Advocating for Community Health Centers

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Metro Community Provider Network Mission:
To partner with the community to provide excellent, culturally-sensitive health services to meet the needs of each individual…
Every Touch, Every Time.

MCPN Vision:
To see individuals empowered to live the lives they want through personalized, compassionate healthcare.
Community Health Centers (CHCs):

- Non-profit or public providers of high-quality, affordable primary and preventive care serving low-income and medically underserved communities.
- CHCs accept patients who are uninsured, self-paying, on Medicaid, Medicare, or CHP+, who have private insurance, or who are eligible for other programs (In Colorado, this includes the Colorado Indigent Care Program).
- In the United States, there are 1,200 CHCs delivering care at 9,000 service delivery sites.
- $24 billion is saved annually, through decreased ER, hospital, and specialty care costs.
In Colorado:

- 18 Community Health Centers
- The CHCs operate 159 Health Centers/Clinics in 37 Colorado counties.
  - Services include primary health care, dental care, and behavioral health care.
- In 2012:
  - 498,000 patients seen in the CHCs
  - 94% had incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (currently $47,100 per year for a family of 4).
What is Advocacy?

ad·vo·ca·cy
noun \ˈad-və-kə-sē\ : the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal

Advocacy:

• Asks something of others;
• Demands a change to benefit the lives of many;
• Creates a collective voice;
• Creates a space for public discussion;
• Finds solutions to problems.

**Policy and decision makers depend on advocates to help them understand and recognize the issues that need their support**
How Do CHC’s Advocate?

- Community Health Centers CAN and SHOULD lobby (do NOT use federal funds for this)!
- Two Types of Lobbying:
  - Direct Lobbying - communicating directly with an official’s office and urging support or opposition to a specific piece of legislation.
  - Grassroots Lobbying - urging others to communicate with an official.

**Lobbying does NOT include asking for general support or offering information that helps educate an individual**
How Do Individuals Become Advocates?

• Getting involved and giving back to your community;
• Making your voice be heard;
• Speaking up for others who don’t have a voice!
How Do YOU Get Involved?

- **Stay Informed** through updates.
- **Calls and Emails** - respond to Action Alert Items.
- **Tell Others** - words travel like wildfire, so spread the news to your networks (this includes the use of social media).
- **Attend** Health Center Events.
- **Build Relationships** - with policymakers, community leaders, business owners, churches, etc.
- **Make it Personal** - share your stories and ask others to share theirs!
What Can YOU Do? Sign Up at the National Level!

Join the Campaign For America’s Health Centers

By signing up, you will receive timely email updates and email Action Alerts so you can stay informed and send messages to your elected officials in support of local health care access at Community Health Centers.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Street

City

State/Province

Select a state

Zip/Postal Code

Your Health Center’s Name
What Can YOU Do? Be a Part of National Health Center Week!

The second week in August each year is dedicated to celebrating the services and contributions of Community, Migrant, Homeless, and Public Housing Health Centers.

In 2012, MCPN celebrated National Health Center Week through a blood drive event and a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Mobile Dental Van. Children and youth in the community were responsible for the creative artwork on the van.
What Can YOU Do?  Sign Up at the State Level!

Become a Health Center Advocate

By signing up as a Health Center Advocate you will receive timely email updates and email Action Alerts about issues or legislation impacting your local Community Health Center and access to health care. The email updates will keep you informed, and the email Action Alerts will allow you to easily contact your elected officials to voice your opinion about important issues/legislation.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

Street

City

State/Province

Select a state

Zip/Postal Code*

Occupation

Sign Up Today!
What Can YOU Do? Sign Up at MCPN!

Metro Community Provider Network

Our Mission is to Partner With the Community to Provide Excellent, Culturally-Sensitive Health Services to Meet the Needs of Each Individual...Every Touch, Every Time.

Call for More Information:
(303) 360-MCPN
(303) 360-6276

Join Our Advocacy e-Mail Program

Action E-List

Please enter your contact information to sign up for our mailing list.

(*) indicates required field

Basic Information

Prefix | Select.

First* | Last*

Email*
What Can YOU Do? GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

See what former Denver Bronco Ebenezer Ekuban has to say…

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLSq1JxqRQI&feature=youtu.be
Resources:
http://cchn.org/
http://www.nachc.org/grassroots-advocacy.cfm
http://www.nachc.com/guidelines.cfm

Thank you for your time!