



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

October 2022

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SCHN CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM & FOOD BASKET/FOOD CARD GIVEAWAY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2022

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS NOV. 4TH

The SCHN children's holiday gift program, along with food baskets or food cards for clients, is scheduled to happen again this year in December.



Clients who are eligible for the 2022 SCHN children's holiday gift program should have received the program registration form in the mail recently or it will be arriving soon. Eligible clients are those with children 14-years old and younger who are in the client's physical custody at least 50 per cent of the time. If you are eligible, please fill out the form and send it back in the enclosed envelope addressed to SCHN. ***The deadline for returning the form is Nov. 4.***

Included on the children's holiday gift program registration form is a box to check if you also wish to sign up for a holiday food basket. Holiday food baskets will be available to all Colorado Springs area SCHN clients and holiday food gift cards will be given to SCHN clients in the other SCHN service area counties.

The pick-up dates for the children's gifts, food baskets and the mailing or distribution of holiday food gift cards will be in December and exact dates will be reported in the November/December Positive Press newsletters.

If you are interested in donating to the children's holiday gift program, call Bill or Rachel at 719-578-9092.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Starts Again on November 1

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) will begin again on November 1. 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 2022-23 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 between November 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023. For additional information, call the toll-free LEAP line listed above in paragraph two.



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2022

"You Choose!"



October 15th is National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). NLAAD's campaign brings together Hispanic/Latinx communities and service providers, and organizations providing services to Hispanic/Latinx throughout the U.S. and territories under one theme. This year's theme "You Choose!" informs us about new developments in the scientific field of HIV, that provide us with new options to treat and prevent HIV. These advances, injectable medication that are administered once a month for treatment or once every two months for prevention, contribute further more to make possible to end this epidemic.

The "You Choose!" NLAAD Campaign creates awareness about our options to choose the medication that suits us better: the new long-acting injectable or the existing pills regimen.


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.

Día Nacional Latino Para La Concientización del SIDA 2022


El 15 de octubre es el Día Nacional de Concientización Latina sobre el SIDA (NLAAD por sus siglas en inglés). La campaña de NLAAD reúne a comunidades y proveedores de servicios hispanos / latinos, y organizaciones que brindan servicios a hispanos/latinos en todo Estados Unidos y territorios dependientes bajo un solo tema. El tema de este año "¡Tú decides!" nos informa sobre los nuevos avances en el campo científico del VIH, que nos proporcionan nuevas opciones para tratar y prevenir el VIH. Estos avances, medicamentos inyectables que se administran una vez al mes para el tratamiento o una vez cada dos meses para la prevención, contribuyen aún más a hacer posible poner fin a esta epidemia.

La campaña NLAAD "¡Tú decides!" crea conciencia sobre nuestras opciones para elegir el medicamento que más nos convenga: el nuevo inyectable de acción prolongada o el régimen de píldoras existente.

daily in your...



or bimonthly in your...



**IF YOU ARE HIV NEGATIVE
NOW YOU HAVE MORE OPTIONS TO STAY THAT WAY**

HIV researchers have developed a long-acting PrEP that's injected every two months and is as effective as a daily pill. Now all you need to **stay HIV negative** is 6 shots a year.

YOU CHOOSE!

NLAAD NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY • nlaad.org • #nlaad2022

diariamente en tu...



o cada dos meses en tu...




**SI ERES VIH NEGATIVO
AHORA TIENES MÁS OPCIONES
PARA MANTENERTE ASÍ**

Los investigadores del VIH han desarrollado un medicamento preventivo (PrEP) de acción prolongada, que se inyecta cada dos meses y es tan efectivo como una pastilla diaria. Ahora todo lo que necesitas para **mantenerte VIH negativo** son 6 inyecciones al año.


¡TÚ DECIDES!

NLAAD DÍA NACIONAL LATINO PARA LA CONCIENCIACIÓN DEL SIDA • nlaad.org • #nlaad2022

daily in your...



or monthly in your...



**IF YOU LIVE WITH HIV
NOW YOU HAVE MORE TREATMENT OPTIONS**

HIV researchers have developed a long-acting medication that's injected once a month and is as effective as a daily pill. Now all you need to **stay healthy and undetectable** is 12 shots a year.

YOU CHOOSE!

NLAAD NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY • nlaad.org • #nlaad2022

diariamente en tu...



o mensualmente en tu...



**SI VIVES CON VIH
AHORA TIENES MÁS OPCIONES
DE TRATAMIENTO**

Los investigadores del VIH han desarrollado un medicamento de acción prolongada que se inyecta una vez al mes y es tan efectivo como una pastilla diaria. Ahora todo lo que necesitas para **mantenerse sano e indetectable** son 12 inyecciones al año.

¡TÚ DECIDES!

NLAAD DÍA NACIONAL LATINO PARA LA CONCIENCIACIÓN DEL SIDA • nlaad.org • #nlaad2022



PUEBLO PREVENTION UPDATE

By Sarah Money

There are a lot of amazing things happening in Pueblo Prevention right now! We are short staffed as we work to expand, but services operate as usual. We had a busy month with both Syringe Access and Testing. Kyle Meltzer, our newest Prevention Coordinator, is fully cleared to test on her own. We are working to schedule outreach testing events for the fall.

SAP visits increased from August, and we continue to have many reports of overdose reversals. As of September 30, we have had 404 reported overdose reversals in Pueblo. 2021 ended with 492 reports, so we anticipate a higher number this year. That said, overdose fatality rates are lower this year than last year! We are encouraged and hopeful to see this trend continue.

As you may know, August 31 was International Overdose Awareness Day and September was National Recovery Month. We had the opportunity to participate in a "Recovery Safe Zone" booth throughout the duration of the Colorado State Fair with about 10 of community partners. We distributed 75 Narcan kits, 36 Kloxxado kits, and 156 Fentanyl Test Strips at the booth between August 31 – September 6! We are grateful to everyone who stopped by to share their stories, ask questions, and learn. We built some connections with organizations we hadn't worked with previously, and are particularly excited about future opportunities to engage with peer specialists in Pueblo and the Southeastern Region!

With the Drug User Health Hub grant, we are expanding our services to provide better linkage-to-care and referral opportunities for individuals in our Syringe Access program. There are a lot of upcoming staff changes with this growth! Sarah Money, our prior Prevention Services Manager, is transitioning into Health Hub Program Manager. Christine Charron has accepted her new position as Prevention Services Manager. Christine has been a Prevention Coordinator with us for almost 3 years, and we look forward to seeing her succeed in her new role! We are close to hiring our Peer Navigator and Outreach Education Coordinator under the Health Hub, and will be posting more Prevention Coordinator positions in the next few months. Stay tuned!

HEALTH ACCESS/INSURANCE UPDATE

Open Enrollment is beginning November 1st and runs through January 15th! This is our one time in the year to enroll folks in insurance coverage on Colorado's insurance marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado. If you're enrolled in a marketplace plan with CHN, you will be contacted soon by a Health Access Program Coordinator (HAPC) to schedule an enrollment appointment. These appointments won't take long, but it is very important that you get connected with Kelly, Tabitha, or Carly to ensure that you have continuous coverage through next year.

Please also note that folks must enroll BEFORE December 15th to get coverage on January 1. If you enroll between December 15th and January 15th, coverage will not start until February 1st. Therefore, it is very important that you get in contact with an HAPC to complete an enrollment appointment, or you risk not having coverage in 2023!

October is a time when many companies have their open enrollment period for staff. If you are offered insurance with work, is it very important that you notify an HAPC as soon as possible, so that they can assist you with assessing your options. If you decline employer-sponsored insurance options, it can create complications when seeking alternative insurance coverage, so it is not advisable to ignore your employer's insurance offering. Reaching out to an HAPC can help ease the burden of Open Enrollment Season, because they are here to help you navigate all of your insurance eligibility options.





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Facebook

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

Positive Press

SCHN WILL AGAIN BE PART OF THE INDY GIVE! FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) was once again selected to be part of the annual Indy Give! Campaign. Indy Give! is a year-end (November-December giving period) philanthropic initiative created by the Colorado Springs Independent 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 throughout southern Colorado affected by HIV and other health conditions and also provides SCHN with the opportunity to raise funds in order to support all SCHN programs and services.



SAVE THE DATE: RED BALL 2022

December 2nd, 6:30-10pm

Asterisk Denver

1075 Park Avenue W, Denver, CO 80205



RED BALL
Igniting Awareness For World AIDS Day

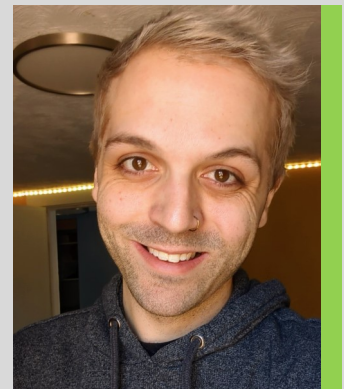
The Colorado Health Network Red Ball aims to create an evening that unites the creative minds of Denver with the advocates of our organization. This event is a collaboration of artists and activists, stylists, and social workers all coming together in support of one incredible cause. This year's Red Ball includes a high-energy fashion show to ignite awareness for World AIDS Day, so we as a community can come together to ignite a greater awareness for those impacted by HIV, both past and present.

Go to www.coloradohealthnetwork.org for more information.

NEW PREVENTION COORDINATOR AT HEY719 JASON CLARK

Hello all! My name is Jason Clark (he/him) and I am extremely excited to be a part of the team. I previously worked as a Montessori Middle/High School Teacher, leading classes in math, social psychology, baking/cooking, and gender studies to name a few.

Outside of work I am a huge media nerd, spending a large portion of my time gaming and watching movies/TV shows. I am beyond excited to work here with you all and help provide necessary services for many communities! I look forward to meeting you all and starting my journey with SCHN!



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

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



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