



Dedicated to improving care for Colorado's medically underserved

Member Newsletter November 2006

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

CCMU's Tenth Annual Conference was a huge success!

More than 200 people participated in the CCMU's Tenth Annual "Caring for Colorado's Medically Underserved" Conference held at the Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast on September 29, 2006. Speakers embraced the conference theme, "At the Tipping Point" to inspire and energize all participants.

Executive Director of Health Care for All Massachusetts, John McDonough, entertained questions long after his keynote, indicating the high level of interest Colorado movers and shakers have in implementing significant healthcare reform. Dan Callahan, Director of the International Program at the Hastings Center in Garrison, New York started the afternoon sessions with a keynote addressing the ethics of healthcare reform.

One of the best features of all CCMU events is the opportunity for sharing and networking, which held true as attendees gathered in groups throughout the day to discuss the myriad issues facing Colorado healthcare advocacy. Participants also were given the opportunity to hear the legislative and community endeavors currently being pursued to bring support to Colorado's uninsured populations.

Dr. Gary VanderArk, CCMU's founding president, introduced CCMU's award winners for 2006—those individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the provision of care for the medically underserved populations. Honored for

their dedication and championing of Colorado's medically underserved were Dr. James Simmerville, Ken Watson, Ph.D., and Julissa Molina Soto.

James Simmerville, M.D., Medical Director, PracticeNet Solutions, was awarded the **Provider Service Award** for his leadership and vision in spearheading the growth of PracticeNet Solutions, a collaborative program of the El Paso County, Dallas County and Travis County Medical Societies to increase healthcare access for low-income and uninsured citizens of El Paso and Teller Counties in southern Colorado. Dr. Simmerville has taken his "you bet" optimism and enthusiasm to champion and grow the PracticeNet program, creating a network of volunteer providers, supported by a community of information, services and partnerships.

The **Non-Provider Award** was given to MCPN's Services Manager for Homeless and Mental Health Programs, Ken Watson, PhD. Ken has developed numerous programs for homeless services and has also been instrumental in creating a coordinated, metro-wide system of services to at-risk populations.

This year's **Community Advocate Award** was enthusiastically presented to Julissa Molina Soto. In addition to coordinating a state-wide vaccination program for Latino children, Ms. Soto created the *Por tu Familia* initiative with the American Diabetes Association. This initiative offers workshops addressing preventative measures for heart disease and diabetes through cooking in the Latino home.

CCMU would like to thank our wonderful sponsors whose generous support helped create a successful and exciting conference!



University of Colorado Hospital
Internal Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, LLP
VanderArk Foundation

Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's conference on Friday, September 21, 2007.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

208 Commission

(Update from The Bell Policy Center)

The 208 Commission is a brand new effort at comprehensive health care reform for Colorado. The commission, named the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform, is the result of legislation SBO6-208 which calls for an examination of ways to increase healthcare access and lower costs of care. The commission, composed of consumers, health insurance purchasers, health experts and business leaders appointed by top Colorado government leaders, met for the first time on November 13th. They will be soliciting proposals during the next twelve months, with analysis by an independent consultant and will have final recommendations to submit to the Colorado legislature by November 2007. The second meeting of the 208 Commission is scheduled for **8:00 am to noon, Monday, December 4, 2006** at the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce offices.

In November, pharmaceutical giant, AstraZeneca, announced its efforts to help people of all ages who often have difficulty in affording their medicine (including those with Medicare Part D). Now, a family of four earning \$60,000 or less, or

individuals earning \$30,000 or less, who do not have prescription drug coverage can qualify to get their AstraZeneca medicines for free. For more information call 1-800-424-3727 or visit www.azandme.com.

EVENTS

We hope you were all able to catch, "Conversation with Colorado" featuring Len Nichols, PhD, of the New America Foundation. This informative presentation was held on Thursday, November 16, at the Fitzsimmons Campus, Anschutz Pavilion. Special thanks to Rachael Brink, DPT III, VP Legislative Affairs, UCDHSC Student Senate, for taking the time to create the event's flyer. Thanks, Rachael!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CCMU Members

Next meeting: **December 13th at 3:00 pm** for networking and 3:30 pm for the program. The program is on the Todd/Bernman study and the AAP survey on voter attitudes regarding children's health care, plus a discussion of the Initiative to Cover All Colorado Kids by 2010. *A flyer will be arriving in your e-mailbox soon—please feel free to invite your family and friends!*

CKF (Colorado Covering Kids and Families) Health Policy Work Group

Next meeting: December 6, 10:00-11:30 am
600 Grant Street in Denver
(2nd floor conference room)

Agency Partners Work Group

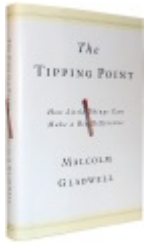
Next meeting: December 8, 9:00-10:30 am
600 Grant Street, Suite 800
(large conference room)

For more information on CKF and to RSVP, please contact Stephanie Arenales (Stephanie@cchn.org).

2010 All Colorado Kids Covered

Stakeholders meeting: **December 1 9:00-11:00 am** at COPIG Mile High Room

COACHING CORNER



The bestselling book, *The Tipping Point* is a fascinating account of social behavior and the dynamics of change. The author, Malcolm Gladwell, describes the point at which sudden, irreversible change occurs, i.e. the *Tipping Point*. He refers to such occurrences as *social epidemics* as they behave much like an infectious disease epidemic.

Over the years we've all become accustomed to change occurring slowly and steadily, and for there to be some discernible relationship between cause and effect. When we subscribe to this belief, we labor under the erroneous assumption that significant change, lasting change requires years to develop. *The Tipping Point* illustrates that social epidemics don't occur this way, rather that change can not only be sudden, spontaneous, and explosive, but that it can also stem from the most unlikely of sources.

When we begin to understand this dynamic, we can actually induce our very own positive epidemics and capitalize on the infectious nature of, for instance, a great idea or a noble cause. Create your own tipping point and *be* that instrument of change!

--Eric & Amy Hansen



CCMU is committed to ensuring access to timely, affordable, quality care for everyone in Colorado and we can--we will--we must achieve our goals. Your voice is critical to our success; if you have not recently joined or renewed your membership; please take a moment to complete the membership form following this newsletter. We will be updating our website with current legislative initiatives by the first of the year, so get dialed in and stay tuned to ways your organization can be involved in these exciting times. If you have any questions or need more info, just call...thanks!! Molly Markert, Executive Director, CCMU (303) 832-7727.

Is your event or program supporting the mission of CCMU or the medically underserved in Colorado? Please let us know how your organization is moving and shaking! Contact Eric and Amy Hansen, Newsletter Editors, at eric.w.hansen@earthlink.net.

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