



THE
COLORADO
TRUST

ACHIEVING ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR ALL COLORADANS

COMMUNITY *Connections*

2008 FALL EDITION

ACCESS TO HEALTH *News*



Partnership for a Healthy Colorado

CommunityConnections is a quarterly e-newsletter from The Colorado Trust.

WWW.COLORADOTRUST.ORG



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DEAR FRIEND OF THE COLORADO TRUST,

The widely felt impact of the national economic crisis underscores the tremendous need for a more effective way to provide health coverage and care.

Families USA recently reported that family health insurance premiums rose nearly five times faster than wages for Colorado workers from 2000 to 2007. Annual job-based health insurance premiums, including worker and employer shares, jumped nearly 75% to \$12,000 during that eight-year period, while the median income of workers statewide grew just 16% to over \$30,000. These challenges are compounded by increasing layoffs and turmoil in the housing market which further strain family budgets.



Irene M. Ibarra

At such a time, we believe it is critical to stay the course. Our state will only weather tough financial times like these successfully when we have a healthy, educated population that contributes to our economic stability. That's why we are committed to finding solutions that address both the financial and human aspects of an effective health care system.

Over the past year, The Trust engaged in an intensive planning process, identifying opportunities to continue our mission of advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado while purposefully and proactively focusing our efforts on a single vision – achieving access to health for all Coloradans by 2018. On September 10, many community partners and friends joined us as we announced this new grantmaking focus. Within this work we are dedicated first and foremost to supporting efforts to help gain access to health for people who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including children and low-income families. From there, our work is focused on ensuring every person in Colorado receives affordable, timely and quality care without exception for race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status or geographic location.

I invite you to help achieve access to health for all Coloradans, as this singular vision will only be achieved by the actions of many. We greatly look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Irene M. Ibarra
President and CEO

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PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY COLORADO ANNOUNCES HEALTH REFORM PRINCIPLES

Can the business and labor communities in Colorado work together for the greater good? Together with health care and advocacy organizations, business and labor are doing just that through the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado. This grassroots alliance of “strange bedfellows” has been working together for the past year and is committed to finding common ground to achieve health care reform.

The Partnership’s members include AARP, Autism Society of Colorado, The Bell Policy Center, Business Health Forum, Colorado Association of Health Plans, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, Colorado Medical Society, Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters, Front Range Economic Center, Kaiser Permanente, National Federation of Independent Business, Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance and Service Employees International Union.

“I think most of us joined this alliance with high hopes for our overall goal of reforming Colorado’s health care system. At the same time, knowing that the devil is in the details, it’s probably safe to say that we also had reservations as to whether we could all really get past our many differing views,” said Tony Gagliardi, Partnership member and State Director of the

National Federation of Independent Business. “In fact, not only did we successfully work our way through potentially contentious issues this past year, we also developed a strong, comprehensive list of shared principles for reform that reflect our common ground and provide us with a starting point for moving toward quality, affordable health care.” Tony emphasizes that the Partnership’s principles, listed below, are meant to be considered together and not in isolation.

continued ...



Members of the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado.

Back Row (left to right) Kelli Fritz (AARP); Christen Lara (The Bell Policy Center); Jake Williams (Service Employees International Union); Barry Keene (Health Care for All Colorado); and Dr. Bruce Madison (Health Care for All Colorado)

Middle Row (left to right) Ellen Brilliant (Partnership facilitator); Robin Baker (The Bell Policy Center); Carmen Rhodes (Front Range Economic Strategy Center); Tony Gagliardi (National Federation of Independent Business); and Cindy Sovine-Miller (Colorado State Association of Health Underwriters)

Front Row (seated, left to right) Teresa Tuschhoff (Business Health Forum); Betty Lehman (Autism Society of Colorado); Amy Fletcher (Business Health Forum); Kelly Shanahan (Colorado Consumer Health Initiative); and Vanessa Hannemann (Colorado Association of Health Plans)

Members not present for photo: Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Kaiser Permanent and Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance.

EXPAND *Health Coverage*

SHARED PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY COLORADO

The Partnership for a Healthy Colorado believes that we all have a stake in the urgent need to improve the delivery of health care in Colorado. For decades, the cost and demand for care has been outpacing our economy. The corresponding increase in health insurance premiums has resulted in a growing number of people unable to access health care they can afford. Too often, health care is being delivered inefficiently, to the detriment of our state's physical and financial health. These trends are unsustainable and the status quo is unacceptable.

Reforming Colorado's health care system in a meaningful way will require the responsible engagement of numerous stakeholders. Toward that end, we believe this set of principles, developed by the diverse coalition of businesses, consumers and providers of the Partnership for a Healthy Colorado, can serve as a valuable roadmap to reform. No one principle is to be taken on its own, but rather all are meant to be taken in balance with and in consideration of the others. Genuine reform will require a comprehensive, systemic approach that emphasizes shared responsibility.

- **Universal** – All Colorado residents should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Colorado's health care system should address non-residents who become ill in Colorado.
- **Wellness and Health Promotion** – Government, businesses and individuals all have a role to play in the promotion and support of healthy lifestyles.
- **Personal Responsibility** – Consumers should make reasonable efforts to ensure they finance their health care needs and take an active role in their health maintenance.
- **Transparency** – Accurate, user-friendly information on price, quality and outcomes should be made accessible to the public.
- **Health Information Technology** – Greater use of health information technology is necessary to achieve gains in quality, outcomes and efficiencies.
- **Competitive Market** – Competitive market forces should be included in our health care system because they can play a positive role.
- **Coordinated Care** – Optimal health and cost efficiencies are achieved through the coordination of care, the use of preventive services and the management of chronic disease.
- **Choice** – Providing a plurality of options of providers, insurers, plans, benefit designs, and financing for individuals and groups is important in health care reform.
- **Regulatory Controls** – Regulatory controls should ensure consumer protection and maintain a healthy marketplace.
- **Provider Reimbursement** – Health care providers should be fairly compensated for their services and in return, providers should ensure that services delivered maximize quality, safe and effective care.
- **Public Programs** – Government should have a role in facilitating or providing access to health care. Public health and environmental policy should play a meaningful role in ensuring and protecting the good health of our population.
- **Long-term Care** – Long-term care must be addressed in any health care reform effort. Coloradans should have a quality, affordable choice to live independently in one's own home or community.
- **End of Life Care** – Colorado should address the difficult issues surrounding end of life care.

The Partnership's work is funded by member contributions and grants, including support from The Colorado Trust. For more information, visit www.healthypartnership.org or contact Robin Baker, Senior Policy Analyst, The Bell Policy Center, baker@thebell.org.



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CLINICS

The Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics, a pediatric safety-net provider, is bringing primary, mental and dental health care to children and families that have difficulty accessing health care through the traditional system. “Compared to insured kids, the uninsured are eight times more likely to miss out on needed medical care, resulting in higher rates of preventable conditions, poorly managed diseases and more frequent use of emergency care,” said Stephanie Wasserman, Director of Community and School-Based Health Programs at the Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics (RMYC), www.rockymountainyouth.org. In Colorado, an estimated 180,000 children lack health insurance.

With Trust support, the RMYC has expanded its services to children through clinics, mobile health care vans that serve rural and metro-area counties, and by establishing and servicing new school-based health centers.

“Not only do these services address children’s immediate health needs, but the Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics’ comprehensive approach to care includes helping families enroll in public insurance programs, and referrals for specialty or restorative oral care,” said Wasserman.

In August, RMYC opened a new school-based health center at Crawford Elementary School in Aurora. To help meet the health needs of the city’s increasing population of low-income families, the RMYC Dental Care mobile van and school-based health center at Crawford offers easily accessible and affordable health services in a comfortable, familiar setting.

“Many of the children we see have special needs or chronic health conditions, such as asthma,” Wasserman said. “Few have had a regular source of medical care, and most are behind on their recommended immunizations. Of the children we see for oral health services, over 70% of them have never been to a dentist.”

The health center at Crawford Elementary also serves nine other Aurora elementary schools – including St. Therese, a parochial grade school. Through a partnership with Metro Organizations for People, www.mopdenver.org, and KidzBlitz, www.ccmu.org/programs.asp – a program of the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved – the RMYC has further improved access to care by bringing its Medical Care Mobile Van to St. Therese Church on select Sundays.

Services for uninsured children on the care mobiles are \$10 per visit and include well-child examinations, routine lab tests, immunizations, care for minor acute illnesses, oral health screenings, teeth cleanings, x-rays, sealants and fluoride treatments.

For more information, contact Deidre Johnson, Program Officer, 303-837-1200, deidre@coloradotruster.org.



Celebrating the opening of Crawford Elementary’s new school-based clinic (left to right) are Dr. Karin Sigdestad, Crawford Clinic Provider; Irene M. Ibarra, The Colorado Trust President and CEO; Dr. Larry Wolk, RMYC Executive Director; Debbie Gerkin, Crawford Elementary School Principal; and John Barry, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent.

IMPROVE *Health Systems*



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COLORADO CENTER FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE

Some 41,000 qualified nursing school applicants were turned away in 2005 due to a nursing faculty shortage across U.S. nursing schools, according to Karren Kowalski, Grant Project Director at the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence.

“Since then, that number has increased,” said Kowalski. “In Colorado, we have over 2,600 qualified applicants who are turned away every year – and that’s just for nursing. The problem of not enough faculty persists across all health professions.”

It’s estimated that the shortage of registered nurses in Colorado is already twice that of the national average and is expected to triple by 2020.

Shortages in rural parts of the state are often extreme: 14 of Colorado’s rural counties lack a hospital, eight do not have any assisted-living or long-term care facilities, four don’t have a single primary care physician and five have no dentists.

“There are many reasons for these shortages,” said Kowalski. “The state’s growing population, an increase in demand for health care services by an aging population, difficulties in providing competitive salaries for clinical faculty and rural providers, and salary disparities between clinical and academic nursing positions.”

To help build and retain the state’s nursing workforce, The Colorado Trust has committed \$1.2 million over three years to the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence, www.coloradonursingcenter.org, to implement and administer a Nursing Faculty Retention and Recruitment Program for 25 Colorado nonprofit or publicly funded schools of nursing.

“The program aims to provide support to faculty members, as well as improve the academic culture itself by expanding the quality of clinical instruction and – over time – by breaking down the silos that exist among various academic departments and institutions,” Kowalski explained.

Key components of the four-year program include:

- Educational loan repayment funds to existing or newly recruited faculty members over two years in exchange for their commitment to teach nursing students for four years
- Coursework focused on nursing faculty retention, new faculty development, succession planning and best practices in human capital management
- Through the Clinical Scholar/Clinical Instructor course, expand the number of skilled clinical professionals who supervise nursing students.

For more information, contact Laurel Petralia, Program Officer, 303-837-1200, laurel@coloradotruster.org.



New program helps to build Colorado’s nursing workforce.

EXPAND *Health Care Workforce*



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NEW STAFF MEMBER

Gay Cook has joined The Colorado Trust as Vice President of Programs, assuming leadership and management responsibilities for The Trust's grantmaking, program and policy-related activities.

Cook previously served as Managing Director of the Center for Women's Health Research at the nationally recognized School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver–Anschutz Medical Campus. Her extensive background in leadership and management positions includes her roles at Metropolitan State College of Denver as Vice President of Executive Operations and Planning, and Assistant to the President for Urban and Government Affairs. As a top advisor at the college, she was involved in a wide range of policy work that contributed to record enrollment growth, becoming a leader in online distance education and a top ranking in U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges." Cook also has a distinguished career in the newspaper industry that included serving as Managing Editor of The Denver Post's News-Editorial Division and as a member of the company's executive committee.



Gay Cook

Cook has served on numerous boards and task forces. She is the immediate past president of the Washington, D.C.-based International Women's Forum – an organization of more than 4,200 women leaders in 21 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and North America – and a past president of the Colorado Women's Forum. Cook's honors include,

among others, leadership awards from the Girl Scouts-Mile Hi Council, the Colorado Women's Leadership Coalition and the Colorado YWCA. She was also named an emerging leader in The Best Companies for Women.

IRENE M. IBARRA HONORED AS A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

The Girl Scouts of Colorado, www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org, has named Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO of The Colorado Trust, one of 20 recipients of its 2008 Women of Distinction award. The honorees, nominated by their peers and chosen for their professional and personal contributions to the community, were recognized on October 22 at the annual Women of Distinction dinner. Congratulations, Irene!



NEW TRUSTEES

The Colorado Trust is pleased to welcome to its Board of Trustees Jennifer Paquette, Chief Investment Officer, Public Employees' Retirement Association of Colorado (Colorado PERA); and William Wright, MD, Executive Medical Director and President, Colorado Permanente Medical Group (CPMG). Their five-year terms will begin January 1, 2009.

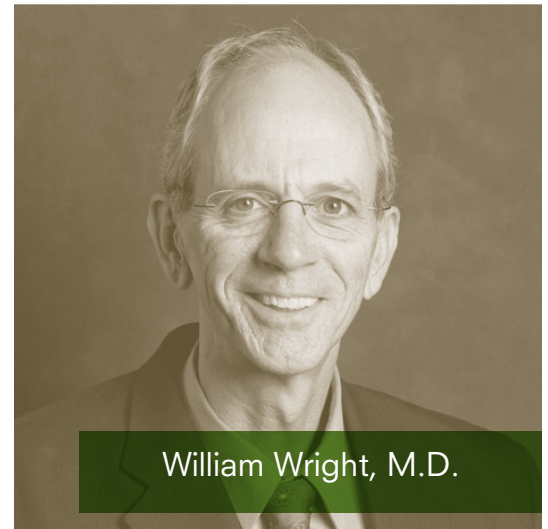


Jennifer Paquette

Paquette and Wright will fill two vacancies on The Trust's nine-person board created when the terms of Judith B. Wagner and Jerome M. Buckley, MD, conclude, following 10 years each of exceptional service.

At the Colorado PERA, Paquette manages investment activities for the \$40 billion pension plan, overseeing portfolio and risk management for domestic and international equities, fixed income, real estate, alternative investments and new investment opportunities. She also manages relationships with external asset managers, the custodial bank and investment consultants and – as a member of the organization's executive group – she represents Colorado PERA to legislative bodies and other external entities. Paquette was previously a vice president at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith and Alliance Capital Management. She holds the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Colorado.

Wright serves as Executive Medical Director and President of the Colorado Permanente Medical Group (CPMG). In this role, he is responsible for shaping the medical care delivered to one in seven insured Coloradans in the Denver-Boulder area who are members of Kaiser Permanente Colorado. Previously, as CPMG's Associate Medical Director of Market and Networks, he assessed and developed community network relationships with the medical group in partnership with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado. Wright conducted his family medicine residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver and is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice, the Colorado Academy of Family Practice and the Colorado Medical Society.



William Wright, M.D.

TRUSTEES' REFLECTIONS

Judith Wagner and Dr. Jerome Buckley served as Trustees of The Colorado Trust from 1998 through 2008. As they approach the conclusion of their tenures as board members, they share their thoughts on Trust grantmaking efforts over the past decade, as well as opportunities for the future.



Judith Wagner

**Judith B. Wagner, Founder, President and CEO
Wagner Investment Management, Inc.**

Community Connection: From your perspective, what are some of the most important issues The Trust has addressed over the last decade?

Judith Wagner: I took a particular interest in The Trust's commitment to the Qualistar Early Learning initiative. Early childhood education is the most important thing we can provide our children because it lays the foundation for a strong future. This program has the capacity to impact thousands of children and their families – not only in Colorado, but nationally.

Community Connection: Given your contribution to shape The Trust's new vision of achieving access to health for all Coloradans by 2018, what do you see in the future for The Trust?

Judith Wagner: By leveraging The Trust's established initiatives to achieve our new vision of access to health, I see the foundation's future as hugely exciting and dynamic. Over 23 years, we've learned what communities need to maximize health outcomes. This enormous inventory of knowledge and strong relationships will help us to ensure access to health – first for Colorado's children, and then for all Coloradans.

Community Connection: What have you most enjoyed about your role as a Trustee?

Judith Wagner: I feel honored to have participated on the board of this important Colorado foundation. The scope of the job was both wide and deep. As a result, I learned more than I had ever imagined about health in its broadest sense. The people I met and worked with are dedicated, knowledgeable, sincere and committed to serving their communities. Trustees, too, brought many different perspectives to the work of the organization, creating a rich tapestry of ideas and insights to promote health and well-being, and the staff's commitment to service and caring was always exemplary.

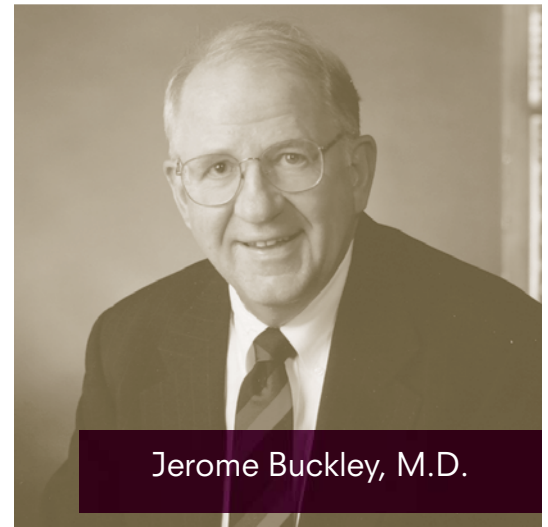
The Trust's statewide fiscal contributions have been significant and have served Coloradans well. I am thrilled that we are stepping into a new decade with an explicit, measurable mission. I know that staff, trustees and our many partners will succeed in achieving access to health for all Coloradans because of the kind of people you are.

**Jerome M. Buckley, MD, former chairman and CEO
COPIC Insurance Company**

Community Connection: From your perspective, what are some of the most important issues The Trust has addressed over the last decade?

Jerome Buckley: There are many important issues that The Trust has addressed during the past 10 years – among them, four are most meaningful to me: the efforts of our statewide grantees to improve patient safety, improve immunization rates, address inequalities in health care, and integrate immigrants and refugees into Colorado communities.

continued ...



Jerome Buckley, M.D.

Community Connection: Given your contribution to shape The Trust's new vision of achieving access to health for all Coloradans by 2018, what do you see in the future for The Trust?

Jerome Buckley: The Colorado Trust made a commitment to a new vision and a finite date to achieve that vision. Like navigating a ship through seas of change, the foundation will need to make regular adjustments to its work to ensure that it keeps moving in the right direction. To be successful in a climate that's constantly changing on both macro and micro levels, The Trust needs to be vigilant in its commitment to stay the course by constantly trimming its sails.

Community Connection: What have you most enjoyed about your role as a Trustee?

Jerome Buckley: First and foremost, I have enjoyed the work itself – our many initiatives to improve the health and well-being of people around the state. I also greatly enjoyed working with the dedicated staff, and the incredibly bright and loyal trustees.

Trustees and staff of The Colorado Trust are grateful to Judi and Jerry for their 10 years each of dedicated service to the foundation.



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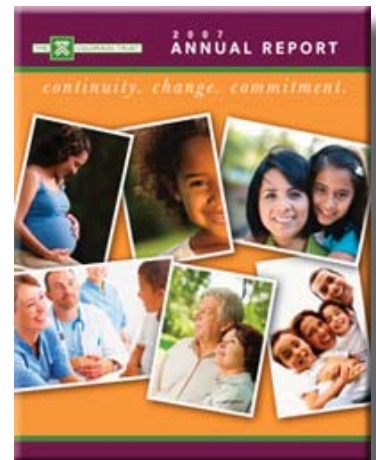
NEW BULLYING PREVENTION RESOURCE GUIDE

The Colorado Trust's three-year Bullying Prevention initiative revealed higher academic achievement schoolwide when students and teachers are willing to intervene in bullying behavior, and when students perceive trusting, accepting and caring relationships between themselves and their teachers. A result of this statewide effort by the participating rural, suburban and urban schools and youth-serving organizations in 32 Colorado counties is the new online *Bullying Prevention Resource Guide*, www.bullyingprevention.org.



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The *2007 Annual Report*, www.coloradotrust.org, highlights a year of continuing commitments to more than a dozen long-term health and well-being initiatives, as well as extensive planning and considerable change in the development and first steps toward a new vision to achieve access to health for all Coloradans by 2018.



WEB*Extra*