



THE
COLORADO
TRUST

ACHIEVING ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR ALL COLORADANS

COMMUNITY *Connections*

2009 SPRING EDITION

VOLUME IX

ACCESS TO HEALTH *News*

Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program Receives Trust Leadership Award

The Colorado Trust's 2009 Grantee Leadership Award was presented to the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program. Established by Steve Poole, MD (right) the nonprofit organization, which provides support services to private pediatric and family medical practices, has helped to increase from 20% to 90% the number of Front Range doctors who care for children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.



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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Irene M. Ibarra

Over the last few weeks we received some very positive news. The Colorado Legislature passed the Healthcare Affordability Act, H.B. 1293, which will bring in an estimated \$1.2 billion annually – \$600 million from a fee paid by Colorado hospitals, and \$600 million from a federal match – to provide coverage for more than 100,000 of the 800,000 uninsured Coloradans. The Trust was pleased to support the initial research that ultimately led to the development of this legislation.

At the same time, we also are seeing important gains being realized through the work of other Trust grantees. As featured in this newsletter, the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program has helped to increase from 20% to 90% the number of Front Range doctors who care for children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus*. Now they are poised to help providers in the rest of the state make similar gains. Additionally, a new set of Trust grants is supporting

safety-net clinics to help them provide timely, comprehensive health care services to an estimated 18,000 children who do not now have access to care.

So much passion and commitment, a lot of smart thinking and a great deal of hard work go into the gains we make along the road to achieving access to health for all Coloradans. And while it's important to celebrate each win, we need to remain mindful that there is much work yet to be done. As we acknowledge the improved opportunity for 100,000+ Coloradans to access health care services, we need to also remember that 700,000 people in our state remain without coverage – and this number is growing along with rising unemployment.

Perhaps our biggest challenge lies in ensuring that we don't forfeit the gains that have been made. Yet this is a real possibility given our state's fiscal challenges. The bottom line is that we cannot significantly improve our health care system – and sustain those improvements – without also addressing Colorado's financial future. We can – and must – keep our resolve and work together to find long-term solutions that address both the human and financial aspects of health coverage and care for the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Irene M. Ibarra
President and CEO

ACCESS TO HEALTH *News*



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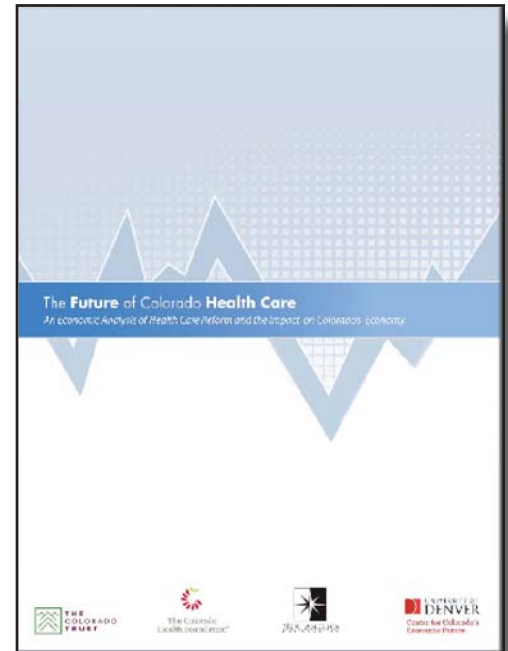
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE

The *Future of Colorado Health Care* project is underway and will provide business and policy leaders, as well as other concerned Coloradans, with state-specific economic data and analysis to help them more fully understand and address the economic consequences of action – or inaction – on health reform. The project is being led by the New America Foundation Health Policy Program and The University of Denver's Center for Colorado's Economic Future, with support from The Colorado Trust and The Colorado Health Foundation. This undertaking will culminate in the fall 2009 release of the report *The Future of Colorado Health Care: An Economic Forecast for Health Care in Colorado*.

Already, the New America Foundation has estimated that in 2007 our state economy lost as much as \$3.9 billion due to the poor health and shorter lifespan of the uninsured, or nearly \$4,900 per uninsured Coloradan. And, with each percentage point rise in unemployment, an estimated 19,000 more adults and 1,000 more children become uninsured, and thousands more are added to the roles of Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus*. In today's economic climate, this means thousands of Coloradans don't have access to critical health services. At the same time, businesses are struggling to maintain their ability to provide adequate, affordable health care coverage to employees due to the rising costs of insurance.

This report will address the economic implications of doing nothing, the economic cost-benefit of health care coverage expansion, the economic value and cost of reforming the health care delivery system, and the net fiscal impact of health system reform on the state of Colorado.

For more information about the project, please contact Christie McElhinney, Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs, 303-837-1200, christie@coloradotrusted.org.



EXPAND *Health Coverage*



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COLORADO CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROGRAM RECEIVES TRUST LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Colorado Trust announced the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP) as the recipient of its 2009 Grantee Leadership Award. The annual award of \$25,000 is made in recognition of exemplary leadership by a current grantee of The Colorado Trust, and will be used by CCHAP to support its ongoing work.

In presenting the award, Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO of The Colorado Trust, said "The work of Dr. Poole and CCHAP exemplifies the ingenuity, devotion and can-do attitude necessary to move us toward caring for all children. In a short time, CCHAP has helped pediatricians and family doctors to overcome the many barriers that keep them from providing the important care that these children need."

"In 2006, one-third of Colorado's kids were in government-funded health programs," said Steve Poole, MD, CCHAP founder and director. "Yet about 140,000 children who were either enrolled in – or eligible for – Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) – couldn't find a medical home. That is, a primary care practice that's accessible and provides continuous, coordinated and culturally effective health care."

So Poole established the nonprofit program to enable private pediatric and family practices to devote 10% or more of their practice to publicly insured children.

"Colorado has a wonderful system of safety net providers – community health centers, school-based clinics, hospital-based clinics and so on – but they can't meet the demand alone," said Poole, who also serves as Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Pediatrics for the School of Medicine, University of Colorado, and is a clinical team member at The Children's Hospital. "We interviewed physicians to learn what the barriers were to participating in Medicaid and CHP+. Among many factors, barriers include low reimbursement rates, problems with claims processing and not knowing how to provide culturally-sensitive care to children from ethnically diverse families."

CCHAP partnered with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Rocky Mountain Health Plans and Colorado Access to enhance provider reimbursements that promote and reward comprehensive, preventive care. They work closely with primary care providers offering administrative supports – such as assistance with eligibility and enrollment-related issues of Medicaid and CHP+ – that allow physicians to see more publicly insured children.



On behalf of CCHAP, founder and director Steve Poole, MD, accepts The Colorado Trust's 2009 Grantee Leadership Award. (Also pictured are Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO, left, and Deidre Johnson, Program Officer, right.)

IMPROVE *Health Systems*

Trust Grantee Leadership Award , *continued*

“So far, we’ve worked with pediatric providers in 15 counties along the Front Range and Summit County,” Poole said. “In 2006, only 20% of pediatricians along the Front Range would provide care for children covered by these programs. CCHAP now supports 90% of these practices, serving approximately 60,000 low-income children.”

Preliminary results show that pediatric and family medical practices participating in CCHAP have cut in half the emergency room visits of the publicly insured children they see, and have achieved other costs savings with an increased focus on well-child visits and preventive care. These savings are used to provide higher reimbursements to doctors, making it possible for them to see increasing numbers of publicly insured children. Additionally, CCHAP has linked the participating practices to an array of services for families provided by 30 community-based organizations, for example, mental health counseling, social services, transportation, case management and an immunization reminder system.

CCHAP is now turning its attention to helping family practices across the remainder of the state to enroll and serve eligible children. “Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job by helping community-based organizations, and county and state agencies to pick up the responsibility to support private practices across the state in enrolling and serving eligible children in all Colorado counties,” said Poole. “But there’s still much work to be done. Every year, about 30,000 women deliver a child eligible for CHP+ or Medicaid. Without access to a medical home, these kids are at risk.”

The Colorado Trust Grantee Leadership Award was created in honor of John R. Moran, Jr.’s dedication to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. Moran is the former long-time President and CEO of The Colorado Trust. For more information about The Colorado Trust’s support of CCHAP to help improve the state’s health systems, contact Deidre Johnson, Program Officer, 303-837-1200, deidre@coloradotruster.org.



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CENTER FOR IMPROVING VALUE IN HEALTH CARE

The newly-formed Center for Improving Value in Health Care – or CIVHC – was created to identify strategies to contain health care costs and to ensure that safe, quality health care services are available to all Coloradans. Dori Biester, the highly regarded, former President and CEO of The Children’s Hospital, has been named Interim Director, and is responsible for start-up activities.

“Our purpose is to identify ways to improve quality and contain costs to ensure better health outcomes in Colorado,” said Biester. “This is a collaborative effort. With involvement from the public and private sectors across the state, we’re in the process of setting our strategic vision to improve the health care delivery system.”

For Biester, that means overseeing the Center, writing a business plan, engaging business and community leaders, and working closely with the steering committee.

“We have a broad vision that aligns with the ‘Triple Aim’ objectives of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement,” she said. These objectives are to:

- » Improve the health of the population
- » Enhance the patient experience of care (including quality, access and reliability)
- » Reduce, or at least control, the per capita cost of care.

According to Biester, “We need to explore what it would take to actualize Triple Aim in Colorado, and we need to build on the efforts of many different groups and organizations that are already doing remarkable things to improve our health system – from health providers and government entities to payors, payees and the business community.

“In a way, everyone is a stakeholder in this initiative. A lot of consumer groups have knowledge and expertise about certain populations of our state – including their socioeconomic status, education and personal behaviors – that we really need to consider.”

Biester also emphasized illness prevention as the underlying tenet of Triple Aim. “The focus is on *health*, not health *care*,” she explained. “While it’s necessary to deliver services for acute and chronic illnesses, the broader goal is to keep people healthy – to avoid getting sick in the first place.

“The time is now for Coloradans to bring together all our resources, and design what we want a healthy Colorado to look like.”

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



Dori Biester, Interim Director of the Center for Improving Value in Health Care.

IMPROVE *Health Systems*



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NEW GRANTEES STRENGTHEN REACH OF SAFETY-NET PROVIDERS

Fourteen new grants from The Colorado Trust, totaling \$4.5 million over three years, will help to strengthen the ability of safety-net providers to care for more children, and to provide comprehensive care. These diverse grantees include after-school programs, faith-based clinics, agencies serving low-income families, a school district, a hospital, an affordable housing provider, as well as county-coordinated collaboratives. By the end of the three-year grant period, these organizations anticipate that 18,000 children who do not now have access to care will annually receive preventative, primary, oral and behavioral health care services.

Some grantees will hire new providers to serve more patients. For example, Denver Health is adding a pediatrician to the medical team at its Montbello clinic. This means that families that have been on wait lists or have had to seek care at clinics further away from home, now can see a doctor in their neighborhood in a more timely manner. This doctor will also visit nearby school-based health centers to provide care.

These safety-net providers will also be better able to connect children with additional needed health care services. For instance, the Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion will work collaboratively with health providers to ensure that Asian-American and Pacific Islander children have access to comfortable, culturally-appropriate health care. This includes connecting patients with a bicultural Community Case Manager, and an interpreter if necessary, to help overcome barriers to timely health care.

The safety-net health care provider grantees include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ACS Community LIFT | 9. Northeast Colorado Health Department |
| 2. Clínica Tepeyac | 10. Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association |
| 3. Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion | 11. Peak Vista Community Health Centers |
| 4. Denver Health and Hospital Authority | 12. San Juan Basin Health Department |
| 5. Doctors Care | 13. SET Family Medical Clinics of Colorado Springs |
| 6. Inner City Health Center | 14. Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment |
| 7. Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center | |
| 8. Mountain Resource Center | |



Leslie Rangel (center) and her siblings are among the uninsured children served by Clínica Tepeyac. Clinic managers enrolled 9-year-old Leslie – who suffers from Satoyoshi Syndrome – in Medicaid. Now, she is receiving the medication she needs to treat the rare and painful disease.

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

INCREASE *Access to Care*



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COLORADO 5 MILLION LIVES CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

In April, the 47 hospitals that participated over the past 18 months in the Colorado 5 Million Lives Campaign gathered to celebrate the successful conclusion of this effort, and to reconfirm their continuing commitment to quality improvement and patient safety. The program included medical simulation training demonstrations and hospital presentations showcasing best-practices in reducing medical errors. Also attending were representatives from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the organization that launched the national 5 Million Lives Campaign in 2007 to significantly reduce the estimated 40,000 daily occurrences of medical harm – from hospital-acquired infections, adverse drug events and surgical errors to pressure sores and other complications.

During this campaign, participating hospitals implemented 12 quality improvement interventions, ranging from better safety measures to more timely medical responses. The interventions have reduced medication errors and decreased adverse events and medical response times while also improving communications and patient-centered care. For example, Yampa Valley Medical Center in Steamboat Springs set a goal of zero hospital-acquired pressure ulcers and has achieved – and maintained – that outcome since June 2008 by refining its pressure ulcer screening tool, screening all patients for risk upon admission and acquiring pressure relieving mattresses for high-risk patients. In Pueblo, Parkview Medical Center set out to reduce medication errors by working with IntelliDOT to develop a medication tracking and reporting system. Out of hundreds of thousands of medication doses that the hospital administers per month, approximately 1,000 are now canceled at bedside, representing near misses that may not have been caught by an attending nurse. And St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver reduced its rate of unexpected cardiac arrests by establishing a resuscitation team, nearly tripling its rapid response activations.

Partners in The Trust's Colorado 5 Million Lives Campaign also included the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, Colorado Hospital Association, Colorado Rural Health Center, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, WELLS Center and SE2.

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



New video features
Colorado hospitals' efforts
to strengthen quality and
ensure patient safety.

ADDITIONAL *Programs*



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VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Christie McElhinney

Christie McElhinney has been promoted to Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs for The Colorado Trust. In addition to overseeing all communications and public affairs for the foundation, she also is developing and managing grant strategies to achieve The Trust's vision to achieve access to health for all Coloradans.

McElhinney joined The Colorado Trust in 2001. Prior to that she spent 11 years with the Education Commission of the States (ECS), a national, nonprofit education policy organization.

Christie holds a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Denver and is currently working toward an MPA at the University of Colorado Denver. She also serves on the Board of the Conference of Southwest Foundations, and is an alumna of Leadership Denver.

Congratulations, Christie!



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THE COLORADO TRUST LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Colorado Trust has launched its new website which features:

- » The work of many grantees and the foundation to achieve access to expand health coverage, and to increase and expand health care access
- » News alerts and RSS feeds with automatic notifications of postings to our website – including daily summaries of health news, new reports and new funding opportunities
- » An understanding of how we make grants and evaluate our impact
- » Timely publications, compelling grantee stories and more.

Please visit www.coloradotrusted.org to share your thoughts with us about the usefulness of this new website!

THE COLORADO TRUST

SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION | RSS NEWS FEEDS | GO

Achieving access to health for all Coloradans

ABOUT US | PROGRAM AREAS | GRANTS | EVALUATION | PUBLICATIONS | NEWS & MEDIA

Health Coverage

Achieving affordable health care coverage for all Colorado families and individuals.

- > EXPAND COVERAGE
- > INCREASE ENROLLMENT

Health Care

MORE >>

Colorado boasts healthy living and fit people. Yet we rank near the bottom of all states for the number of children covered by health insurance, adults don't fare much better, and we have a significant shortage of health professionals. A growing awareness of the serious plight this causes thousands of Colorado families – and the heavy fiscal burden it places on our already challenged state budget – is pushing state leaders, the health industry, advocates and consumers alike to work together for change.

The Colorado Trust's strategic grantmaking is singularly focused on supporting policies, programs and services that expand health coverage, and improve and expand health care. We know this vision will only be achieved by the actions of many, and we believe that together we will find solutions that address both the financial and human aspects of an effective health care system.

NEWS

- > New video highlights patient safety
- > Trust announces 2009 Grantee Leadership Award recipient
- > New Report on the current state of Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility & enrollment process
- > New Issue Brief links child health & school readiness
- > CommunityConnections: 2009 Winter Edition
- > New Evaluation report on increasing the health care workforce
- > Sign up for more information and to receive top, daily health news

WELCOME

A message from Irene M. Ibarra
President & CEO

[Share your thoughts, take our brief survey!](#)



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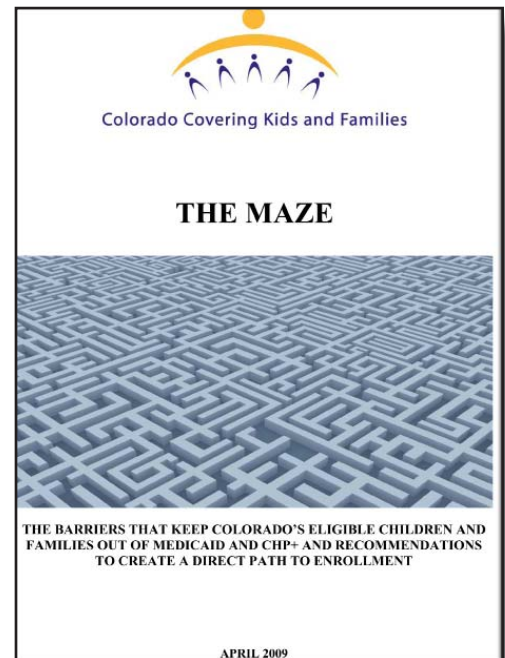
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NEW REPORT ON INCREASING ENROLLMENT

A new report by Colorado Covering Kids and Families analyzes the administrative and policy barriers to an effective Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment system in Colorado. The report – *The Maze – The Barriers That Keep Colorado's Eligible Children and Families Out of Medicaid and CHP+ and Recommendations to Create a Direct Path to Enrollment* – offers 18 recommendations for improving the system. While the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) cannot currently address all the barriers identified in the report, it will focus in 2009-2010 on improving its approach to educating parents about benefits, resources and how to access care. It will also provide enrollment assistance sites with additional training, made possible through a Trust-funded outreach and enrollment specialist, and funding to support enrollment fairs.

Additionally, HCPF recently completed an assessment of the current administration of eligibility and enrollment, and has drafted a Request for Proposals for services to modernize the system. Modernization will include a customer service center, an electronic document management system and automatic verification of income documentation.

The Trust-sponsored Covering Kids and Families report, as well as HCPF's response to the report, are available upon request to Tanya Beer, Assistant Director of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Learning, 303-837-1200, tanya@coloradotrust.org.





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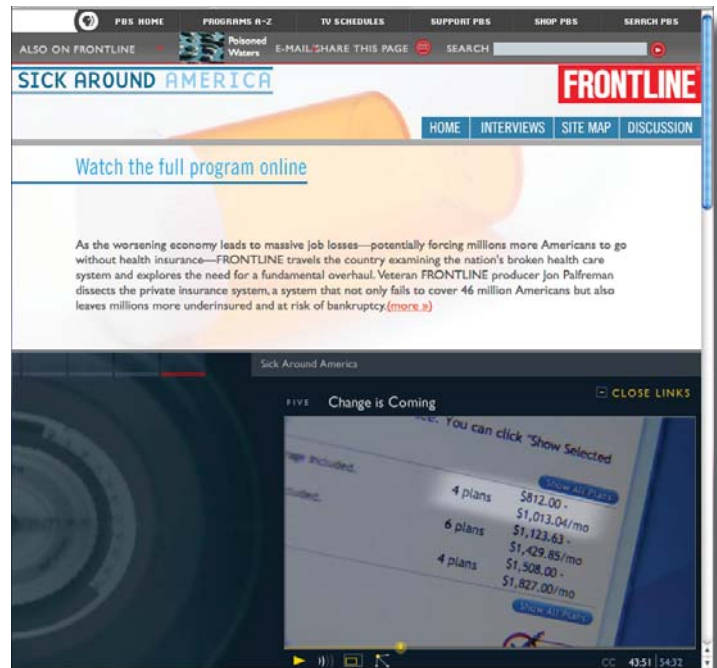
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HEALTH COVERAGE FEATURED IN PBS PROGRAMMING

The Frontline documentary *Sick Around America* aired nationally on PBS stations in late March. At the same time, Rocky Mountain PBS/Channel 6's flagship public affairs program, *Colorado State of Mind*, featured a segment on health care reform, with panelists Reginald Washington, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children and a Trustee of The Colorado Trust; Dede de Percin, Executive Director, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative; Joan Henneberry, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance; and Larry Wolk, President and CEO, Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics.

The Colorado Trust was pleased to support these programs, together with The Colorado Health Foundation and other national funders. For additional information, please contact Christie McElhinney, Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs, 303-837-1200, christie@coloradotrusted.org.



“Sick Around America” Screening Events:

Colorado Springs
Tuesday, April 28
Reception: 6:30 p.m.
Screening: 7:00 p.m.
Pikes Peak Library District, East Branch
5550 North Union Blvd.

Fort Collins
Tuesday, April 28
Reception: 5:30 p.m.
Screening: 6 p.m.
Discussion: 7 p.m.
Fort Collins Library-Harmony Branch
4616 South Shields

Denver
Wednesday, April 29
Anschutz Medical Center:
Education Building 2 North
2nd Floor, Room 2303
Screening: 11:30 a.m.
Panel discussion: 12:30 p.m.

Denver
Thursday, May 21
Starz FilmCenter
900 Auraria Parkway
Reception: 5:30 p.m.
Screening: 6:00 p.m.
Discussion: 7:00 p.m.