



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

August 2022

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Together we stride!

Festival For Life: AIDS Walk & Run Colorado is Colorado's oldest HIV and AIDS fundraising event. This event has grown and shifted since it began over thirty years ago as AIDS Walk Colorado, always seeking to meet the evolving needs of people impacted by HIV, their families, and communities. Since its inception, the core mission has not changed: to this day, thousands of people from across Colorado join together as a

community to raise money for organizations that provide vital services to people living with or at risk of acquiring HIV. Last year, due to the unique restrictions and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire Festival For Life and 5K Walk & Run was held virtually. **This year, we are excited to be able to once again offer an in-person Festival For Life experience.**

5K Walk & Run

The 5K Walk & Run will be in person this year, with an all-new race course through the Cheesman Park neighborhood! Participants will also be invited to join in a smaller honorary walk around the park following the race.

Festival at Cheesman Park

On Saturday, August 27, Colorado Health Network will host a festival at Cheesman Park in Denver, Colorado from 9am – 2pm. This outdoor event will include a display of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the annual Diva Dash, a volleyball tournament presented by the Colorado Gay Volleyball Association, the Oasis Brunch Garden, free health screenings, and booths from partner agencies and vendors.

Thank You To Our Partners!

Colorado Health Network is proud to partner with outstanding organizations across the state who are doing transformative work for individuals living with and at risk of acquiring HIV. FFL would not be possible without the partnership of **Denver Health/Denver Public Health, HIV Care Link, Boulder County AIDS Project, University of Colorado Denver ARTS Program, The Empowerment Program (Women's AIDS Project), Treatment Educat10n Network, Children's Hospital Colorado (CHIP), Del Norte's Chesney-Kleinjohn Apartments Inc., and the Alexander Foundation.**



FESTIVAL FOR LIFE
AIDS Walk & Run Colorado

Saturday, August 27th, 9a.m.-2p.m. @ Cheesman Park
To register: www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/festival-for-life

PREVENTION UPDATES

Access Point Pueblo, a program of Southern Colorado Health Network–



Access Point Pueblo is a harm reduction service implemented to reduce the spread of HIV, HCV, and other infections.

This month, 2800 unique individuals have visited, and 346 overdose reversals have been reported this year (492 total for 2021).

Southern Colorado Family Medicine partnership is growing and working with Southern Colorado Health Network to support with healthy lifestyle choices and preventive care measures, surgical clearances, and to align people with care.

The SCHN Pueblo office is working closely with CSU Pueblo interns to build relationships and support opportunities and learning within the Pueblo community.

SCHN was awarded the Drug User Health Hub grant through the CDC to create a hub for providing preventions services, bringing collaborative providers onsite, and better integrating services for people accessing harm reduction services. SCHN will be hiring new staff, including staff to manage the program, a peer specialist, and an outreach coordinator to support the program.

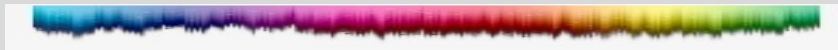
Access Point Pueblo re-launched the People Picking Up Points (PPUP) project that aims to educate and empower the community to safely pick up and dispose of any discarded syringes found in public spaces, while demystifying the perceived risks of doing so. To learn more about the PPUP project, call SCHN Pueblo Prevention at 719-648-0421.

Hey719, a program of Southern Colorado Health Network –



HEY719 (located at 2230 W. Colorado Ave. in Colorado Springs) provides testing and other prevention services and harm reduction support in a safe and welcoming environment.

Referrals for PrEP are currently on the increase in the Colorado Springs community.



Melissa Chizmar (right), SCHN Prevention Services Manager, and Corri Mercy, SCHN Lead Prevention Services Coordinator, attended an LGBTQIA+ networking event in July that was hosted by two realtors in Old Colorado City. It gave the twosome an opportunity to talk about SCHN prevention services with other LGBTQIA+ supporters.



AUGUST 2022 IS SAN LUIS VALLEY PRIDE MONTH

The 2022 SLV PrideFest is back and better than ever. Here is a list of activities that you can participate in for SLV PrideFest 2022.

Aug. 1-31: Art show featuring local LGBTQ+ artists will hang all month at Milagros Coffee House, 529 Main Street in Alamosa.

Aug. 26: Local artists perform Pride Edition Love Songs at Milagros Coffee House at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 26: Pride kickoff at Square Pegs Brewwerks, 625 Main St., in Alamosa, 8 p.m. to closing.

Aug. 27: Pride walking parade in downtown Alamosa at 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 27: Festival at Cole Park in Alamosa from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug. 28: Post Pridefest Drag Brunch at the Roast! Buffet, 631 Main St. in Alamosa.



AUGUST 21 2022 MINERAL PALACE PARK

PUEBLO PRIDE
LOUD & PROUD

10:30AM PARADE, 11AM TO 4PM ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, VENDORS & MORE
WWW.SOCOEQUALITY.ORG

Pueblo Pride, August 21st

For additional information, go to
www.slvpride.org/pridefest



First, thank you to EVERYONE who volunteered at Pikes Peak Pride on July 23-24. Events like this are super fun and so very impactful to our community. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes, worked the SCHN table, got up early and stayed late to set up and break down. SCHN was able to share out information and resources to more than 400 individuals, distribute more than 100 fentanyl test strips, distribute and train for 12 Narcan overdose reversal kits, and offer SO MANY safer sex supplies throughout the event!!! And secondly, our SCHN Parade Marchers were AMAZING! We were able to share enthusiasm and awareness for our CHN 2022 Pride mantra, "Take Pride in Knowing Your Status."

PASSENGERS RIDE FREE ON MOUNTAIN METRO BUSES IN AUGUST

There's no such thing as a free lunch. However, during the month of August, there will be such a thing as a free ride.

Mountain Metro Transit (MMT) is letting passengers ride for free for the entire month of August. The promotion is part of the Zero Fare for Better Air initiative—a collaborative, statewide initiative designed to reduce ground-level ozone by increasing use of public transit.

Zero fares will also apply to ADA paratransit services during the month of August as well. For additional information, visit <https://coloradosprings.gov/mountainmetro>.



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Women's Retreat 2022: Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 2022

SCHN would like to invite all female and non-binary Ryan White clients of CHN to participate in the 2022 Women's Retreat! If you are looking for a place where you can meet other case management clients at SCHN, build connection, and focus on rejuvenation, this is your chance! There are a few more slots available, so please reach out. The retreat will be virtual/online this year. Please reach out to your case manager or to Jessica Curry or Tori Cervi for more details by calling 719-578-9092. The deadline for registration is August 26th.

HEALTH ACCESS UPDATE

Medicaid Clients: Medicaid Forced passing has been extended through at least October! If you have Medicaid you will not be terminated, even if you are over income for the program. Contact Medicaid Member Services or your SCHN Health Access Program Coordinator if you have questions.

SOUTHERN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY OBSERVED ON AUGUST 20TH

Initiated by the Southern AIDS Coalition in 2019, Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (SHAAD) is now observed annually on August 20. The coalition originally initiated this observance to bring awareness to the disproportionate impact of HIV in the South.

On average, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates there are nearly 40,000 new HIV transmissions every year with the highest rates found in the South. HIV stigma can be a major barrier to accessing HIV prevention and treatment services, particularly in the South.

In spite of decades of research, advocacy and action, the South still leads the nation in HIV incidence, prevalence and AIDS-related deaths. This is especially true for youth, black and Latinx, MSM, and trans women.

NATIONAL FAITH HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY IS AUGUST 29TH



**FAITH HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**

The National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NFHAAD) is observed each year on August 29. Faith plays a major role in the lives of many Americans, and this awareness day is intended to engage faith communities to work together to support HIV/AIDS education, prevention, treatment, and care to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination in their communities.

Since 2017, when NFHAAD was first observed, partner organizations across the country have led the events of this awareness day across the nation to take a stand against stigma in their congregations and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

In 2020, NFHAAD was officially recognized as an awareness day on HIV.gov, meaning the U.S. government recognizes NFHAAD.

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

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