



# Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

## December 2021

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### ***JAIME HARRELL IS THE NEW SCHN REGIONAL MANAGER***

Jaime Harrell (she/her) has joined SCHN as the new Regional Manager. Jaime brings years of nonprofit management and advocacy experience and has an extensive network of community partners throughout Southern Colorado. Jaime is excited to combine her knowledge of administrative, facility, fundraising, community relations and development initiatives of the Southern region with the wonderful SCHN team's work.

Jaime holds a BA in psychology from the University of Northern Colorado and an M.S. in Special Education from Old Dominion University. Currently, Jaime spends her out-of-work time enjoying the outdoors, traveling, cooking (and eating), and reading. She is passionate about contributing back to the community and stays involved with making an impact on the lives around her.



Jaime had this to say about joining SCHN:

"I am passionate about working with community partners to provide connections for individuals through resources, mental and medical health, recreation, and education. I enjoy bringing community connections and camaraderie-building to teams. SCHN is the perfect fit as I feel that the organization and team march in tune with my passion and personal mission. I am looking forward to my work on this new path with SCHN!"

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### ***CHILDREN'S GIFTS, FOOD BASKETS AND FOOD CARDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED DEC. 8-17***



ELIGIBLE COLORADO SPRINGS AREA CLIENTS WHO SIGNED UP FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO PICK-UP THE GIFTS FROM 9 TO 5 ON THE DAYS OF DECEMBER 8-17 AT THE COLORADO SPRINGS OFFICE. COLORADO SPRINGS AREA CLIENTS WHO SIGNED UP FOR A FOOD BASKET CAN PICK IT UP FROM 9 TO 5 ON THE DAYS OF DECEMBER 8-17. MONETARY HOLIDAY FOOD GIFT CARDS WILL BE MAILED TO SCHN CLIENTS IN OTHER SERVICE AREAS DURING THIS SAME TIME FRAME.

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Graduate School of Social work at the University of Denver is conducting research on issues impacting transgender and non-binary healthcare access in Colorado.



This project aims to better understand factors impacting healthcare access for transgender and non-binary Coloradans.

Study participants will join one of two 90-minute online focus groups to discuss experiences accessing healthcare and be provided a \$25 gift card.

if you are interested in the study and

- Identify as transgender or non-binary
- Attempted to access healthcare in the last year
- Live in Colorado, and
- Are over 18

Please contact Jarrod at  
[jarrod.call@du.edu](mailto:jarrod.call@du.edu)  
or 253-802-2234

This study was approved by the University of  
Denver's Institutional Review Board:  
#1800680-1

## SUPPORTING SCHN THROUGH THE INDY GIVE! CAMPAIGN LASTS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR

The Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) is pleased to once again be included in the Indy Give! Campaign. Indy Give! Is a year-end (November-December giving period) philanthropic initiative created to encourage everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back and get involved with local nonprofits.

The Indy Give! Campaign enables SCHN to highlight its mission of meeting the evolving needs of people affected by HIV and other health conditions throughout southern Colorado and also provides SCHN with the opportunity to raise funds in order to support all SCHN programs and services.

Please plan to join us for some fun events that help raise funds to support the communities we serve. Stay tuned for more details on our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/SouthernCHN](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernCHN)

Information on how to support SCHN can be found at [www.indygive.com/SCHN](http://www.indygive.com/SCHN)





# ACCESS POINT PUEBLO UPDATE

By Sarah Money, Syringe Access Program Manager

As always, Access Point Pueblo (APP) is busy! In the month of November, some great things happened. The mural on the Pueblo Levee was completed – huge thank you to our muralist, Audra Hazel! The mural was designed to spread awareness, love, and compassion towards those in our community at risk of overdose. Here at APP, combatting stigma is one of our top priorities. We can all grow in our love for others.

In response to syringes being found in Pueblo, APP worked hard on a proposal for funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to increase accessibility to sharps containers and train community members. On November 8, APP was awarded \$25K to expand the sharps pickup program, People Picking Up Points (PPUP)! The APP staff is thrilled to begin training people to pick up syringes and again, love combatting stigma in our community!

On a more serious note, the opioid epidemic continues to get worse. In November, over 70% of heroin and meth samples tested were positive for fentanyl. Opioid pills are circulating and contributing to higher rates of overdose in Pueblo and across the state. 373 lives have been saved by Access Point participants this year so far. By comparison, there were 261 reported lives saved in the entire year of 2020. The month of September was particularly dangerous, with 59 lives saved.

As APP staff, we are so grateful that we can be here serving our folx. It isn't easy, but this work is so important. This information will be heavily guiding our conversations surrounding Opioid Settlement Funds. The community is starting to plan our asks though we are not sure when formal conversations will begin.



**James and Christine pick up used syringes along the river bank in Pueblo.**



**Muralist Audra Hazel celebrates the completion of the levee mural in Pueblo.**



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**Positive Press**

## HEALTH ACCESS/INSURANCE UPDATE

It's that time of year again-Open Enrollment on Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado's insurance marketplace. Until January 15<sup>th</sup>, Coloradans will be able to enroll in marketplace coverage for 2022. This is typically the **ONLY** time one can enroll in marketplace insurance throughout the year, without a qualifying life-change event, so don't miss out.

December 15<sup>th</sup> is the **LAST DAY** to enroll in coverage that begins January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Clients who enroll in plans after December 15<sup>th</sup> will likely not have coverage until February 2022. If you are not on Medicaid or enrolled in insurance through your employer, you may be eligible for marketplace insurance. Contact your Health Access Program Coordinator or Case Manager as soon as possible to get an appointment scheduled.

If you or your spouse is eligible for insurance through an employer, you may be eligible to enroll and receive premium assistance for the plan. Contact your HAPC or your Case Manager for more information.

### **MEDICAID ALERT**

If you have Medicaid, you can expect to receive a notice from Health First Colorado (Medicaid) regarding your next renewal. It is very important that you read and respond to this renewal request within the deadline, **EVEN IF YOU KNOW YOU ARE OVER INCOME**. If you are over income for Medicaid and allow your coverage to lapse without trying to recertify, you won't qualify for a special enrollment period to enroll in a medical insurance plan through Connect for Health Colorado.



## ***Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Runs Now Through April 30***

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) for 2021-22 started November 1 and runs through April 30, 2022. LEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs and is available to all individuals meeting certain financial guidelines.

If you applied last year, you should have received the 2021-22 application in the mail. If you did not apply last year and would like to apply this year, your SCHN case manager can mail you an application or you can call 1-866-432-8435 to receive an application. LEAP does not pay the entire cost of home heating. If qualified, you will receive a one-time payment sometime prior to 4/30/22. For additional information, call 1-866-432-8435.

Other Colorado Springs Utilities flexible payment plans and assistance programs such as Home Efficiency Assistance Program (HEAP) and Project COPE are available to customers. Visit [csu.org](http://csu.org) or call 719-448-4800 to learn more. You can also call 2-1-1 for a referral for utilities bill assistance and other essential services.

### **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>

