

**CCMU NEWSLETTER**  
**APRIL 2005**

**CCMU IS COMMITTED TO ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE,  
TIMELY, QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE IN  
COLORADO**

**CCMU ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 18**

It will soon be time for CCMU's Annual Meeting which will be held in the Second Floor Conference Room at the Copic Companies Building at 7351 Lowry Blvd. The meeting will begin with a time for networking and light refreshments at 3:00 p.m. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. During the Annual Meeting, new, continuing, and outgoing CCMU Board members will be recognized and the agency's *2004 Annual Report* will be presented. Several speakers will highlight the great work that CCMU has done throughout the past year. Please plan to attend this important meeting. RSVP by calling 303-832-7727 or e-mailing [barbara@ccmu.org](mailto:barbara@ccmu.org)

**CCMU MEMBERS VOTING ON NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Paid CCMU members are qualified to vote on new board members. On Friday, April 22, an e-mailed ballot was sent to all members for whom an e-mail address was available. Other members will receive a ballot by mail this week. It is important that CCMU members vote on board members. If you have not received a ballot and are a CCMU member, please contact Barbara Shaw as soon as possible by calling 303-832-7727 or e-mailing [barbara@ccmu.org](mailto:barbara@ccmu.org)

***CCMU HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE***

The CCMU Health Policy Committee continues to meet every other week under the dual leadership of co-chairs Debbie Welle-Powell and Dr. David Downs. The committee reviews selected legislation and makes recommendations to the CCMU board if a particular position is sought. For a complete listing of CCMU bills, positions, and recommended actions, go to the CCMU web site at [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org) or contact the CCMU office at 303-832-7727 to be added to the HPC distribution list.

## ***UPDATE FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT 35***

Although the language of Amendment 35 was clear, implementation legislation is required to spend the revenue. CCMU has been part of a coalition of agencies working to expand health care through this amendment. The group has offered HB 1262 which will ensure that approximately 90,000 more people living in Colorado receive health care!

More than 600 children living with chronic illness and disabilities will now receive Medicaid. Some have been on a waiting list for four years and their families are in financial crisis. Colorado has the leanest Medicaid program of any state in terms of eligibility. This legislation will remove the asset test that disqualifies many people.

Under this legislation, there will be a dedicated revenue source to support the work of Colorado Community Health Centers which treat more than 40% of all uninsured people. Often CCHN provides the only place for people in rural Colorado to go for health care.

The preventative screening programs which have been so impacted by budget cuts will be expanded under this legislation. This will increase the chances of finding disease in an early stage and prevent more expensive treatment in the future.

If you have questions about this important legislation, please contact Molly Markert at [MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net)

## **OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

HB 1101 will allow parents to cover children up to age 25, instead of 24, on private insurance. It has been amended to be offered as a rider on an insurance policy. The bill is awaiting concurrence of Senate Amendments.

HB 1025 will restore Presumptive Eligibility. It has passed out of both the House and Senate but has not yet gone to the Governor.

## **SAVE THE DATE – SAVE THE DATE – SAVE THE DATE**

CCMU's Annual Conference will be held Friday, September 23, at the Radisson Hotel SE at the intersection of I-225 and Parker Road. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the issue of the medically underserved in Colorado and work with others to identify solutions. Watch the CCMU web site for more information as details are finalized.

The Annual Conference, always rated the Best in Networking opportunities, will be a full-day of great presentations, annual awards, and learning opportunities. Volunteer help is welcome as we plan the conference, and more volunteers will be needed as the date gets closer. Input on speakers, themes, workshop titles, etc. are always welcome. If you have ideas to share, Molly Markert ([MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net)) or Barbara Shaw ([barbara@ccmu.org](mailto:barbara@ccmu.org))

## **MEMBERS ARE OUR STRENGTH**

It is important that CCMU continues to grow by adding new members who want to become involved with the organization as it works to assure access to quality medical care to everyone in Colorado. Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to others who might be interested or call 303-832-7727 and ask us to send a copy to someone.

Joining CCMU is easy - individuals can join for as little as \$10; businesses for as little as \$500. You can join by sending your name, address, agency/organization (if any), telephone number, and e-mail address to Barbara Shaw at [barbara@ccmu.org](mailto:barbara@ccmu.org). You will be added to our distribution list and included as a voting CCMU member following the May Annual Meeting. This is also the time for current CCMU members to think about renewing their memberships.

## **WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO DO?**

Although almost everyone has enough meetings to attend, CCMU tries to keep you informed of activities that are important to our vision of access to health care in Colorado. CCMU members with e-mail addresses often receive information on upcoming meetings. Here are other opportunities for you to become involved:

*The Robert Wood Johnson “Cover the Uninsured Week” will be held May 1-8 and will feature a press conference on May 2 and a Health Fair on May 6. Contact XXXXX for more information.*

*The National Alliance For the Mentally Ill of Colorado Springs will be holding its 2005 Annual Meeting and Brunch on Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. at the Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou St., Colorado Springs. For more information call, 719-473-8477.*

*The Colorado Social Legislation Committee will meet again on Monday, May 2 to discuss “A media looks at the Legislative Session,” and on Monday, May 9 to discuss “The State Budget: Where are we?” Meetings are free and open to the public and are held at noon at First Baptist Church, 14<sup>th</sup> and Grant.*

*The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless will host its 2005 Conference on Homelessness on Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Denver Merchandise Mart. Visit [www.coloradocoalition.org](http://www.coloradocoalition.org) for more information.*

*The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative will hold its Membership/Community Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Denver Public Library, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rockwell Room. Call 303-839-1261 for more information.*

*The CCMU Executive Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month.  
The CCMU Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month.  
The CCMU Policy Committee meets every other week through mid-May.*

*Member Meetings are scheduled every other month during 2005. In the opposite months, CCMU members receive an electronic newsletter.*

**Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU)**

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