



# Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

## September 2023

Volume 16. Issue 9

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 30,  
2023  
6:30PM TO 10PM**



**DAVITA  
HEADQUARTERS  
2000 16TH ST,  
DENVER, CO  
80202**

Colorado Health Network is celebrating its 40-year Anniversary. You are invited to take part in a fantastic evening to honor four decades of work to equitably meet the evolving needs of people affected by HIV and other health conditions through prevention, care and advocacy.

Join the celebration on September 30 at 6:30 p.m. for a reception and dinner, silent auction, and live entertainment. VIP ticket holders will enjoy a special social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with passed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and early access to bidding on silent auction items. Additionally, the evening continues with our gala reception, open bar, three-course plated dinner, and live entertainment featuring Ongina from RuPaul's Drag Race and Mondo Guerra from Project Runway.

In 1983, a group of citizens in Denver concerned about the yet unnamed health threat (AIDS) met to formulate a local response. This group became the Colorado AIDS Project. From this grassroots beginning, other Colorado AIDS Projects were founded in other regions of the state. Northern Colorado AIDS Project (NCAP) and Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP) were both founded in 1986. Western Colorado AIDS Project (WCAP) was founded in 1989.

For more than two decades, each AIDS Project throughout Colorado operated cooperatively, yet independently. In October of 2011, the Denver, Southern, Northern, and Western AIDS Projects merged to form the new Colorado Health Network. The merger streamlined funding and increased the ability of these agencies to sustain necessary services to meet the evolving needs of those impacted by HIV.

CHN's programs include case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling, food pantry, insurance enrollment assistance, emergency financial and transportation assistance, housing resources, and legal referrals, oral health care services, in addition to a wide array of prevention outreach, testing, and education programs.

For more information about the 40th Anniversary Gala, go to  
[www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/40-year-anniversary-celebration/](http://www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/40-year-anniversary-celebration/)

## Amazon Donates Non-Perishable Food Items and Personal Hygiene Products

A HUGE thank you to Amazon DEN4 and to Jessica Warren for partnering with Southern Colorado Health Network through their Donation Program to provide two pallets of non-perishable food items personal hygiene products for CHN's food pantries!

And, as if this wasn't enough- Amazon will continue to donate these items to benefit the folks who use our services!

Thank you, Amazon! And, thank you, Jessica, for coordinating this amazing partnership!



## HEALTH ACCESS UPDATE

Open Enrollment (OE) runs from November 1 to January 15 each year.

Health Access team members are gearing up and will start scheduling clients in October for open enrollment appointments that will begin in November.

If you are a client and you think you might qualify for marketplace insurance (income more than Medicaid threshold and not offered insurance through work), contact Kelly or Tabitha in the SCHN Colorado Springs office.

The end of Medicaid Force Passing continues. If you are a client who has Medicaid that is terminating due to the end of Forced Passing, contact Kelly or Tabitha. Medicaid has stopped charging copays to individuals with active Medicaid. Currently, the only services that will result in a copay for Medicaid participants will be non-emergency services administered in an emergency room. Please keep in mind that SDAP recertification is easy for clients on Medicaid because they are only required to submit the application while supporting documents are not required.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLY EMMEL**—Carly was recently promoted to Director of the CHN Health Access Program. This is the top position in the statewide CHN Health Access Program. Her ascent to the Director post began in March of 2020 when she joined the SCHN team as a Health Access Program Coordinator. Following, Carly was promoted to the Regional Health Access Program Manager, and now, Carly is running the show for the entire CHN Health Access Program. **WAY TO GO!**



## 2023 Women's Retreat: October 20 and 21

We are excited to announce that we are hosting our first ever in-person/virtual hybrid Women's Retreat!

Please join us and other women for connection, fun, and learning. Meals and snacks will be provided as well as planned activities, workshops, and an outing.

Please RSVP by calling Tabitha T. at 719-578-9092.

RSVP by: 9/18/2023



### PREVENTION UPDATES

With funding from Opioid Settlement Region 19 Recovery grant, a mobile unit was purchased and made its way down to Pueblo for staff to see. The unit will be launched as a joint effort between the Drug User Health Hub team and Behavioral Health with goals of increasing behavioral health support for clients of Access Point Pueblo- increasing referral capacity for people who use drugs in Pueblo, and this will be a pilot model for mobile outreach and linkage to care for Region 19. The unit is now being outfitted for mobile services, and we are eager to get it out into the community soon!

In August, our Prevention team also found time to re-focus on testing and sexual health as the CSU-Pueblo Fall semester began. We will continue bi-weekly testing on campus in partnership with the Wolfpack Wellness Center, and staff are eager to provide testing and counseling to students in the first full semester of this partnership.

Finally, August closed with International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. SCHN and Access Point Pueblo provided support alongside the Substance Use Response Ecosystem's "Recovery Safe Zone" at the Colorado State Fair in honor of the day. At the fair, community members engaged with various members of the community. The Pueblo Department of Public Health hosted Peer Pod who provided fentanyl test strips, NARCAN, Kloxxado, overdose prevention/response education, and more! At the SCHN-Pueblo office, staff hosted a remembrance activity for participants with pizza, cold drinks, and the opportunity to add to our overdose quilt. Check out the new additions to this memorial to those lost to overdose next time you visit Pueblo!

Health Hub staff have been working hard to streamline HCV linkage to care with Denver Health via telehealth! Staff in Pueblo are practicing phlebotomy, ironing out process flow, and setting up a training with Labcorp. With limited local options for HCV treatment, we are really looking forward to increasing easy access to treatment here on-site for people who use drugs.

Pueblo Pride was the largest ever, and it was a huge success! SCHN staff were eager to participate and there was great involvement from the community. The day was very positive, with great conversations about HIV prevention, testing, and overdose prevention. It was a great day full of education, music, fun, and positivity for the entire community.







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SouthernCHN](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernCHN)

## Positive Press

### NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING AWARENESS DAY IS SEPTEMBER 18

On September 18, 2008, the National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAD) was launched by The AIDS Institute. It was launched to bring awareness to the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for adults 50 years of age or older.

According to the CDC, nearly half the people in the USA who are living with HIV are 50 or older and are living longer due to treatment with HIV medicines. Approximately one in six new diagnoses of HIV in the USA occurred in the 50 or older age group.

Older adults also face HIV testing and prevention challenges, so get tested if you think you are at risk for HIV and always use protection if you are sexually active.



### NATIONAL GAY MEN'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY IS SEPTEMBER 27

According to the CDC, gay and bisexual men are the population most affected by HIV in the USA. The most recent statistics showed that gay and bisexual men accounted for nearly 70 per cent of new HIV diagnoses in the USA and dependent territories. First observed in 2008 by the National Association of People with AIDS, the 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.

The CDC reports that new HIV diagnoses decreased nearly 10 per cent in recent years among gay and bisexual men overall. CDC data also shows that HIV infections are falling among some age, racial and ethnic groups of gay and bisexual men.



#### Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them.

Tuesday & Thursday,  
10:00am-12:00pm  
1:30pm-4:00pm



#### 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 at the moment its published!



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