the Four Corners, providing resources, and assisting them with the needs of their own communities.”

The population served will be all care coordination staff of existing initiatives in the eight-county region. Currently, six sites have been identified, which would indirectly impact 30,000-40,000 patients across the region. While indicators for coordination efforts are often not readily apparent, the CoECC will document accounts of care coordination successes to illustrate quantitative and qualitative evidence of meaningful outcomes. Documenting outcomes related to care coordination efforts will be important to identify the most successful practices.
SWCAHEC Offers Fiscal Sponsorship Service
By: SWCAHEC Staff

Through fiscal sponsorship, SWCAHEC can advance the goals of improving community health as well as the mission of our own organization. Together, we can improve the health and wellness of the community through collaboration, provision of educational and outreach opportunities, and the sharing of tight resources.

In early 2013, SWCAHEC’s Board of Directors approved a policy enabling SWCAHEC to offer fiscal sponsorship opportunities for health-related, non-profit organizations who do not currently hold 501(c)(3) status. An application and procedure process is now in place and we are currently accepting applications. Fiscal sponsorship through SWCAHEC facilitates “doing more with less” by our partnering with other organizations whose mission aligns with advancement of health and wellness.

What exactly is fiscal sponsorship?

Fiscal sponsorship is an IRS-approved means for a non-exempt, non-profit group (or “project”) to meet the goals of its organization by partnering with a tax-exempt organization (“charity”). To comply with tax-exempt law, the charity must be in the controlling position and the non-exempt project must act so as to further the charity’s exempt purposes. Fiscal sponsorship is the accurate term and implies, correctly, that the charity has made a choice to support the non-exempt project financially. – Gregory L. Colvin, Fiscal Sponsorship: 6 Ways to Do It Right. 2nd ed. Study Center Press, 2005

Please contact Kathleen McInnis, Executive Director (http://swcahec.org/contact-2/), with questions about fiscal sponsorship opportunities, or visit (http://swcahec.org/community/) to view and complete the application.

SWCAHEC and The Colorado Trust have partnered to present The 2014 Health Equity Learning Series. The webinars, originating in Denver, will be broadcast to an audience of viewers in Southwest Colorado and will cover topics about the disparities and gaps in our healthcare system. The Health Equity Learning Series aims to increase knowledge and awareness of health equity through presentations from national experts.

Register now for the live-stream presentation at: http://swcahec.org/2013-registration/

Thurs, Aug 21, 11:30 AM (for complimentary lunch you MUST pre-register)
Keller Williams Building, 700 Main Ave, Durango
Presenter: Llewellyn Smith, BlueSpark Collaborative and Laura Frank, I-News at Rocky Mountain PBS.

An additional webinar is scheduled this fall. Save the date: Thurs, Nov 13
The San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center located at 300 Ross Avenue in Alamosa, Colorado administered the 35th Annual Summer Health Careers Institute (SHCI) through the “Grow Your Own” Program. Twenty high school students from San Luis Valley school districts were selected and enrolled into this evidence-based youth pipeline program. Students were exposed to health care occupations including medicine, nursing, behavioral health, and allied health. The academic program ran from June 2-6, 2014 at Adams State University. Presenters from the health care community enlightened the students as to the nature of their respective occupations, training required for their professional discipline, and what a “typical” day might look like at work. After completion of the one week of academia, students also were placed in brief summer jobs in their interest area with local health care organizations. This job component served to complement and strengthen the learning, which took place during the academic week at Adams State University. When the students return to their regular school year this coming fall, they will be placed into the next component of the “Grow Your Own” Program, the Student Health Careers Guild (SHCG). During the SHCG, the SLVAHEC will bring the students and their parents to Adams State University four times during the school year to participate in Pre-Collegiate Planning Sessions. Also students will work on a personal portfolio which will be completed by May 2016. The “Grow Your Own” Program was initiated in 1979 and continues to produce students entering the health care field after higher education and advanced training.
SLVAHEC Receives Funding to Address Prescription Drug Addiction and Abuse
By: SLVAHEC Staff

The San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center (SLVAHEC) would like to announce that they are a recipients of a grant from the COPIC Medical Foundation addressing prescription drug addiction and abuse in the San Luis Valley.

For the past two years, the San Luis Valley AHEC has collaborating with local health care providers in seeking ways to address the issues of prescription drug addiction and abuse in their region. Through a series of community meetings over a 12-month period, three needs were determined (1) Chronic Pain Management Trainings for providers; (2) Community Education and Neighborhood Meetings; and, (3) Peer Education Community Engagement for students.

The San Luis Valley AHEC will be also be collaborating with Valley Wide Health Systems, Rio Grande Hospital, Conejos County Hospital, SLV Health, SLV Behavioral Health Group and community stakeholders through the San Luis Valley Prescription Drug Task Force consisting of local providers, independent pharmacists, mental health providers, law enforcement, higher education, K-12 and other community members.

The COPIC Medical Foundation has graciously agreed to fund three San Luis Valley Provider Trainings and three Neighborhood Meetings. These trainings will be continuing medical education (CME) certified. Dr. Joshua Blum, Denver Health, will be the presenter for the provider trainings. These trainings are based on the recommendations of the SLV Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force.

In addition, the Colorado HealthOP has also agreed to provide some additional funding to help with the presenter travel costs and evaluation.

Freddie Jaquez, Executive Director, stated that the SLVAHEC has been working with ION Business Strategies in Denver in seeking funding for this work. “ION Business Strategies has done exceptional work in assisting the SLVAHEC in realizing funding through the COPIC Medical Foundation to continue addressing this community need. It has been a pleasure to work with ION Business Strategies as we move forward with our work.” For more information on this project, contact the San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center at (719) 589-4977.

(Left to Right) Lindsey Sidener, COPIC Medical Foundation, presents check to Freddie Jaquez, SLVAHEC Executive Director
Western Colorado AHEC Joins HRSA & AHECs Across Colorado to Identify Needs of Seniors
By: Nicole Heil

WCAHEC is committed to conducting Healthy Aging Discussions in five counties to gather a relatively representative picture of the 13 counties in WCAHEC's region. To date, three of the five counties targeted for roundtable discussion groups (Eagle, Delta, and Routt) have been completed and we are gathering a good snapshot of some excellent programs in place along with hearing about the challenges many of our rural senior citizens face.

Western Colorado AHEC Delivers A-TrACC Insurance Marketplace Education
By: Nicole Heil

In partnership with the AHEC Training and Consultation Center (A-TrACC), WCAHEC will be joining other AHECs across the country to deliver a continuing education training designed to meet the educational needs of health professionals who accept health insurance coverage.

New health insurance options available to patients are vast and providers need to be able to refer patients to the appropriate sources for insurance and/or assistance. This training, “The Health Insurance Marketplace: What Health Professionals Need to Know,” is sponsored by the National AHEC Organization and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).
Western Colorado AHEC Congratulates Four Area Scholars & Thanks Them for Their Commitment to Serving the Rural and/or Underserved

By: Nicole Heil

WCAHEC would like to congratulate the four Western Colorado scholars selected to receive this year’s Health Profession Scholarship, a 2-year scholarship funded by The Colorado Health Foundation to assist graduate level Health Professions students enrolled in nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA), and Behavioral Health programs. The scholarship pays $15,000 yearly, as needed, for up to 2-years.

Applications were accepted from January 1 to May 15, 2014. To be eligible, applicants were either enrolled or accepted to a graduate level health professions program in an accredited Colorado institution of higher education. In addition, eligible applicants agreed to commit two years of practice in a rural and/or underserved Colorado community upon completion of their education.

Two Year $30,000 Scholarship Awards:
Scott Krankkala, Physician Assistant, University of Colorado/AMC
Kara Taylor, Behavioral Health, University of Colorado, College of Nursing/AMC

One Year $15,000 Scholarship Awards:
Cristi Wilson, Behavioral Health, University of Denver
Barbra Corcoran, Behavioral Health, University of Denver

WCAHEC would also like to recognize our sister AHEC, Central Colorado Area Health Education Center, for their partnership with The Colorado Health Foundation. This is a long standing commitment to a wonderful program, providing scholarships to support students interested in rural and/or underserved healthcare.
DELTA DENTAL 2014
By: Eve Muniz Valdez

There will be an influential “Sugar Troll” to help get messages across to the youngsters. Look for him!

“CAVITIES GET AROUND CAMPAIGN” for Pueblo County will begin training for SECAHEC staff and volunteers to initiate building PUBLIC WILL (by definition from the Metropolitan Group, PUBLIC WILL is a communication approach that builds public support for social change by integrating grassroots outreach methods with traditional mass media tools in a process that connects an issue to the existing, closely held values of individuals and groups).

The mission is … “to improve Colorado’s oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay.” Colorado’s poorest schools reflect 20% of kindergartners having untreated cavities, more than double the proportion to their peers in high income schools.

The SECAHEC office in Pueblo County will be working to increase public awareness for oral health and training volunteers to assist in providing education. The target audience will be low-income families with children from birth to 5 years old. Educational messages will be around the importance of taking care of baby teeth, minimizing sugary beverages and that sugar is the fuel for cavities and found in common beverages as well as in candy like sweets.
Denver Metro Science and Engineering Fair Website Redesign
By: Jordan Ingram

The mission of Central Colorado AHEC is to enable students to gain interest in health careers. One way we accomplish this is by sponsoring and coordinating the Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The science fair has over 500 Students per year participating in the fair. Central CO AHEC has updated the fair's website this year to help students find information they need faster. There are now instructional videos to assist students in filling out the forms required by Intel Science and Engineering Fair. We feel that by updating the website students will be more likely to be engaged in the learning process.

www.DenverScienceFair.com
The 2014 Nurse Educator Conference in the Rockies was a huge success, truly meeting the expectation of the theme to “recharge your focus on education!” Between participants, exhibitors and poster presenters we had 301 people registered for the 2014 event. Attendees enjoyed great weather, a beautiful hotel with wonderful scenery, and up to 22 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credits worth of educational programs to choose from. This year’s line-up of speakers and topics were very diverse requiring attendees to make the tough decision of which sessions to attend. In 2014 we added “skill building” sessions, which were a huge hit. We also added a Marijuana Panel session to learn about recreational marijuana being legal in the state of Colorado. Attendees enjoyed utilizing the Oxygen Bar in the high altitudes, and had fun participating in the activities like the scavenger hunt, morning yoga, and the passport to the exhibitor booths. As we wrap up 2014, we are already looking forward to what 2015 will bring, so save the date, July 13-18, 2015 at the Village of Breckenridge.
The Centennial Area Health Education Center is proud to announce some new members to its team. **Laurie Exby Stolley**, Housing Coordinator and Student Liaison. Laurie has a Master in Environment and Management from Denver University. She has worked for a number of private and non-private agencies in the health compliance field. Laurie specializes in environmental health arenas, with an emphasis on human health. Today, she serves as a Director for the Center for Independent Living and is the new Housing Coordinator for the Centennial Area Health Education Center.

**Joseph Meilinger**, Administrative and IT support. Joseph graduated from Greeley West High School; he is an avid computer programmer with an interest in object orientated programming. He is currently a student at Aims Community College. Joseph comes to our team with an interest in making the Centennial Area AHEC more computer-oriented and efficient.

Centennial AHEC is joining forces to offer 
Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainings

As we all know, mental health and first aid is a growing concern and area of concentration for public health facilities. This year, in effort to provide aid to this highly requested topic, the Centennial Area Health Education Center is joining the existing partnership and program with the Central Colorado Area Health Education Center and the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council to host 2 Americorp representatives to work out of our offices and administer a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Program. According to a school district training coordinator, mental health was the number one requested topic of the school districts she represents in Larimer County. Many people in roles, such as a teacher, working with youth do not feel prepared to identify and address mental health issues. This program is geared towards giving them the skills to identify potential mental health issues, and then the tools to address the identified concerns. We are very pleased to be offering this program and sharing it with those in need.
Contact Us

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