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## KIDZBLITZ INITIATIVE

2008 was a year of transition for KidzBlitz. By early 2008, KidzBlitz trained over sixty volunteers from organizations in the Denver metropolitan area. Volunteers (or "Navigators") were asked to spend a minimum of twenty hours identifying and working with families who could potentially qualify for Medicaid and CHP+, helping them learn about the programs and identify the necessary documents and information they would need to complete the application.

Under this model, KidzBlitz was unable to meet its objectives due to a number of complex factors:

- Our learning curve for the system of public health care programs in Colorado was slower than expected. Thus, we needed to spend significantly more time developing relationships with key stakeholders.
- We lacked a deep technical understanding of the Medicaid and CHP+ programs and did not have direct relationships with all of the implementers from whom we needed input and partnership.
- We underestimated the level of commitment we would need from volunteers to be successful. We discovered quickly that the body of information volunteers needed to adequately help families was a more intensive process than expected.
- Identifying potentially eligible families was difficult as volunteers and families were often from different cultures, communities and congregations.
- It was difficult to keep volunteers up-to-date in a constantly changing system.
- Due to the lengthy application process, KidzBlitz had challenges tracking the number of families who were educated about the program, applied for Medicaid and CHP+, were denied or received coverage. We estimate that over 2,500 families were reached by KidzBlitz through community meetings, congregation and organization announcements, and direct volunteer outreach. At a minimum, these families learned about the availability of Medicaid and CHP+ and were offered support by a Navigator.

During 2008, KidzBlitz developed recommendations to combat the barriers that prevent families from accessing health coverage for their children which are outlined in its report, *Breaking Barriers: Analysis and Recommendations to Improve Family Experiences with Public Health Care Programs in Colorado* (June 2008). These recommendations are logical, attainable, and effective considering the current burdens already placed on all stakeholders within the public health care system. They are meant not just for policymakers and state-level administrators, but equally for the web of organizations and agencies involved at all levels of implementing public programs.

In the summer of 2008, KidzBlitz developed a new approach to enrolling children in public programs: one that would meet families in their communities and provide an opportunity to enroll in a convenient, culturally and linguistically appropriate format. KidzBlitz initiated undertaking a series of enrollment fairs where families could receive application assistance, document review, pro-bono legal advice, presumptive eligibility and, for families not eligible for public programs, referrals to low cost health services. The first enrollment fair was held November 11, 2008 at St. Therese Elementary School in Aurora. Over 150 children were enrolled in either Medicaid or CHP+. The enrollment fair also offered a "health fair" component that offered information to families that will improve the health and well-being of their children. KidzBlitz plans to hold 6-10 enrollment fairs in 2009. Additionally, KidzBlitz will develop a tool kit that outlines "best practices" that it will distribute to community organizations throughout Colorado to assist with the enrollment fair process. KidzBlitz staff also will be available to provide technical assistance and resources to other organizations interested in holding enrollment fairs, thus extending the reach of the initiative throughout Colorado.



# 2008 Annual Report

## COLO R A D O Coalition for the Medically Underserved

### OUR MISSION

The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved is committed to access to affordable, timely, quality health care for everyone in Colorado.



## CCMU Believes These Principles:

1. Health care coverage should be universal, continuous, and affordable to individuals and families.
2. Only a comprehensive solution will ensure health care for all while controlling costs and promoting quality care.
3. In the absence of a comprehensive solution, we will embrace policies and programs that improve access to quality care, expand existing health care access, and protect and strengthen the medical safety net.
4. We seek solutions that are sound, sustainable, and keep the needs of patients first.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008 was a bittersweet year. I don't think we've ever had a year when we said "goodbye" so many times.

Colorado had more initiatives on the ballot than any year since 1912 (14). We worked tirelessly with Speaker Romanoff to pass Amendment 59 (SAFE-Savings Account for Education). It was our answer to TABOR and Amendment 23 so that money could be made available to do something about Colorado's medically underserved. But the voters said "no" to our request. So we said "goodbye" to Amendment 59.

We said "goodbye" to Molly Markert after four exciting years as our Executive Director. Molly couldn't resist a wonderful new opportunity with St Joseph Hospital. We said a "fond farewell" to Chet Seward, who retired from CCMU's Board of Directors after many years of service.

Some of our favorite legislators became victims of Colorado's term limitations. In addition to Speaker Romanoff, we had to say "thanks for the memories" to Senators Bob Hagadorn and Ken Gordon. And then, as though that was not enough, Representative Bernie Buescher lost his bid for re-election. Goodbye old friends!

*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.*

*If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.*

*If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.*

*If you want happiness for a lifetime, do something wonderful for someone else.*

*~ Old Chinese proverb*

As so often happens, we not only said "goodbye", but we also said a lot of "hellos". We said "hello" to Deb Colburn our new Executive Director who brings 17 years of political experience to our organization. Then Deb made it possible for us to say "hello" to Monica Griego our new KidzBlitz expert, and Heidi Wilhelm, our chairwoman of CCMU's Sustainability Committee.

We said "hello" to a whole new batch of state legislators. To our amazement, some of them even know something about health care.

We got to know many of the Governor Ritter appointees much better and came to really love and respect some- like Joan Henneberry, the Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

We said "hello" to new funders like the David and Lucille Packard Foundation who has brought not only funds but new ideas and expertise to the All Kids Covered initiative.

We had a great Annual Meeting with the Colorado Health Institute, and welcomed Alfred Gilchrist and Tracy Anselmo to our Board of Directors. We then had an even more spectacular Annual Conference with all new speakers and many new ideas.

So, you need to continue to be involved with CCMU. Good things are happening. If President Obama does not bring health care for everyone in the United States, we'll do it right here in Colorado.

We Can! We Must! We Will!!!

Sincerely,

Gary VanderArk, MD • President

### SAVE THE DATE

The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved will host its Annual Conference

CARING FOR THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED

Friday, October 2, 2009



The Children's Hospital

Watch the CCMU web site at [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org)  
for more details or call CCMU at 303-832-7727

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UNDERSERVED 2008  
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Monica Griego  
Program Manager



## ALL KIDS COVERED

During 2008, *All Kids Covered*, worked with policy makers and partners, to shepherd reforms through the legislature that will lay the ground work for making Colorado's public health insurance programs work better for kids and families. The goal is to make it easier for eligible children to enroll, improve the quality

of services they receive and expand public programs to serve more kids. As a member of the leadership team, CCMU continued to provide direction for the Initiative's legislative agenda. In 2008 the All Kids Covered successes included the passage of:

- Senate Bill 08-160 which expands health insurance coverage for uninsured children through CHP+ by increasing eligibility from 205% to 225% of FPL, which is approximately \$48,000 a year for a family of four, with authority to raise to 250% FPL, should funding become available. It also enhances the CHP+ mental health benefit.
- Senate Bill 08-161 which reduces barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and CHP+ by eliminating the requirements for families to submit paycheck stubs; instead allowing the State to verify a family's income using data that is already available. It allows for easy re-enrollment of children at the end of their eligibility period, thus avoiding interruption in coverage.

The Initiative continued its efforts to get all kids covered by promoting a few critical, common-sense improvements which will guide its work into 2009:

- **Reform the System to Work Better for Kids and Families** by modernizing the eligibility determination process and improving Medicaid and CHP+ to create a seamless program for children and families. *All Kids Covered* worked with various stakeholders to successfully implement legislation passed over the last two years.
- **Reduce red tape so it's easier for kids to get and keep health coverage** by advocating for successful implementation of administrative verification of income, a proactive renewal system to eliminate procedural denials and closures in Colorado and securing administrative verification of identity and place of birth to eliminate a common barrier to enrollment for families.
- **Improve outreach to and enrollment of eligible kids** by funding community organizations to provide application assistance and securing a structured evaluation of outreach activities.
- **Fill in the gaps in care and coverage for kids and pregnant women** by advocating for improving kids' access to needed dental care by enhancing the dental benefit under CHP+, adding a dental benefit for pregnant women under Medicaid and CHP+, monitoring the implementation of medical home for all kids including defining specific child health outcome measures for all providers and ensuring data is captured and easily accessible.
- **Create coordinated systems of care for our children and a family** that enables families to benefit from a medical home, allows the State to track the health outcomes of children involved in public health insurance programs, and maximizes the value of the services and care provided through our public investments.

*All Kids Covered* continues to receive financial support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and The Colorado Health Foundation. Technical assistance is provided by the Georgetown Center for Children and Families and Spitfire Communications.



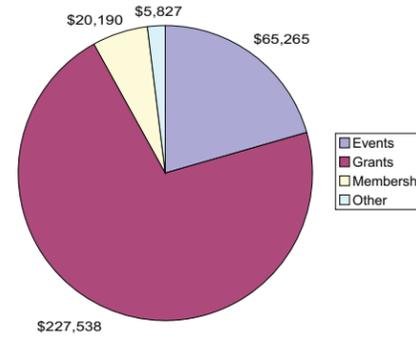
The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved thanks for following supporters for their generosity in 2008: The David and Lucille Packard Foundation, The Colorado Health Foundation, Colorado Trust, Rose Community Foundation, WellPoint Foundation, Denver Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Astra Zeneca, and the VanderArk Foundation.

Our conference was a huge success due the support of our sponsors: Doral, the Community First Foundation, COPIC, All Kids Covered, Centura Health, Colorado Behavioral Health Council, Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Trust, Kaiser Permanente, Colorado Children's Campaign, Exempla-St. Josephs, Medical Center of Aurora, Mental Health Center of Denver, Miller Coors, University of Colorado Hospital, University Physicians, Inc., the Colorado Hospital Association and the Colorado Area Health Education Centers.

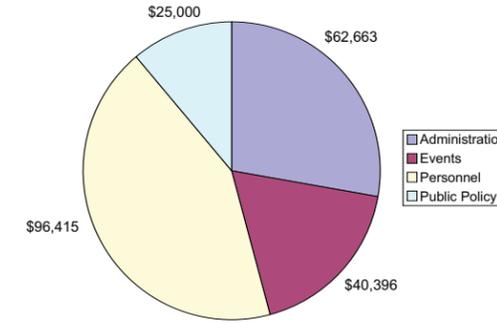
CCMU expresses its appreciation to Denver's Central Presbyterian Church for providing space for CCMU's offices. The donation of this strategically located space is helping CCMU achieve its vision.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Total Resources \$318,820



### Total Expenses \$224,474



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS



**Diane Miller** received the **Community Leader/ Advocate of the Year Award**. Diane was nominated by a co-worker at Northwest Colorado VNA. "To describe Diane Miller's passion for Access to Care in Colorado would be virtually impossible in 250 words or less! She not only believes every citizen of Colorado should have access to medical care regardless of their ability to pay, she passionately dedicates herself to this concept." In less than two years Ms. Miller has coordinated efforts in Northwest Colorado to acquire MUP designation, FQHC look a-like status, and official FQHC designation for Northwest Colorado. She also has coordinated the Northwest Colorado Community Health Project, which brings together partners from all parts of the Northwest region to address the issue of comprehensive access to health care for all citizens. She has connected the previous concept with undeniable action to create the first access to care collaboration for the Northwest region of Colorado.

Diane serves as the Access to Care Coordinator for the Northwest Colorado VNA in Steamboat Springs.

**Dennis Lewis, DDS** received the **Non-Physician Provider of the Year Award**. Karen Cody Carlson, Executive Director of Dental Aid, made the nomination. "Dr. Lewis has provided comprehensive, quality oral health care for low-income and uninsured

residents throughout the Front Range for nearly 30 years. Throughout his long career in both private practice and as a member of the safety net dental community, Dr. Lewis has exhibited a passion for service." As Director of General Dentistry, Dr. Lewis helped to design and implement the ACTS program at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. ACTS students, in their senior year of dental school, provide care to patients throughout the safety net system, thus assuring increased access to care for patients, and a positive introduction to public health dentistry for students. Since joining the Dental Aid care team, Dr. Lewis has provided leadership and vision for the organization. He is a faculty member on the technical assistance team for Cavity Free at Three; he conceived and designed a certificate training course for bi-lingual, bicultural dental assistants that Dental Aid hopes to implement within the next year. Dr. Lewis has led in Dental Aid's first research project—testing the effects of Xylitol gum or mints on transmission of caries-causing bacteria from mother to child. Most importantly, Dr. Lewis is respected and admired by staff, patients, the foundation community, and fellow safety net providers alike. He serves as a role model for any dentist or other oral health team member who is willing to commit to work within the safety net dental system."



**Leigh Truitt, MD** received the **Physician of the Year Award**. Dr. Truitt was nominated

by his colleagues at Doctors' Care. "Dr. Truitt balances the roles of serving as patient advocate and understanding the needs of network physicians in managing the complex medical issues of the uninsured patient. He puts his heart into every day with Doctors Care and wants to restore faith in the medical community as it has been restored to him."

Primary care physician Leigh Truitt, MD's involvement with Doctors Care has made a full circle. In 1987, Dr. Truitt was president of the Arapahoe Medical Society which appointed the committee that founded Doctors Care. After 37 years of providing care and working in the health care field, Dr. Truitt has brought his expertise to a new level by focusing on an underserved population and helping our community better manage scarce health care resources. Now, twenty years later, his philosophies and direction provide significant contributions to the program.

At Doctors Care, Dr. Truitt originated a case management committee to create a forum to address difficult cases and encourage efficient utilization of services by both physicians and patients. His review of pharmacy reports has brought responsible medical management and prescribing of generic medications. Through this, Doctors Care has been able to significantly reduce the cost of medications. This means donated monies and services by the hospital pharmacies stretches further to more patients. In addition, he provides direct patient care to clients at the Doctors Care Clinic. Although an internist in his career, Dr. Truitt's commitment to the underserved population has encouraged him to begin to see a younger patient population.



A special award was provided to **Chet Seward**, past Executive Director and Board Member of CCMU, for his years of service to CCMU and the medically underserved.

COLORADO  
Coalition for the Medically Underserved

(303) 832-7727

1660 Sherman P.O. Box 18877  
Denver, CO 80203 Denver, CO 80218

Website: [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org)