



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

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Festival For Life: AIDS Walk & Run, Saturday, August 27, 2022

A huge thanks to everyone who joined the Colorado Health Network at Cheesman Park on Saturday, August 27th for the annual Festival For Life: AIDS Walk & Run.

The Festival featured free live music from Dzirae Gold, Erin Stereo and Sophie Gray.

The annual Diva Dash was memorable as always. Quilt panels from the National AIDS Quilt Memorial were beautifully displayed in the Cheesman Pavilion. The Festival also featured a Volleyball Tournament hosted by the Colorado Gay Volleyball Association.

Festival-goers partook in free health screenings. Numerous partner agencies came out in solidarity, hosting booths with educational and outreach information. Thanks again to the hundreds of supporters who helped fund HIV services statewide!

Donations are still being accepted at www.coloradohealthnetwork/events.org



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 Education Network, Children's Hospital Colorado (CHIP), Del Norte's Chesney-Kleinjohn Apartments Inc., and the Alexander Foundation.**

PREVENTION UPDATES

SARAH MONEY WILL MANAGE THE NEW DRUG USER HEALTH HUB IN PUEBLO —

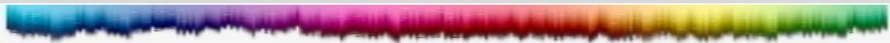


Syringe Access Program (Access Point Pueblo) manager Sarah Money is switching management positions and is now the leader of the new CHN Drug User Health Hub project in Pueblo. Sarah will continue to manage the Access Point Pueblo program until a replacement is found.

The new CHN Drug User Health Hub project serves to reduce the spread of viral hepatitis in Colorado through the creation of a regional hub in Pueblo County. CHN is the lead agency responsible for creating a multi-agency regional provider network that coordinates care for people who use drugs across multiple settings, as well as regularly convening providers and key community partners to assist with project planning and evaluation.

The Drug User Health Hub will increase accessibility of services for people who use drugs in Pueblo across multiple categories – syringe access, overdose prevention, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, HCV/HIV/HBV testing, linkage to treatment services for individuals with infectious complications of SUD, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and vaccination. The major goals of this project include reducing viral hepatitis cases across the community, and decreasing injection drug use-associated infections and overdoses.

Access Point Pueblo & Pueblo Prevention Updates



- ◇ Our first People Picking Up Points community clean-up was on August 6. Four community members joined, and in over two hours of looking, the group found fewer than 25 syringes!
- ◇ We met with CSU-Pueblo to discuss projects for the 4th cohort of students. They have two projects: one on syphilis education and outreach, and one on self-efficacy and self-advocacy for SAP clients engaging in care.
- ◇ 373 lives saved this year by APP participants. With the recent increase in community interest around Narcan and fentanyl test strips, we have seen more requests for education and trainings.
- ◇ Testing has continued to gain traction, with Kyle starting to fly solo next week! We will be developing a testing schedule soon.
- ◇ There will be multiple job postings coming from Pueblo Prevention soon—stay tuned and please share with your networks!

CHN'S HEALTHY AGING PROGRAMS AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDING; NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING AWARENESS DAY—SEPTEMBER 18

The Colorado Health Network Healthy Aging Programs recently received three-year federal (HRSA) funding to participate as one of ten demonstration sites across the country in HRSA's Project of National Significance to Identify Emerging Strategies for Older Adults Living with HIV.

The proposed program—the iCHANGE (Integrated Care for Healthy Aging and Navigation of Geriatric Effects) Project—will evaluate and refine aging care coordination at CHN. This project will allow CHN Aging Program staff to expand by one position and collaborate with direct service teams across the state for people 50+ living with HIV to ensure clients receive comprehensive, effective, and relevant screenings and referrals.

CHN's Healthy Aging Program is excited to be part of a national project investigating this important demographic shift in the HIV landscape. As you can see, HIV/AIDS and aging awareness is an ongoing effort at CHN.

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day is observed on September 18 each year. Its main purpose is to call attention to the growing number of people living long and full lives with HIV and to aging-related challenges of HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care.

National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day—September 27

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) gay and bisexual men are the population most affected by HIV in the United States. In 2019, gay and bisexual men accounted for 69% of the 36,801 new HIV diagnoses in the United States.

However, there are signs of progress. The CDC reports that new HIV diagnoses decreased 9% from 2015 to 2019 among gay and bisexual men. CDC data also shows that HIV infections are falling among some demographics of gay and bisexual men. However, disparities continue to exist among Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men where 37% and 32% account for new HIV diagnoses compared to other racial and ethnic groups. For further information, see [HIV and Gay and Bisexual Men: HIV Diagnoses](#).



First observed in 2008 by the National Association of People with AIDS, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a time to focus on the impact of HIV and AIDS on gay and bisexual men as well as ongoing efforts to reduce HIV and AIDS in this population. Browse the links below to learn more about the annual observance and find HIV-related information specific to gay men.

Women's Retreat 2022: Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 2021

The SCHN staff is excited to be having its annual Women's Retreat this year! If you are registered for the Women's Retreat, SCHN staff will be reaching out to confirm your attendance and details to ensure you receive your materials. If you have not received any contact by 9/8/2022, please contact Jessica Curry or Tori Cervi at 719-578-9092.

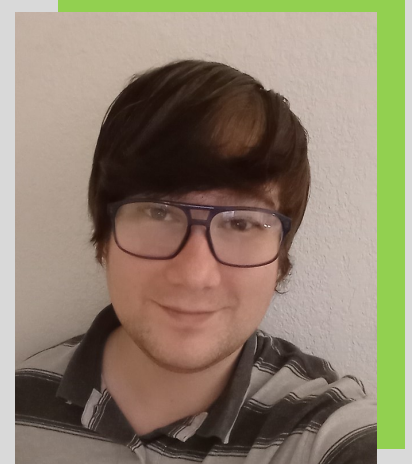
SCHN staff looks forward to seeing everyone at the retreat!

New Fall Interns For SCHN

MICHAEL NICHOLS—CASE MANAGEMENT INTERN

My name is Michael Nichols and I am a senior at CSU-Pueblo. I am studying social work and am so lucky and excited to be an intern at Colorado Health Network. It was the first place I was interested in when I found out about our field placements. I am 23 years old and have lived in Colorado Springs since I was 15. I originally grew up in Iowa and this is where most of my family live.

In my free time, I am often hanging out with friends, playing games, watching TV and movies, listening to music, and trying new activities and foods. I am also a huge Buffy The Vampire Slayer fan and have so many books, comics, games, and even the DVD sets of the show.



CHERYL TURONIS—BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTERN

Hi all! My name is Cheryl Turonis, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I am the new behavioral health intern at the SCHN Colorado Springs office. I am passionate about health equity and reducing disparities among the medically underserved and minority populations.

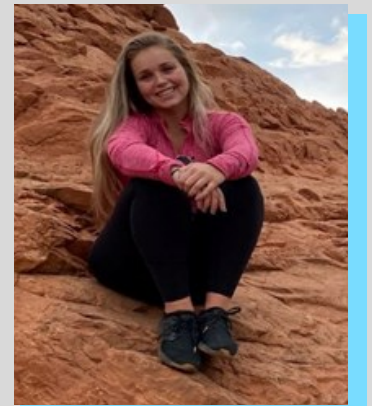
I am a retired U.S Air Force veteran pursuing my master's degree in social work. I am married and a mom to a witty 11-year-old son. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and listening to true crime podcasts.

VICTORIA (TORI) MITRICK—

PUEBLO PREVENTION INTERN

Hi Everyone!

My name is Victoria(Tori) Mitrick. I am a senior at CSU-Pueblo majoring in Health Science with a minor in Public Health. I enjoy doing anything outdoors like snowboarding, running, and being on the lake with friends in my free time. My goal here at CHN is to soak in as much knowledge as I can to provide the best quality of



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



719-621-1105

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