



# Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

## August 2021

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Mark your calendar and join Colorado Health Network on Saturday, August 21st, from 9am-1pm in Cheesman Park Denver for this year's Festival!

Receiving a new diagnosis of HIV today is not the same grim specter it was in the 1980s or 1990s. In fact, for the vast majority of people, while HIV still has no cure, significant advances in treatment mean that HIV can now be managed as a chronic condition with appropriate medication management. With so many people living longer and healthier lives with HIV, it's only fitting we join together to celebrate the lives of those we love who have been impacted by HIV and the incredible strides made in treatment and prevention strategies. The Festival also serves as an opportunity for remembrance to those we have lost from AIDS-related complications and to celebrate the lasting impact they made on those whose lives they touched.

This year's Festival includes a Virtual 5k Walk & Run and the in-person outdoor Festival. The in-person Festival includes a display of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, a ceremonial walk around the park (not a full 5K), the 10th annual Diva Dash, the Oasis Brunch Garden, and informational booths from partner agencies and vendors.

We look forward to seeing you there! **For more information:**  
<https://coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/festival-for-life/>



Save the Date for this year's Red Ribbon Ball in-person at the Antlers Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs on **Saturday, November 6th**. Stay tuned for more exciting updates coming soon! We look forward to being together again in-person for this year's Red Ribbon Ball.



## ***SCHN Presents the 5th Annual Women's Retreat***

**September 30th through October 2nd**

Sept 30 and Oct 1st - Online (Zoom)

Oct 2nd- In Person (Address Below)

**Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs**

7744 Deer Hill Grove  
Colorado Springs CO 80919

**Sign up Call Melissa Bernstein-Linan or Jessica Curry at  
719-578-9092**

**By August 20 2021**



## **SCHN Presenta el Quinto Retiro Anual de Mujeres**

**30 de septiembre al 2 de octubre**

30 de Septiembre y 1 de Octubre (Zoom)

2 de Octubre en persona (dirección a continuación)

**Franciscan Retreat Center en Colorado Springs**

7744 Deer Hill Grove  
Colorado Springs CO 80919

**Regístrese llamando a Melissa Bernstein-Linan o Jessica Curry al  
719-578-9092**

**Regístrese antes del 20 de agosto de 2021**



## **CHN's Healthy Aging Program:**

HealthWell is **actively recruiting for Part III (face-to-face)** participants! This study is being conducted in partnership with Dr. Kristine Erlandson at the University of Colorado - Denver. We're looking to see if routine physical activity (*ex. via FitBit Inspire 2 - provided to participants – and weekly Zumba & Yoga sessions*), social support (*ex. weekly in-person meetings and meals, as well as weekly walking groups at the Denver Botanic Gardens*), and nutritional counseling (*ex. virtually with a licensed dietician*) can help improve physical and mental health outcomes for older people living with HIV (PLWH 50+). We seek to evaluate the effectiveness, and value, of this program structure delivered at the community level.

**Participation in Part III (face-to-face) is a 10-week commitment.** Please note, **taking part in research is always optional.\***

For more information or additional questions, please contact Erin, the Healthy Aging Program Manager (Erin Burk-Leaver), by phone at 303-962-5336 or email at [erin.burk-leaver@coloradohealthnetwork.org](mailto:erin.burk-leaver@coloradohealthnetwork.org).

\*Taking part in research is voluntary. You may choose not to take part. If you are a CHN client, and decide not to take part in this study, your decision will have no effect on any care you would receive at CHN.





### **SCHN'S VICTORIA LOPEZ SELECTED CE/LEAD MEDICAL CASE MANAGER FOR THE SCHN COLORADO SPRINGS/PUEBLO MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

SCHN Client Services Manager D'Wanna Powell announced on July 23<sup>rd</sup> that SCHN Medical Case Manager Victoria Lopez has been promoted to Critical Events/Lead Medical Case Manager for the SCHN Colorado Springs/Pueblo Medical Case Management team.

Victoria has been a SCHN Medical Case Manager since August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. She came to Colorado Springs from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and she has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University.

Prior to starting at SCHN, Victoria gained experience serving the HIV+ population as a case manager and a prevention/linkage to care specialist for the Southwest Care Center in New Mexico.

"I am super excited to take on this new role and make it my own," said Victoria. "I am also super grateful to have the opportunity to work for an organization that allows and encourages me to show up as my authentic self to get the job done.

"I look forward to the continuation of working with and learning from our amazing team members and clients to ensure that we are serving our clients to the best of our ability."

### **James Wyatt Named Program Assistant for the SCHN Pueblo Office**

Hello, my name is James Wyatt (he/him/his)! I'm a new face to the Southern region after transferring from NCHN's Fort Collins office. I was originally hired on back in August, 2020 as a COVID Screener but quickly fell in love with the work the CHN does and was thrilled to come on full time as Program Assistant in February, 2021. Since then, I've been a helping hand for the Fort Collins' Syringe Access Program, Case Management Food Bank and whatever else needed done around the office! However, my first love will always be Harm Reduction and I love that every day at CHN is a chance to learn more no matter which program I'm helping.

When it comes to calling Pueblo home, I am already initiated to all things Pueblo as my partner was born and raised here! It also doesn't hurt that my favorite pizza in the world is made here (Doo Drop Inn, even though the sweet crust isn't for everyone). Hatch Chiles also have nothing on Pueblo's and I'm comfortable debating this with anyone. As you can tell, I love to eat and am always willing to give food recommendations if you're looking for something good. When I'm not eating all the wonderful local food this city has to offer, I like to watch movies, read books and ride my bike.



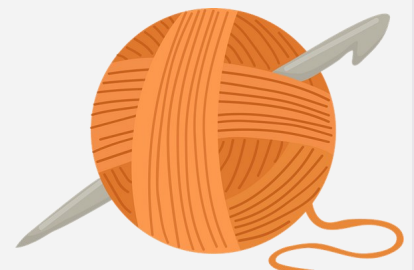
### **Crochet Corner**

If you have been itching to get out to safely socialize and love to crochet or knit (or want to learn)—Join us at SCHN for some yarny fun! SCHN's Crochet Corner will be held the third Tuesday of every month for an hour to relax and let your creative side free! This group is open to all clients or staff who want to explore what fiber art is all about. Bring your own hooks, yarn, and projects – or let Case Manager Jennifer know ahead of time and we will have supplies available. You are welcome to bring your sack lunch. We are limited to 8 participants so please call asap to reserve your spot!

**When:** The 3rd Tuesday of every month, 12pm to 1pm

**Where:** SCHN Conference room (masks required)

**Please RSVP to:** Jennifer Bailey, 719-578-9092, [jennifer.bailey@coloradohealthnetwork](mailto:jennifer.bailey@coloradohealthnetwork)





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**Positive Press**

## **ACCESS POINT PUEBLO UPDATE By Sarah Money, Syringe Access Program Manager**

Access Point Pueblo (APP) has had a busy month as usual, with June having the most visits on record. July – June is the APP fiscal year funding cycle. To sum up the year, APP served 2636 different people over the course of 138 days of programming. 809,620 syringes were distributed and 75.8% were disposed of safely at APP. The APP participants reversed 339 overdoses from July 2020-June 2021. Fentanyl is continuing to have a heavy presence and staff are continuing to educate people on safe consumption when fentanyl is involved.



Staff have been working hard on community outreach both in Pueblo and beyond. SCHN is partnering with Crowley and Otero County to expand services and launch a needs assessment. If you or someone you know lives in these counties, please contact the SCHN Pueblo office.

Within Pueblo, staff has done outreach with different organizations to provide Narcan training. APP started a pilot project where fentanyl test strips will be more widely available throughout the city. APP has continued to do clean-ups around town and is working with more organizations to provide training on safe disposal. APP is also partnering with the city and other organizations to find solutions to syringes disposed of improperly in Pueblo.

Finally, APP has been working on multiple anti-stigma projects, including a health department campaign, a story-telling campaign involving CU Denver, and planning a mural as part of the Pueblo Levee Mural Project. APP will be launching a fundraiser in the next few weeks to raise money for supplies. Again, contact the SCHN Pueblo office if you would like to contribute to the mural!

## **WATCH FOR MEDICAID/HEALTH FIRST COLORADO RECERTIFICATION NOTICES**

Please watch your mail and email for notices from Medicaid/Health First Colorado. They will be notifying people of the need to recertify by a stated deadline. If you don't recertify in time, the benefits will end and you might have a lapse in medical coverage. It's important that you recertify with Medicaid even if you know you are above the income limit. If you let your Medicaid lapse and don't try to recertify, you might not be eligible for other insurance. Please speak with your case manager or health access coordinator if you have any questions.

## **Join SCHN at Pueblo Pride!**



Pueblo Pride 2021 will be held this year at Mineral Palace Park on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Pride Parade begins at 10am and the event goes until 4pm. Be sure to stop by the SCHN booth to grab some fantastic SCHN Pride swag!

### **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>

