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## Happy Holidays from CCMU Staff!!!

The snow and snarled traffic convince me that indeed, winter is upon us. If winter is here, the legislative session can't be far behind!! Read all about it----

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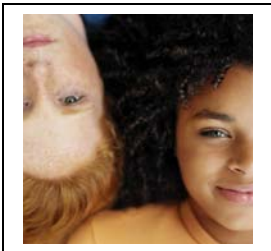
CCMU is working in partnership with other key organizations (Colorado Children's Campaign, Covering Kids and Families and Metro Organizations for People) to lead the 2010 All Colorado Kids Covered initiative. The initiative members have been meeting through the summer to analyze past legislative successes and see which is the best proposal package to put forward this session in order to move closer to the goal of coverage for all Colorado kids by the year 2010. The package will be ratified at the CCMU board meeting early in January; to learn more, contact Alicia Haywood at [alicia.haywood@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.haywood@gmail.com).

The 2010 Initiative is working on five distinct areas, each chaired by volunteers from the larger group of stakeholders who have been meeting for the past year to obtain coverage for all Colorado kids by the year 2010.

See *What's New* on Page 2

### KidzBlitz!

**Mission:** Volunteers from the community act as navigators to guide and educate families to obtain health coverage for their children through programs such as Medicaid and CHP+.



*The following story about KidzBlitz' impact was shared by Richard McLean, the Super Navigator of St. Therese parish. He coordinates and trains for KidzBlitz program outreach at St. Therese:*

Richard had the opportunity to speak with an older couple that just took over care of their young granddaughter. The grandparents had struggled with how to provide health care for their granddaughter especially since their modest income exceeded the threshold for Medicaid.

The grandparents were worried about how to not only provide for her preventative care, but were scared that if their granddaughter were to get sick or have any serious medical concerns, they might go bankrupt due to the high cost of doctor's visits and medical care. They had not planned, at their age, to budget an extra two hundred dollars a month for medical insurance for a little girl.

See *Grandparents' Story* on Page 4

***What's New from page 1***

The Legislative Action Committees or LACs are organized around Systems Improvements (contact Stacey Moody at [Stacey@cchn.org](mailto:Stacey@cchn.org)), Quality Improvements (contact Polly Anderson at [Polly@cchn.org](mailto:Polly@cchn.org)), Department and Community Collaborative (contact Tara Trujillo at [Tara@coloradokids.org](mailto:Tara@coloradokids.org)), Finance and Budget (Contact Dr. Steve Federico at [steve.federico@dhha.org](mailto:steve.federico@dhha.org)) and the newest around Public/Private buy in options (contact Molly at [MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net)). The LACs all welcome new volunteers and ideas. Please contact any of the above leads to join.

The 2010 Leadership Team is hard at work leading the larger group around the policy directives of the 2010 All Colorado Kids and around meeting mechanics, membership development, public presence, and legislative strategy. The Leadership Team is composed of Molly (CCMU), Tara (Colorado Children's Campaign), and Stacey (Covering Kids and Families). The Leadership Team is staffed by Gretchen Hammer, Public Leadership Consultant, and supported financially by the Colorado Health Foundation. The Leadership Team has been expanded to include MOP (Metro Organizations for People), for the organizing component of the policy work. The organizing component is staffed by Denise McHugh and Rebecca Kahn of Center for Systems Integration (CSI).

Concurrently, public messaging and organizing have been funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation through a Narrative Communications grant. Consulting services around messaging and following a narrative communications plan using an exciting new tool called Smart Charting, is provided by Spitfire Strategies Communications out of DC. The team recently traveled to DC for training on the narrative communications in early in November.

We are thrilled that The Colorado Health Foundation is financially supporting the work of the 2010 Leadership Team, as well as the policy work which will again be coordinated by Jennifer Miles. Funding from the Health Foundation, coupled with support from other funders, has allowed CCMU to expand and sustain its efforts in ways that it has not experienced previously!

But that's not all. The KidzBlitz program of CCMU is designed to train volunteers from the community to *act as navigators to guide and educate families to obtain health coverage for their children through programs such as Medicaid and CHP+*. The steering group meets monthly and welcomes new participation. Contact CCMU Program Manager, Alicia Haywood at [alicia.haywood@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.haywood@gmail.com) for more information.

KidzBlitz training sessions have occurred in Aurora, Denver, and Ft. Collins. CCMU is looking for opportunities to set up trainings in the faith-based community. Please contact us if your place of worship would like to schedule a KidzBlitz volunteer training. Ideally, the faith-based organization will be able to enlist volunteers, schedule the training, and host some type of outreach event(s) in order to partner the trained volunteers with families.

See *What's New* on Page 6

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***Check out details of the  
2010 All Colorado Kids  
Covered Launch on  
Page 3 of the newsletter!***

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(L-R) Denise McHugh, Molly Markert, Tara Trujillo, Marilyn Stransky and Stacey Moody talk with staffers at Representative Musgrave's DC office about the value of the Colorado CHP+ program while attending Narrative Communications Training."

## Dr. VanderArk, CCMU's Founder Honored

Dr. Gary VanderArk was honored on November 1<sup>st</sup> by The Samaritan Institute. The National Samaritan Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to human health and growth, demonstrated a religious sensibility in their work, and personally and professionally exemplified the ideals of the Samaritan program.



Michael and Jill Kalkman (Gary's daughter) and Phyllis and Gary VanderArk at the Samaritan Awards dinner



Molly Markert, CCMU Executive Director, congratulating Dr. VanderArk on yet another astonishingly amazing award.

## 2010 All Colorado Kids Covered Launch!

February 10 and 11, 2008

**Mission:** By the year 2010, all children in Colorado will have coverage through insurance or public programs that ensures access to a medical home providing appropriate and affordable health services.

*2010 All Colorado Kids Covered is a policy initiative guided by the leadership of the Colorado Children's Campaign, the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, Covering Kids and Families and the Metropolitan Organization of People.*

The lead partners for the 2010 Initiative to cover all Colorado kids are planning an exciting and energizing launch for the legislative component of the campaign to cover all kids. "2010" or, 2-10-08, is the date chosen for the week promoting coverage for all Colorado kids. Two key events will draw public attention to the importance of and momentum behind this coverage initiative.

On Sunday, February 10, 2008, Governor Bill Ritter has been asked to proclaim "2010 All Colorado Kids Covered" week at an event to include families drawn from the faith communities who will have had an opportunity to learn of the 2010 Initiative at services earlier in the weekend.

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*CCMU is committed to fostering informed debate about all health care reform options and proposals. Please submit your thoughts and views to Eric & Amy Hansen for future publication in the newsletter.*

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See *Launch* on Page 5!

### ***Grandparents' Story from page 2***

Through a KidzBlitz meeting last summer, Richard heard about the *Grandmother Rule* (as Richard refers to it). Richard excitedly went to these grandparents and helped them submit their CHP+/Medicaid application through MCPN (Metropolitan Community Providers Network). They had absolutely no idea that the granddaughter could be covered by Medicaid. Despite all the medical offices they had spoken with, no one had ever advised them of this possibility before.

Richard received a call in October from the grandmother of this little girl. They had just received their acceptance notice for Medicaid for their granddaughter. The grandparents profusely expressed their gratitude to KidzBlitz for showing them such an opportunity!

For more information on the work of KidzBlitz and opportunities to help them get the word out to more families in need, please visit CCMU's website at [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org).

## In the News

### **AstraZeneca Announces New Program for Free Medicines to the Uninsured**

AstraZeneca launched a new program in October of this year to provide medicines free of charge to community free clinics, community health centers and hospitals that serve the uninsured. The AZ&Me™ Prescription Savings Program for healthcare facilities is planning to provide free AstraZeneca medicines to hundreds of thousands of patients at approximately 150 facilities by the end of 2008.

The AZ&Me™ Prescription Savings program for healthcare facilities is available to organizations that have a licensed outpatient pharmacy or dispensary on site and can provide documentation that their facility meets other program criteria. Patients are eligible for AstraZeneca medicines through this program if they do not have prescription drug coverage and must have a household income at or below \$30,000 for an individual or \$60,000 for a family of four.

To learn if your organization could qualify for the AZ&Me™ Prescription Savings program for healthcare facilities, please call 1-866-325-8198. Program specialists are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM EST.

### **Colorado Access Unveils 5 New Plans For 2008**

Colorado Access announced in October that it has received approval from CMS to begin marketing 5 new Medicare Advantage plans for 2008. Each plan will offer benefits beyond original Medicare.

The plans will be available to individuals with Medicare in Colorado Access Advantage's existing service area of the 7 County Denver-Metro Area and El Paso County. New for 2008, Colorado Access Advantage will be available to eligible residents in

the San Luis Valley, which includes Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Saguache, and Rio Grande counties.

Three of the plans are Special Needs Plans, designed to provide personalized service to specific Medicare beneficiaries. These plans are available at no plan premium. Colorado Access Advantage Plan B - Behavioral Health Special Needs Plan - will be offered to individuals that have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, or Schizoaffective Disorder.

Two Medicare Advantage Plans extend Colorado Access Advantage's quality service to the general Medicare population. Colorado Access Advantage Plan E - has a low monthly premium. Colorado Access Advantage Plan F - has no plan premium.

"We are dedicated to providing personalized service to each of our members," said Sharon Steadman, Executive Director of Colorado Access Advantage. She added, "Through our new plans and expansion into the San Luis Valley, we have the opportunity to extend this service, as well as our exceptional care management program and extra benefits, to a wider variety of Medicare beneficiaries."

For more information on the included benefits with each of these new plans, visit [www.coaccess.com](http://www.coaccess.com).

### **Great Resource**

The Kaiser Foundation has created a comparison tool on the 2008 presidential candidate health care proposals. The proposals can be viewed side by side at <http://www.health08.org/sidebyside.cfm>.

### COPIC Announces No Rate Increase

COPIC, Colorado's largest malpractice insurer for physicians announced last month that there would be no overall rate increase for their insured physicians in 2008. "This is great news for Colorado's health care system," said COPIC Chairman and CEO Ted Clarke, M.D. "Reduced costs for physicians translate into increased health care access for Coloradans."

Colorado has been listed by the American Medical Association as stable in terms of medical liability. Clarke emphasized that COPIC's news served as another "example of how Colorado physicians and the patients they treat benefit from this state's favorable medical liability climate."

### Application Available for 2008 Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is accepting applications for the 2008 Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program.

This opportunity is for college seniors and recent college graduates who have a strong interest in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities, or who are themselves a member of a population that is adversely affected by racial and ethnic health disparities. The application deadline is 5:00pm ET on *December 14, 2007*.

During their nine-week experience, the Scholars work in congressional offices in Washington, D.C., obtaining first-hand experience in the policy-making process. They participate in seminars and site visits to enhance their practical knowledge of health care issues and gain first-hand knowledge of the federal legislative process. Each Scholar also writes and presents a health policy research paper in one of the following areas: Medicaid and the uninsured, Medicare, or HIV/AIDS.

For questions, please contact program director Cara James, Ph.D., at (202) 347-5270 or [cjames@kff.org](mailto:cjames@kff.org) or program manager Jomo Kassaye at (202) 238-2385 or [jzkassaye@howard.edu](mailto:jzkassaye@howard.edu).

### CCMU Welcomes a New Addition!

Another CCMU baby has joined us to carry on the tradition of health care reform into the next generation--Patrick is the brand new baby son of Jennifer McGinn who was our intern last year, tasked with following Medicaid reform around the country. She is a law student up in Boulder and a candidate for her Juris Doctorate in '08. Congratulations!!!

### ***Launch from page 3***

As envisioned, the event will draw hundreds of people including consumers, providers, and stakeholders who want to see Colorado adopt policies that allow all Colorado kids to be covered.

On Monday, February 11, 2008, both chambers of the State Legislature have been asked to introduce resolutions calling for all Colorado kids to be covered by 2010. An energizing luncheon event is being planned for after the morning legislative session to allow stakeholders to show policy makers their support for the 2010 Initiative. A host of prominent national speakers and local leaders is currently being asked to join the luncheon event in support of the 2010 Initiative. Of special note, Bruce Lesley from First Focus will be joining us at the luncheon.

For more information, or to donate or volunteer, please contact Molly Markert, CCMU Executive Director, at 303-941-2244 or [MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net).



**What's New from page 2**

The KidzBlitz program of CCMU enjoys financial support from the Caring for Colorado Foundation, the Kaiser Permanente Foundation, AstraZeneca, COPIC, and the Rose Community Foundation. Additional donated Xerox coping and other materials are always appreciated!

CCMU is preparing for a very happy holiday season. We can look forward to the coming legislative session and know that our actions will make a huge difference towards our mission of achieving quality, timely, affordable health care for everyone in Colorado.

**Calendar of Events**

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has announced its dates for the **Public Rule Review meetings**. To read the rules that are up for public review, visit the website for the HCPF's Medical Services Board at <http://www.chcpf.state.co.us/HCPF/msb/msbindex.asp>. All meetings will take place at The Capitol Center, 225 E 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Denver 80203. Contact Judi Carey, the Board Coordinator at (303) 866-4416 or [judith.carey@state.co.us](mailto:judith.carey@state.co.us) for more information.

<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Public Rule Review Meeting (9 am)</u>	<u>MSB Initial Adoption Date</u>	<u>MSB Final Adoption Date</u>
Mar 1, 2008	Nov 21, 2007	Dec 14, 2007	Jan 11, 2008
Apr 1, 2008	Dec 26, 2007	Jan 11, 2008	Feb 8, 2008
May 1, 2008	Jan 23, 2008	Feb 8, 2008	Mar 14, 2008

**Governor's Dialogue on Health Care Vision and Values  
December 5 and 6**

The "Governor's Dialogue on Health Care Vision and Values" is a two month long campaign (November and December) presented by Colorado Governor Ritter to garner community input on Colorado's current health care reform. "The goal of these sessions is to give me, legislators and others a clear view of how Coloradans want their health care system to become more efficient, more accessible, more affordable and consistently excellent," Ritter said in the October 22 release.

The Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing will host Denver's meetings (1 of 9 other Colorado locations) to solicit input from business, civic and health care leaders. For More Information, Call 303-866-5800.

**CCMU Meeting Dates**

Board meeting

When: January 3

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Where: Faegre and Benson, 3200 Wells Fargo Center, 32nd floor

KidzBlitz Planning Committee

(first Tuesday of every month—resuming in Feb)

When: February 5

Time: 2-4:00 pm

Where: Colorado Access, 10065 E. Harvard Ave

2010 Cover All Colorado Kids Initiative

When: January 11

Time: 11:30-1:30 pm

Where: Colorado Children's Campaign  
1580 Lincoln St. Ste. 420

Contact Molly Markert if you want to be added to the 2008 group for the 2010 Legislative Launch!

**Colorado Covering Kids & Families**

Health Policy Work Group

When: December 12

Time: 10-11:30 am

Where: CCHN Office Bldg, 600 Grant St  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rm

Agency Partners Work Group

When: December 7

Time: 9-10:30 am

Where: 600 Grant St, Ste. 800  
Large Conference Rm

**Colorado Consumer Health Initiative**

*Public Policy Committee*

When: Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Where: Colorado Health institute  
1576 Sherman St, Suite 300  
(Every other Friday starting January 4, 2008  
@ 12:00-2:00pm)



## Coach's Corner

### Words

The English language contains anywhere from 200,000-1,000,000 words, depending on the source cited. Of those words, we only actually use in everyday speech about 600, a tiny percentage. With a language as rich and full as this why would we only employ less than 1/2% of the words available?

We've adopted certain words and phrases to best fit our lives. For example, consider the words you use to respond to the question, "How was your day?"

A response like, "Fine" evokes very little positive emotion or intensity. A response, however, like, "Grand", "Terrific" or "I don't know how it could be better" evokes a great deal more. This is important because our lives tend to grow into those responses we use. They will either shrink or expand to suit the magnitude of the words used to describe them. Just as a watermelon grows to fit the jar in which it was planted, so too our lives grow to fit the words used.

A life, or even a day, described as, "Tough", "Tired", "Lousy", or "The worst" inevitably grows to fit the *shape* of those words used. Over time, we can unwittingly cultivate a poor quality life just by virtue of the words we've used to describe it! Be aware of your words for they are literally shaping your life.

*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.*

**[www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org)**

*Is your event or program supporting the mission of CCMU or the medically underserved in Colorado? Let us know! Contact Eric and Amy Hansen, Newsletter Editors, at [eric.w.hansen@earthlink.net](mailto:eric.w.hansen@earthlink.net).*