



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

March 2025

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SAVE THE DATE!



**Friday, April 18, 2025
at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906**

You are cordially invited to attend the **2025 Southern Colorado Health Network Red Ribbon Ball** for an enjoyable and exciting evening. The evening will include live entertainment, a fabulous dinner, and a silent/live auction alongside mission moments that will tug at your heartstrings.

The Red Ribbon Ball is a Colorado Springs tradition where southern Coloradans gather annually to raise funds to support programs and services for people living with HIV throughout the Pikes Peak region. It is also a prime opportunity for sponsor visibility to help raise these funds. Sponsorship support makes a real difference by helping to cover the cost of medical care, providing nutritional support or assisting with other vital services.

**If you are interested in buying tickets to the Ball or becoming a sponsor,
contact Donald DeAngelis, Director of Development,
at Donald.DeAngelis@coloradohealthnetwork.org
or visit www.coloradohealthnetwork.org.**

MARCH 10TH IS WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HIV incidence is one of the six “Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.” indicators. HIV incidence refers to the estimated number of new HIV infections in a given year.

In the U.S., about 23 percent of people living with HIV are women and women have made up about 18 percent of new diagnoses the past few years. The highest number of new diagnoses were among women ages 25 to 44.



Fortunately, advances in testing, treatment, and prevention have resulted in progress towards the nation’s goal to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

Be on the lookout for a discussion about advancements and work within the HIV medical community and SCHN’s prevention impact on local communities.

NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY IS MARCH 20TH

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2007. This day is observed on the first day of Spring each year, so the 2025 observance will be March 20th.

The National Native HIV Network plans the observance each year. The observance is a national mobilization effort designed to encourage Indigenous people of the United States, Indigenous people of Alaska, and Indigenous people of Hawaii to become educated, get tested, engage in prevention, and seek treatment for HIV.



SAVE THE DATES



PIKES PEAK PRIDE
June 14 & 15, 2025

DENVER PRIDE
June 28 & 29, 2025



HEALTH ACCESS UPDATE - INSURANCE ENROLLMENT FOR 2025

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If you do not have insurance for 2025, you have one last chance to enroll into coverage on Connect for Health Colorado by completing your taxes. If you do not have medical insurance coverage for 2025, **please contact your Health Access Program Coordinator or send an email to insurance@coloradohealthnetwork.org.**

Our team can help walk you through the steps to take advantage of this last opportunity to enroll into medical insurance coverage for 2025. If you do not complete an enrollment with the Health Access team, you will not have medical insurance coverage for rest of 2025. Please do not delay getting in touch with the Health Access team to complete a 2025 enrollment.

If you have already completed an enrollment with the Health Access team for your 2025 medical insurance on Connect for Health Colorado or Colorado Connect, **please send a copy of your premium invoice to your HAPC or insurance@coloradohealthnetwork.org.**

LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) GOES UNTIL APRIL 2025

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) starts on **November 1st, 2024 and runs through April 30th, 2025**. 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 2024-25 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. For additional information, call the toll-free LEAP telephone number listed above.

PUEBLO WELCOMES NEW OVERDOSE PREVENTION COORDINATOR!

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Hi, my name is Ravyn Gallegos and I have been living in the southern Colorado area for the past 10 years. I have always enjoyed helping my community and the others who are in it. My hobbies are collaging and outdoor photography, so exploring the great state of Colorado has always been in the forefront of my passions in life. It excites me so much to be apart of the Colorado Health Network Team and I can't wait to see the great things that we can do together!

COLORADO SPRINGS WELCOMES ABIGAIL, OUR NEW BILINGUAL CASE MANAGER

Abigail “Abby” Barrera is the newest member of the SCHN case management team, working out of the Colorado Springs office. She came on board a few weeks ago and has moved into the bilingual (English/Spanish) case manager position in a strong, smooth manner.

Prior to SCHN, Abigail worked in Colorado Springs as an outreach specialist and family enrollment specialist at the Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) from 2022 until the fall of 2024. She earned a Family Development Credential in June of 2023 in coordination with CPCD and the University of Connecticut



From July 2014 to August 2016, Abigail was a customer service agent 1 at Peak Vista Community Health Centers in Colorado Springs and then became a resource navigator at the Peak Vista Pediatric Clinic from September 2016 to March 2020.

Abigail earned medical assistant certificates from both the Pima Medical Institute and Pikes Peak State College.

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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