

CCMU NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2005

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

**THE NINTH ANNUAL CARING FOR COLORADO'S
MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED CONFERENCE**

REGISTER NOW!

CCMU's Annual Conference is quickly approaching. It 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.

Confirmed speakers include Emily Friedman and Tom Garvey. Emily Friedman is an Independent Health Policy and Ethics Analyst from Chicago. In April, 2005, *Modern Healthcare* named her one of the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare." Tom Garvey is Chairman of the Board of TheCenter for Health Care Policy Research and Analysis.

Ten break-out sessions will look at the following subjects:

Referenda C & D

What Other States Are Doing

A Legislative Look Forward

Empowerment and Advocacy: Rocking the Boat Without Tipping the Ship

Building a Stronger Safety Net: The Power of Data

Status of the Safety Net

Special Services: Special Challenges

Keeping Your Door Open – Strategies for Sustainability

Essential Early Intervention

CCMU members can attend the one-day conference for \$40; the cost is \$50 for non-members. Registration on the day of the conference will be \$60. You can register for the conference by going to www.Blacktie-Colorado.com or visit our web site at www.ccmu.org to download the registration form and mail it in.

There are also opportunities to exhibit your organization or agency at the conference for a cost of \$15 for nonprofits and \$50 for all others.

For more information, contact CCMU at 303-832-7727 or e-mail Vanens@hotmail.com

NOMINATIONS STILL NEEDED

An important part of the Caring for Colorado's Medically Underserved Conference is the presentation of community service awards for people who have made outstanding contributions in the provision of care for the medically underserved population.

Nominations are still being accepted for awards for a Physician, a Non-physician provider, and a Lay Person.

Nominations are due to CCMU on September 9 – but you can still slide your nomination under the wire if Molly (mollymarkert@comcast.net), Megan (vanens@hotmail.com), or Gary (GVanderark@aol.com) have the nomination by noon on Tuesday, September 13.

You may e-mail your nominations to one of the above or mail them to CCMU at P. O. Box 18877, Denver, CO 80218.

Your nomination should include the person's name, telephone contact, and organization represented. Send a statement of 250 words or less as to why you are nominating this person.

CCMU HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE

The CCMU Health Policy Committee continues to meet under the dual leadership of co-chairs Debbie Welle-Powell and Dr. David Downs. They have recently completed a legislative agenda that will guide CCMU's planning for the 2006 legislative session.

Details of the agenda will be posted on the CCMU web site after approval by the Board of Directors. Visit the web site at www.ccmu.org

The Legislative Action Agenda for 2006 includes favoring Streamlining Medicaid so that more children and their families can be better served; advancing the standardized benefits package as a method of both raising consumer knowledge and creating market driven competition; and promoting a pilot reinsurance program to make health insurance more affordable for workers.

Questions about the Action Agenda can be direct to Molly at MollyMarkert@comcast.net

This committee reviews selected legislation and makes recommendations to the CCMU board if a particular position is sought. To join this important committee or for more information about its work, contact Executive Director Molly Markert at 303-832-7727 or MollyMarkert@comcast.net

The committee is continuing to work on the strategic implementation of the Action Agenda. The next committee meeting is the 13th of September.

HIFA WAIVER OUTCOME

The Joint Health and Human Services Committees completed an elaborate process of four public meetings held around the state to hear testimony related to the HCPF Medicaid Waiver proposal. On August 31, the committees voted 15-5 to stop the waiver application process. The opportunity to streamline Medicaid so that it and CHP+ are seamless to consumers, continuous eligibility is assured, the asset test removal take up is accelerated, and other streamlining measure are considered will be advanced in legislation introduced by Rep. Boyd. Stay tuned!!!!

YES ON C & D: MOVE COLORADO FORWARD

CCMU is one of a number of groups and coalitions that has endorsed Referenda C and D and made a commitment to enlist additional support prior to November when Colorado voters will be asked to choose to create a better Colorado by passage of these referenda.

Referendum C gives the state permission to retain all tax revenues for the next five years. These revenues will be used specifically for health care, transportation and education. Referenda C & D will help the state address growing needs in the health care system as well as create new programs to counteract the problem of our state's uninsured.

For more information, visit the following websites:

Bell Action Network, Ballot Questions C& D and the Bipartisan Budget Compromise:
<http://www.thebell.org/pdf/C&DFacts.pdf>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, Colorado Economic Recovery Act, Referendum C:
<http://www.cclponline.org/pubs/RefC6-08-05.pdf>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, Colorado Economic Recovery Act, Referendum D:
<http://www.cclponline.org/pubs/RefD6-08-05.pdf>

Here are some things you can do to support the Yes On C and D Campaign:

1. **Sign Up:** Endorse Referenda C & D today either as an individual or as an organization! Contact MollyMarkert@comcast.net for more information.
2. **Speak Out:** Organize a speakers' training on Referenda C & D for your members, clients, board members, etc. Contact MollyMarkert@comcast.net for more information.
3. **Show Your Support:** Request a yard sign. Contact MollyMarkert@comcast.net for more information.
4. **Recruit Your Friends:** Join "5 for Colorado" and commit to finding 5 friends to put up yard signs. Or, upgrade to "20 for Colorado" and find 20 friends to put up signs.

RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Seeing Red: Americans Driven into Debt by Medical Bills](#)

Overview: New analysis of the 2003 Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey reveals that an estimated 77 million Americans age 19 and older—nearly two of five (37%) adults—have difficulty paying medical bills, have accrued medical debt, or both. Working-age adults incur significantly higher rates of medical bill and debt problems than adults 65 and older, with rates highest among the uninsured. Even working-age adults who are continually insured have problems paying their medical bills and have medical debt. Unpaid medical bills and medical debt can limit access to health care: two-thirds of people with a medical bill or debt problem went without needed care because of cost—nearly three times the rate of those without these financial problems.

Citation: *Seeing Red: Americans Driven into Debt by Medical Bills*, Michelle M. Doty, Ph.D., Jennifer N. Edwards, Dr.P.H., and Alyssa L. Holmgren, The Commonwealth Fund, August 2005

[The New Yorker Examines U.S. Uninsured, Health System](#)

The Aug. 29 issue of the *New Yorker* looks at the U.S. health care system and the uninsured and discusses recent research on the situation, such as the book, "[Uninsured in America](#)." According to the *New Yorker*, U.S. residents spend nearly two and a half times as much per capita on health care as people in other industrialized nations but have a lower life expectancy, lower childhood immunization rates, higher infant mortality rates and other disparities. Attempts at creating universal coverage in the U.S. have been rejected "[s]ix times in the last century," the *New Yorker* reports. The magazine also examines the Bush administration's plans to address the U.S. health system, including health savings accounts (Gladwell, *New Yorker*, 8/29).

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 \$45/year; nonprofit agencies and other organizations for \$100/year; small corporations for \$500/year; and larger corporations for \$1,000/year. A membership application is included with this newsletter and is also on the CCMU web site at www.ccmu.org. Please return your membership application form to CCMU, P. O. Box 18877, Denver, CO 80218.

Current CCMU members can renew their memberships by using the same membership application. Your membership enables CCMU to continue its efforts in advocacy, education, and facilitation of issues on expanding health care to all who live in Colorado.

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 CCMU Executive Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month.
The CCMU Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month.*

Member Meetings are scheduled every other month during 2005. In the opposite months, CCMU members receive an electronic newsletter. In September, the Fall Conference will be the member meeting.

**Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU)
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Denver, CO 80218
Molly Markert, Executive Director
Office location - 1660 Sherman St.
303-832-7727**

**COLORADO COALITION FOR THE MEDICALLY
UNDERSERVED (CCMU)**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Organization/Agency/Corporation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Suggested donation: _____ \$45 (individual) _____ \$100 (organization) _____ \$500
(small corporation) _____ \$1,000 (large corporation) _____ \$10 (student/other)

Amount enclosed: _____

May we list your business affiliation in our materials? _____ Yes _____ No

Vision:

CCMU is committed to access to affordable, timely, quality health care for everyone in Colorado.

Mission:

CCMU will achieve the vision of access to affordable, timely, quality health care for everyone in Colorado through education, advocacy, and facilitation of collaborative actions.

Principles:

1. Health care coverage should be universal, continuous, and affordable to individuals and families.
2. Only a comprehensive solution will ensure health care for all while controlling costs and promoting quality care.
3. In the absence of a comprehensive solution, we will embrace policies and programs that improve access to quality care, expand existing health care access, and protect and strengthen the medical safety net.
4. We seek solutions that are sound, sustainable, and keep the needs of patients first.

Mail completed application with check to CCMU, P. O. Box 18877, Denver, CO 80218

