

## **AACHC - WCN Host REGION IX CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Region IX Management Training Conference will be held this year in Maui, Hawaii from September 28, 2004 until October 1, 2004. Medical directors, Executive directors and Dental Directors of community health centers from the states of Nevada, Arizona, California and Hawaii are expected to attend and share information.

The program this year again focuses on the latest clinical developments and procedures used to advance patient care in Community Health Centers in the four-state region. Also included are panels that discuss new management methods and procedures used in leading Community Health Centers nationally as well as in the four-state region.

Sponsors of the conference this year include the Western Clinician's Network (WCN), The Arizona Association of Community Health Centers (AACHC), Merck Pharmaceuticals and Kaiser Permanente. Physician CME Credits will be provided but its approval is still pending. Dental Credits will be provided by the Lutheran Medical Center.

The conference will feature several exhibitors this year including the Neenan Company, Diatouch, Inc., and i2i Systems.

Early registration for the Conference is \$545.00 if payment is received prior to August 27, 2004. After that date, the registration fee increases to \$595.00

Please contact Myrna Ramirez, Coordinator of Conferences and Publications at (602) 288-7544 or by email at [myrnar@aachc.org](mailto:myrnar@aachc.org) for conference information.

## **STATE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATED FOR 2004:**

### **Uninsured, Medicaid Populations in Arizona Continue at High Levels**

In 2001 the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers became part of a planning process that later became known as the Statewide Strategic Planning (SSP) project. Each year the Association's community development team reports on a series of indicators all designed to measure the need for additional community health centers and the depth of the need among Arizona's population for more medical services.

For example, with 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers operating 75 health care delivery sites statewide, Arizonans might conclude that needs are being met in bringing health care to those in the most need.

However, the SSP released this month and filed with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in Washington, D.C. identifies 2,236,000 people living in Arizona who are defined as "Medically Underserved." This number is from a population of 5,600,000 that is expected to grow exponentially in the next 10 years.

Moreover, 74% of the patients treated at Community Health Centers in 2003 were either uninsured (31%) or on Medicaid Managed Care (43%). Six percent were 1

Medicare patients. Approximately 17% of the population of Arizona is insured by Medicaid, or almost one million people out of 5,600,000 Arizona residents.

Some of the key findings in the Statewide Strategic Plan for 2004 include:

1. The growth and expansion plans of Community Health Centers for 2004-2006 will total 25 new healthcare delivery sites; if funded, the new sites could serve an additional 88,000 new patients with the need for at least 239 staff people and 65 medical providers.
2. These plans will require operating revenue of more than \$11 million and an additional \$9 million in capital funds.
3. Current FQHC's are also planning for 32 projects that expand services at their present locations. These can include expanded behavioral health services, new dental services and pharmacies. If these expansion plans move forward, CHC's will require an additional 42 medical/dental professionals and 62 additional staff people to meet the growing need and demand for health services.
4. Forty eight percent of the population of Arizona is either uninsured (16.8%) insured by Medicare (14.6%) or insured by Medicaid (AHCCCS) Managed-Care, (16.7%). All three of these categories of patients have difficulty finding health care providers willing to treat them. The balances of Arizona's population, 52% actually have commercial health insurance coverage or are insured through the Veterans Administration (VA) or current military service health benefits.

For more information about the State Strategic Plan for 2004, please contact Kenneth Poocha, Director of Community Development at the

Arizona Association of Community Health Centers or email him at [Kenp@aachc.org](mailto:Kenp@aachc.org). Copies of the plan are available by request.

## **NACHC OFFERS MEDICAID WORKSHOPS: Fears Increased Likelihood of Cuts After Elections**

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) today offered to hold state-specific Medicaid workshops for Primary Care Associations, their staff and Board Members in the coming months. The proposed workshops are to counter what NACHC sees as an imminent and growing threat to Medicaid funding immediately after the 2004 elections, both in Washington and in the various state capitols.

Many states held off Medicaid cuts this year thanks to a one-time infusion of \$10 billion from Washington to shore up Medicaid plans while the economy recovered. Arizona was warned in a recent report issued by the national Children's Defense Fund of expected Medicaid reductions of \$100 million in 2005.

Authors of the Children's Defense Fund report warn that unless Congress acts by June 30 to extend the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) all states will lose billions in Medicaid funding.

NACHC's Office of Federal, State and Public Affairs will provide day-long workshops to assist PCA's and their members with information to counteract anticipated efforts to cut Medicaid further in 2005.

The CDF Report is available online at [childrensdefensefund.org/pressrelease/default.asp](http://childrensdefensefund.org/pressrelease/default.asp)

## **BEN KUHN TRAINS FOR OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

**Arizona Association of Community Health Centers** Chief Operating Officer Ben Kuhn was trained last month as a HRSA Office of Performance Review site reviewer.

This training was accomplished in order to assist Arizona Community Health Centers in learning about the expectations of site reviewers conducting pre-site and on-site reviews during the coming months. The HRSA Office of Performance Review plays a major role in assuring the success of federally funded health programs.

Mr. Kuhn expects to work together with grantees to measure program performance, analyze factors affecting performance and outcomes and identifying strategies for improvement. The goal of effective program reviews by HRSA include eliminating barriers to care, reducing health disparities, assuring quality of care and improving program administration.

## **ASSOCIATION RECEIVES TUCSON AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE MERIT AWARD**

The Arizona Association of Community Health Centers has been awarded the Tucson Area IHS Award of Merit for the second year in a row. Indian Health Service (IHS) Area Director Taylor Satala notified Ken Poocha, Director of Native American Programs for the Association that the award will be presented to the Association on July 25, 2004 in Tucson.

The award is given to the organization that has worked closely with the IHS office and made

the biggest difference in assuring the success of Native American programs administered by IHS in Arizona. The Tucson Area HIS Office works to improve access to health care for the Tohono O'Odham Nation, The Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Kickapoo Nation of Oklahoma.

"We're very honored to again be chosen for this Award of Merit," said Joseph S. Coatsworth, Chief Executive Officer of the Association. "It's very important to all of us that the Association works with and makes a difference for the Indian Health Service and the Native American Tribes of Arizona. We are truly grateful for this award."

## **3RD ANNUAL INVALUABLE MEDICAL ASSISTANT DAY**

The Arizona Association of Community Health Centers & The Phoenix College, present:

**DATE:** Saturday, October 23, 2004

**TIME:** 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Some of the exciting topics will be:

- ~ Ma Practice Rules and other Legislative and news worthy updates that impact medical practice
- ~ Recognizing signs of abuse and reporting
- ~ Hands on skill review breakout sessions
- ~ Preparing for the national medical assisting exams
- ~ Presentation of award for excellence in medical assisting

(For information and nomination forms) go to our website: [aachc.org/calendar.html#october](http://aachc.org/calendar.html#october) or contact Kimberly Yarbrough at 602-288-7548 or email [kimy@aachc.org](mailto:kimy@aachc.org)

## CLASSIFIEDS

El Rio Health Center, Inc. - Chief Executive Officer - apply now

Salary: Competitive  
Function: CEO  
Date Closed: July 19, 2004  
Job Contact: Mercedes Sanchez

Mail Resumes To:

El Rio Health Center, Inc.  
 Attention: Executive Director Search Committee  
 839 West Congress  
 Tucson, Arizona 85745

Submit Resumes Electronically To:

EDSEARCH@elrio.org

Job Responsibilities:

A multi-specialty community health center in the Southwest is looking for a seasoned chief executive to lead the organization through strategic growth and transformation at all levels. Potential candidates must have ten years healthcare management experience and be currently serving as or have served as chief executive or second in command of a community-based health care program. For more information please visit <http://www.elrio.org/EDSearch.html> or [www.elrio.org](http://www.elrio.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION/TIME</u>
June 17, 2004	AACHC Finance Committee Meeting	AACHC Conference Room Phoenix, AZ 2:00 pm
June 17, 2004	CHC CV Board of Directors Meeting	AACHC Conference Room Phoenix, AZ 3:00 pm
June 18, 2004	AACHC Board of Directors Meeting	Embassy Suites Hotel at Biltmore Phoenix, AZ 9:00 am
June 18, 2004	COPS meeting Canyonlands	Page, AZ 10:00 am
July 12, 2004	TAPI Steering Committee	Phoenix Country Club Phoenix, AZ 12:00 pm
July 16, 2004	COPS meeting Mariposa	Nogales, AZ 10:00 am
July 20, 2004	MCAP Board of Directors Meeting	AHHA Phoenix, AZ 8:30 am
August 6, 2004	CHC CV/APA	TBD 10:00 am
August 12, 2004	AACHC Finance Committee Meeting	TBD Northern AZ 2:00 pm
August 12, 2004	CHC CV Board of Directors Meeting	TBD Northern AZ 3:00 pm
August 13, 2004	AACHC Board of Directors Meeting	TBD Northern AZ 9:00 am
August 20, 2004	COPS meeting North Country	Flagstaff, AZ 10:00 am
September 13, 2004	TAPI Steering Committee	Phoenix Country Club Phoenix, AZ 12:00 pm