



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

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NATIONAL WOMEN & GIRLS
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



WHAT IS NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY?

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) is an annual, nationwide observance, led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). NWGHAAD is a day acknowledged to empower people globally with knowledge and information regarding HIV/AIDS, with emphasis on the unnoticed impact it has on women and girls.

HOW TO HONOR AND OBSERVE #NWGHAAD

1) SPREAD AWARENESS

Make use of both physical and digital media to educate girls and women about HIV prevention. You'll be able to help a lot of people as a result of this.

2) SUPPORT WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Do you know someone or a group of girls and women who are HIV-positive? Then, in whatever way you can, provide them your support – emotionally, financially, and so on. It will go a long way toward assisting them in coping.

3) PROVIDE FREE TESTING

The majority of people are unaware of their HIV status. Make testing available to as many of them as possible, either as an individual or as part of an organization.

All around the world, people living with HIV/AIDS are regularly stigmatized and discriminated against. However, since 2005, the OWH has coordinated and held an HIV/AIDS awareness day to bring federal and community organizations together to raise awareness, offer support, and share information about the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.

As the nation works towards ending the U.S. HIV epidemic by 2030, we must prioritize women and girls, particularly women of color, in public health planning. This means developing policies and programs that address the social and structural inequalities that pose barriers to HIV testing, prevention, and care for half our population.

**See [womenshealth.gov](https://www.womenshealth.gov) and
coloradohealthnetwork.org for more on how to
#StopHIVTogether**

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE APRIL 19, 2024 RED RIBBON BALL

You are invited to celebrate the Southern Colorado Health Network 32nd annual Red Ribbon Ball from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard in Colorado Springs.

The theme for the 2024 Red Ribbon Ball is “A Night Under the Stars.” The SCHN Red Ribbon Ball is a premier southern Colorado annual gala benefiting the Southern Colorado Health Network. The event highlights the advances in HIV prevention, treatment and care and also serves as a time to reflect on the incredible gains achieved together as a community in the fight against HIV/AIDS



Your participation at this event allows SCHN to create further impact across the Pikes Peak region. Purchasing a ticket, a table or bidding on an auction item allows SCHN to continue to provide vital services that SCHN clients depend on.

For those who have attended in the past, your support will be appreciated again this year. For first-time supporters, it will be exciting to share with you information about the amazing work that is being accomplished by Southern Colorado Health Network.

This will surely be a fabulous night of dinner, entertainment, silent/live auctions, and mission moments. Tickets, tables and sponsorships are ready to be purchased at <https://aesbid.org/ELP/RRBall24/Tickets>.

SAVE THE DATES

PIKES PEAK PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE
JUNE 8TH & 9TH, 2024
ALAMO SQUARE PARK
FESTIVAL: 10 A.M. – 7 P.M., SAT. & SUN.
PARADE: 11 A.M. ON SUNDAY



DENVER PRIDEFEST & PARADE
JUNE 22ND & 23RD, 2024
CIVIC CENTER PARK
SAT.: 11 A.M. - 7 P.M
SUN.: 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.
PARADE: 9:30 A.M. ON SUNDAY

HEY719/ACCESS POINT COLORADO SPRINGS

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Access Point Colorado Springs received 638 visits in February and served 433 unique participants, including 104 new people. Staff began distributing one pipe of someone's choice and a bag or two of syringes during Thursday outreach to anyone who asks. Staff provides the Access Point ID card and writes down the identifier for the person so when they visit the program on a normal service day, staff can complete the full intake process. Nora and Parker have led this effort and are continuing to get to know our unhoused friends (and their needs) better through outreach and the weekly Colorado Springs Homeless Union at Westside Cares. Sammy, our Behavioral Health MSW intern, works regularly with a handful of participants on Fridays to address mental health concerns and staff is grateful to have her!

The staff is eager to launch another day of mobile services at Prism Community Collective in April (when the facility opens) and are waiting for final approval by the property owner, the Independence Center. Stoney (Site Director) seems optimistic, but the Prism staff are currently burdened by renovations in addition to such important conversations, so movement has been slow.

Unfortunately, SCHN prevention in Colorado Springs was not awarded funding by the Region 16 opioid settlement council. SCHN prevention in Colorado Springs will be throwing its hat in the ring again for the Attorney General's Opioid Impact RFA to fill in the gap. It is due 3/8.

Testing has really picked up since launching online scheduling via the Hey719 website a few weeks ago. Evening hours continue to be popular on Wednesdays. Andrea, Jason, and Manuel have done a great job retooling our services to meet demand. Parker is certified to test on their own now (apart from blood draws) and will receive phlebotomy training on 3/23.

Seventy individuals were tested for HIV this month through Hey719 including six Spanish speakers. Upcoming testing events at both UCCS and Colorado College are scheduled and there will be site visits with the CDC and Diversus in March.

Finally, Hey719 will have its first Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting in March

PUEBLO HEALTH HUB

There has been a lot of community engagement recently due to the recent camping ban ordinance that was put into place. Health Hub staff learned about agencies and services that staff was not aware of and, likewise, they were not aware of Health Hub. This allowed Health Hub staff to provide more community education and to improve cultural competency of stakeholders. Staff is working diligently to get agencies to sign onto the Memorandum Of Understanding for the Health Hub.

In early February, Health Hub staff worked with the EPA regarding lead/arsenic contamination at the Health Hub primary outreach site and participated in a community outreach event with multiple agencies. This event included: an EPA presence; harm reduction supplies and education; 22 people receiving blood lead level testing with PDPHE; four people receiving STI testing with Vivent; food and clothing donation distributions from RMSER, Vivent, PDPHE, and the Health Hub.

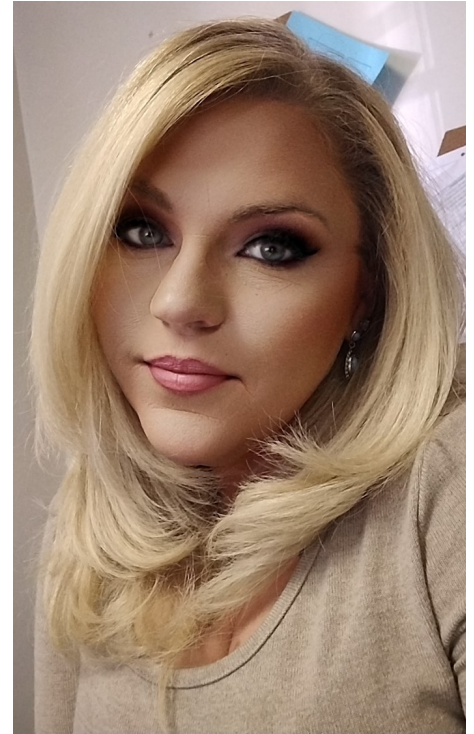
Later in February, Health Hub staff joined Pueblo United for a resource fair in Bessemer to provide information on SCHN services and to distribute Narcan/FTS/handwarmers. The event was not well attended but allowed staffers to form connections with Catholic Charities, Mariposa, and SafeSide Recovery.

Upcoming events include: April 5—2nd annual Summit on Homelessness hosted by the Pueblo Rescue Mission (location is the Pueblo Union Depot); April 9-10—CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (staff will present about the Health Hub on April 9 and there will be a link for anyone who wants to tune in); April 20—Battle of the Bands at Mineral Palace Park with Health Hub staff tabling and doing Narcan/FTS distribution; April 27—Warrant Clearing Day at the Dennis Maes Combined Court (501 N. Elizabeth).

PUEBLO OFFICE GETS A NEW CASE MANAGER: ASHLIEGH FROST

I was born in Colorado, but traveled a lot as a child due to my father being in the Army. I started my career in healthcare in 2007 as a Medical Assistant and stayed in the healthcare industry for 12 years before changing careers to case management and instantly fell in love with the career choice. After COVID hit, I made a change out of healthcare and worked for the Colorado Department of Corrections.

However, I felt as though I wanted to make a better impact on the community and went back to my true career love, case management. I am a mom and dog mom, and I am currently training to run my first 5k race in May. I am so excited to be a part of the team at SCHN and I am looking forward to helping SCHN grow in the communities surrounding the Pueblo Area.



HEALTH ACCESS

If you have not yet completed your taxes for 2023 and are in need of marketplace insurance coverage, you can still enroll by checking a box on your Colorado tax return form that indicates you are in need of insurance.

Checking this box will give you a “special enrollment period” and you will receive a letter from Connect for Health Colorado with a code that can be used to do an enrollment. If you are looking for another reason to file your Colorado taxes, you might be eligible for an \$800 TABOR refund. **Visit <https://tax.colorado.gov/TABOR> to learn more.**

Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them.

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



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