



# Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

## May 2021

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### COLORADO HEALTH NETWORK INC.

This spring marked the 38th anniversary of the founding of Colorado Health Network. In 1983, with only 17 documented cases of AIDS in Colorado, a group of volunteers came together with a desire to do something to help. The group founded CHN and registered the trade name of Colorado AIDS Project (CAP).

Initially, CAP's services consisted of a fledgling food pantry, a part-time case manager, and a volunteer "Buddy" program. The initial annual budget was less than \$50,000. At the time, CAP existed to provide support to those living with HIV, share any new information about HIV as it was being discovered, and often times provide a place for clients to die with dignity.

Over the course of the next six years, SCHN (SCAP), NCHN (NCAP) and WCHN (WCAP) were also formed. Thirty-eight years later and with remarkable advancements in treatment and care, we celebrate that HIV positive people in treatment and care have nearly the same life-expectancy as anyone does.



Part of this celebration for many years has been the annual AIDS Walk, now known as the Festival for Life 5K Walk and Run. This year's festival will be a hybrid event with a virtual Walk and Run, on-line programming, wrapping up with an in-person Festival being held on Saturday, August 21 in Cheesman Park in Denver. Updated information will appear at [www.coloradohealthnetwork.org](http://www.coloradohealthnetwork.org).

#### COVID-19 Limited Assistance Available/COVID-19 Asistencia Limitada Disponible

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs affected by COVID-19? Ers un residente del Cuidad de Colorado Springs afectado por COVID-19?

Assistance Available For Rent, Mortgage & Utilities

Asistencia Disponible Para Renta, Hipoteca Y Utliidades

Call 2-1-1

Marca 2-1-1

Or apply online:

Oplique en nuestra pagina de internet:

[Cdola.colorado.gov/rental-mortgage-assistance](http://Cdola.colorado.gov/rental-mortgage-assistance)



## Denver Pride 2021



This year's Denver Pride will be held June 26th & 27th. The event will blend in-person and virtual activities to provide a safe way to enjoy the annual event amidst the continuing pandemic. This year's festivities will include a virtual marketplace, an in-person and virtual 5K race, a virtual parade, and a series of "Pride hubs" hosted at a variety of venues throughout the city.

For more information [www.denverpride.org](http://www.denverpride.org)



## Colorado Springs Pride Fest

Save the Date: July 16th-18th

Details on Colorado Springs Pride events coming soon!



The Southern Colorado Equality Alliance is cautiously optimistic about being able to hold a traditional, in-person Pueblo Pride celebration this year on August 15. Please know that SCEA will follow all public health guidance. As such, if an in-person event is not possible, SCEA reserves the right to cancel the traditional event at any time. Updates will be posted at [www.socoequality.org](http://www.socoequality.org).

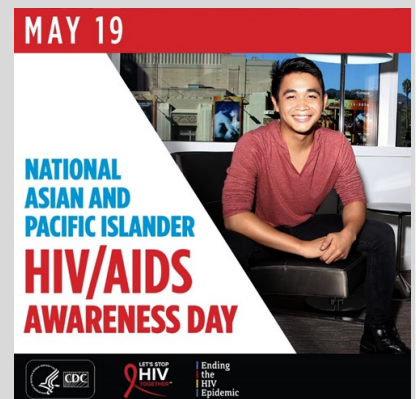
## National Hepatitis Testing Day (May 19)



Millions of Americans have chronic viral hepatitis; most of them do not know they have it. The goal of National Hepatitis Testing Day is to help raise awareness of hepatitis B and hepatitis C and to encourage more individuals to learn their status.

## National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 19 is National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a day devoted to eliminating HIV stigma in API communities. Learn more about the impact of HIV on the API community: [www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/asians](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/raciaethnic/asians)



## CHN Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Clients

Would you like the opportunity to meet other people living with HIV?

Ask questions about services you receive?

Learn about new services?

Learn important information that can help you with your health care?

Have a voice in service delivery?



If you answered yes to these questions, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) might be a great opportunity for you. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) meets monthly. The CAB meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month from 1-2:15pm.

If interested please RSVP to Victoria Schreiber [Victoria.Schreiber@coloradohealthnetwork.org](mailto:Victoria.Schreiber@coloradohealthnetwork.org) or call her at 303-962-5309.

Once you let Victoria know you want to attend, you will receive a meeting invitation with login information. If you have additional questions about the CAB, please connect with your Case Manager. A release of information/confidentiality statement is required to participate in the monthly CAB meetings.

## ACCESS POINT PUEBLO UPDATE

April was another busy month for APP—648 clients made a total of 1,100 visits. It appears that many people are picking up for someone else, so it feels good to support people who are supporting people. Demographics have waivered a bit through the pandemic, so Bob V. is working hard to collect current demographic data.



SCHN Americorp Vista member Patrick is making progress on a destigmatizing campaign. The effort to supply test strips in headshops is underway and a meeting with the Rocky Mountain Sexworker Coalition is on tap. Christine is meeting with the CSU-Pueblo nursing department to line up potential volunteer opportunities. Sarah is working with COVID-19 vaccine efforts to connect clients in Pueblo with

vaccines.

Follow Access Point Pueblo on Facebook. Cross-training planned for Pueblo prevention staffers on testing. A HEP C testing event is slated for May.



## SYRINGE ACCESS SURVEY



The Prevention team at SCHN is seeking feedback from El Paso County residents who use drugs about their needs, including how they are currently accessing harm reduction supplies. If you or someone you know are interested in providing anonymous feedback about what you would like to see in a Colorado Springs-based syringe access program, please consider taking the survey at the link provided below and/or reach out to Melissa Chizmar, Prevention Services Manager, at [prevention.secure@coloradohealthnetwork.org](mailto:prevention.secure@coloradohealthnetwork.org). Paper surveys are available!

<https://forms.gle/nQEo5HtsoRbrmTsK8>



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**Positive Press**

## SCHN and United States Air Force Academy Collaboration



Aidan Sams

Since January, SCHN Regional Director, Donald DeAngelis has had the opportunity to team up with USAFA Cadets Aidan Sams and Kaleb Nunez. As a part of their degree program in Business Management, Aidan and Kaleb have spent the past months working to identify and improve community outreach, social media, and marketing for SCHN. Thank you to Aidan and Kaleb for volunteering their time and knowledge during their final semester at the USAFA—we wish them the best after their graduation in May!



**Kaleb Nunez**

## HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Did you have a plan in 2020 through Connect for Health Colorado?** If so, you can get your taxes done for free through H & R Block (if your income is below 400% FPL) This is only available through specific locations, and not on a walk-in basis. To schedule your appointment, call 303/320-0026. This service is unfortunately not available for clients that had employer based insurance, Medicare or Medicaid in 2020. If you had a Connect for Health/ Marketplace plan in 2020, you are required to file federal taxes for 2020.
- **If you have a current plan through Connect for Health,** you may receive a premium invoice with a new amount due. Please bring a copy of your new premium invoice to your case manager or insurance coordinator as soon as possible so we can adjust your premium payments moving forward.

Connect for Health has extended their Special Enrollment Period until at least August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If you are uninsured, contact your case manager or insurance coordinator as soon as possible to set up an appointment to get yourself enrolled in insurance.

### Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them. **Tuesday & Thursday**  
**10am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm**  
Southern Colorado Health Network  
807 N. Greenwood St., Ste 200  
Pueblo, CO 81003



719-621-1105

### Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

Are you interested in receiving the **Positive Press** through e-mail? If so, please contact your Case Manager to be added to our e-mail list! You'll get the newest Positive Press in the fastest way possible, and you'll save some trees, too!

<https://www.facebook.com/SoColoAIDSProj>

