

**CCMU NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 2005**

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

***SAVE THE DATE FOR MARCH CCMU MEMBER MEETING  
TO FOCUS ON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA***

It's time to mark your calendar for **CCMU's March Member Meeting** which will focus on the **Legislative Agenda**. This meeting is an opportunity to put policy into practice when we meet at the State Capitol to look, listen and learn as the legislative process unfolds around us. We have created opportunities for you to meet with your elected officials during the meeting from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and at an informal reception from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at The Colorado Trust, 1600 Sherman, a block from the capitol. Plan to take advantage of this opportunity and invite your elected representatives and senators to join you to discuss the policy needs of Colorado's medically uninsured populations.

Martha King from the National Conference of State Legislatures will join us for the Member Meeting with updates from other states. Martha follows health care policy around the country for NCSL and is an expert on what is *hot* and what is *not* in other states. Concepts like HIFA, block grants, pdls, and a host of other health care reform proposals can be discussed during the program.

If you plan to attend the member meeting and/or the Legislative Reception, please RSVP by calling 303-832-7727 or e-mailing [babsherself@juno.com](mailto:babsherself@juno.com).

***CCMU PRESIDENT TO BE HONORED***

Dr. Gary VanderArk is widely known as someone who has advocated for the medically underserved for a long time and has put his passion into action by creating and working with a number of nonprofit organizations. *Health Care For All Colorado* will honor Dr. VanderArk at its Annual Dinner on Friday, April 8.

Anyone interested in attending this dinner to lend support to Dr. VanderArk should contact Elinor Christiansen at [echris7@comcast.net](mailto:echris7@comcast.net) for information on tickets.

Congratulations Dr. VanderArk on this much-deserved recognition!

## ***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. CCMU has supported HB 1101 with testimony from Dr. VanderArk (concerning expanded access to health insurance for youth to age 25). 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***

Amendment 35, now reconstituted as HB 1262, is beginning its journey towards implementation of the tobacco tax provisions voters passed this fall. CCMU was well represented at the first hearing of the bill in the House Health and Human Services Committee, where the bills all now await action on March 9, 2005. Calls to selected legislators to support the coalition bill, HB 1262, are encouraged: please get on the HPC distribution list for the latest messages.

### ***CCMU'S ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY***

CCMU's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Thanks to the continued support of Copic Companies, this meeting will be held in their second floor conference room at 7351 Lowry Blvd. Networking will begin at 3:00 p.m. with the program starting at 3:30 p.m.

A feature of the Annual Meeting will be the election of CCMU board members. CCMU members should be watching for an e-mailed ballot in mid-April. The new board of directors will be introduced at the meeting.

Any CCMU member with suggested changes to the agency's by-laws should contact Executive Director Molly Markert no later than March 14 at [MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net). Any proposed by-law changes will also be voted on at the May 18 meeting.

A legislative wrap-up will be an important feature at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will also provide an opportunity to enjoy a presentation by Carol Gan-Sho O'Dowd.

Those board members who are leaving the CCMU board will be honored at this meeting and the latest CCMU Annual Report will be presented.

Watch the CCMU web site for more information on the Annual Meeting.

## ***CCMU MEMBERS ARE BUSY PEOPLE***

CCMU members tend to be busy people, always on the go and going to important places. If, in your travels, you wander into a perfect meeting room, please let us know! We are looking for a meeting place “home” for the remainder of 2005 – general membership meetings usually attract more than 30 of you and we need a space for refreshments and papers and convenient and accessible parking.

Membership Meetings are scheduled to be held in July, September, and November. If you know of a good place for our member meetings, please contact Molly or Barbara at 303-832-7727 or e-mail [babsherself@juno.com](mailto:babsherself@juno.com)

## ***YOUR COALITION IS ALIVE IN 2005!***

Please get out your Palm, Blueberry, Blackberry, notepad, dance schedule, wall calendar or other organizational device and make note of the CCMU 2005 calendar. All events will occur as scheduled unless you hear otherwise, so plan now to participate.

***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 for every other month during 2005. The March meeting is quickly approaching. The May meeting will be the CCMU Annual Meeting. In the opposite months, CCMU members receive an electronic newsletter.***

For more information on any of these events, contact the CCMU office at 303-832-7727.

## ***CCMU WILL AGAIN HOST A CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON COLORADO'S MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED***

Circle September 23 for CCMU's Annual Conference on Colorado's Medically Underserved. The Annual Conference, always rated the Best in Networking opportunities, will be an all day affair featuring great presentations, annual awards, and learning opportunities. We would welcome volunteer help as we plan the conference, and will need more volunteers as the date gets closer. We are thinking of a theme about the future, or “If you think it's bad now, just wait ‘til all the baby boomers hit Medicare” or some other provocative topic.

We are constantly looking for ways to pay conference expenses so that registration fees can be kept low. If you can help think, share ideas for speakers or workshop leaders, or find funding, please contact Molly Markert ([MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net)) or Barbara Shaw ([babsherself@juno.com](mailto:babsherself@juno.com))

## **MORE MEMBERS WELCOME**

The staff and board of CCMU are reaching out to individuals and groups who want to become involved with the organization as it works to assure quality medical services 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 [babsherself@juno.com](mailto:babsherself@juno.com). You will be added to our distribution list and included as a voting CCMU member at the May Annual Meeting.

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