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**TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



House Speaker Andrew Romanoff and State Senator Shawn Mitchell engage in a lively and spirited debate.

The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved is strengthened and stretched by the enthusiastic cadre of volunteers who share their expertise with us to help meet and exceed our goals. The work of our volunteers allows us to appear to be everywhere at once, which is essential as we work together to achieve true health care reform for Colorado. In no particular order, volunteers we honor and appreciate include:

Adam Wolf, who maintains the CCMU web site, offers upgrades and technical assistance to keep us current with the times. Check out his great contributions at [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org).

Barbara Shaw is the proverbial "Mary Poppins" of CCMU, appearing with whatever is required at our time of need. She produces thank you notes to acknowledge our many members and donors as well as keeping the books balanced and the reports produced in a timely manner so that various governmental groups are happy. She stepped up to help with conference registrations and is always the eager reader to catch articles we may not catch in media outlets.

Marj Youngsma has not let the challenges of data base management and electronic communications daunt her for one minute. She keeps current with who our members are, reminds us all when our dues are due, and is always looking for ways to improve our member communications. She coordinates the distribution of our Member Alerts and Legislative Session reports as well as conference registrations and address updates.

Eric and Amy Hanson have taken over the production of the CCMU newsletter when Anush moved on to med school in another state. The couple compiles all the reports and materials into a coherent bi-monthly product for the benefit of our members and friends. In addition, Eric offers a "Coaching Corner" to keep us all motivated and inspired as we go about the daunting challenges we face.

Alicia Haywood came to us as a "trade" for membership dues late in 2006 and has provided assistance and support to many of CCMU's health policy initiatives. She staffed the 2010 All Colorado Kids Covered initiative and its two Work Groups, produced the Roadmap document, and coordinates participation in the many CCMU KidzBlitz work groups. As a volunteer and now as a contract staffer, Alicia documents the many meetings and keeps everyone connected.

John Gardner displayed his "other life" talents in arranging for the loan and use of high-tech decision making software to efficiently guide us in framing the 2010 All Colorado Kids Covered priorities as well as our emerging reform proposal and Board strategic visioning.

Board members, committee members and volunteers give CCMU its depth of experience and broad scope of vision. The accomplishments detailed in this Annual Report are lasting contributions from this group of extraordinary volunteers.

**SAVE THE DATE**

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

**CARING FOR THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED**  
 Friday, September 21, 2007



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

# 2007 Annual Report

COLORADO

## 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



2006 was an interesting year. We were involved in many significant activities. Our Blue Ribbon panel on Standard Benefits not only gave birth to SB 36 but as a spin-off developed the Pueblo Pilot Project. Pueblo has been most receptive and Mark Earnest, Chris Adams, and the Kauvar Foundation are making real progress. We did make a difference!

We also did our best to assure the passage of SB 208 which established the Health Care Reform Commission. Then we saw to it that two of our board members, Dave Downs and Ralph Pollack, got appointed to the commission. They will make a difference!

2006 was an election year and we were thrilled that a person who believes in the mission of CCMU was elected governor. What a wonderful opportunity this gives CCMU to carry out its mission of health care for all. We will make a difference!

CCMU promises its members that we will have great conferences and we certainly came through in 2006. Our Day at the Capitol was a smashing success and we had an overflow crowd in the old Supreme Court Chambers hear a debate between candidate Bill Ritter and Senator Shawn Mitchell. The Annual Conference was as excellent as usual with John McDonough, MD from Massachusetts giving the keynote address. If they can do it in Massachusetts, we certainly ought to be able to do it better here. We must make a difference!

We look forward to 2007 with renewed enthusiasm. This will be a great year! This is the year we will make a difference!  
**WE CAN! WE MUST! WE WILL!**

Sincerely,

Gary VanderArk, M.D.  
 President

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**COLORADO COALITION FOR THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From the perspective of the rear view mirror, looking back, I only see a blur of activity and a huge pile of new files that are the evidence of a very busy year for CCMU. If the volume of paper is any indication of progress, we have added a new 2-drawer file cabinet at the office, and it is already filled!! I'd like to highlight what I consider to be the three greatest accomplishments CCMU put forward in 2006.

The Annual *Caring for the Medically Underserved* Conference enjoyed unprecedented financial support from a host of sponsoring organizations thanks to the work of Dace West and individual CCMU board members. Speakers and break out sessions were rated very favorably overall. The networking opportunities were unparalleled as more than 225 committed reformers gathered to learn, discuss and share. Remember when we were all absorbing "The Massachusetts Plan", my friends? Look how far our hopeful visioning has taken us in a few short months!!!

Second for me is what I call "the enlightenment" that began in 2006 as the sheer weight of the current system weighs on everyone in one way or another. Health Care Reform has again become the most popular media topic, and as the political climate shifted, the debate centered more on not "if" but "when" reform begins. CCMU played an instrumental role though Jennifer Miles in her work for us at the Capitol to pass the legislation to establish the 208 Commission, which is a vehicle for the comprehensive reform CCMU has always represented as essential. Essential to all this is the "enlightenment" Len Nichols shared with CCMU as a special presentation sponsored by the Rose Community Foundation in fall, where he chided us that there is "a moral imperative" to reform this system. Nichols reminds us "...policy analysis and evaluation cannot rest until there is real health care justice throughout the entire land. This might require more resources and be hard to define, but we'll know it when we see it. It will likely look better as we get nearer, just like the Promised Land." [Health Affairs-Vol 26, No2].

Lastly, in fall of 2006 CCMU convened the 2010 All Colorado Kids Covered Initiative to bring more than 40 child advocates and policy makers together to set a course for legislative changes needed to get all Colorado kids covered by the year 2010. Thanks to the Colorado Health Foundation, a Roadmap detailing the process was developed and is at [www.ccmu.org](http://www.ccmu.org) and will be distributed to other state Health Policy Chairs and legislative leaders. The balance between expansions to the system so that all kids are covered while also injecting access to providers and quality care produced medical home and comprehensive reform proposals presented to the new Governor and legislators at the end of 2006.

And why do we keep doing this? Because Amber's infant son died of "Medicaid" after he started having seizures and she could not find a specialist who would accept Medicaid. Because Luis can not work to support his family due to no relief for his chronic debilitating back pain. Because Rose's children are now on their own after Rose died of complications from her untreated obesity. Because each of those statistics about uninsurance and underinsurance represent real people, with real needs, that our system has yet to meet. Together however "We Can, We Must, We Will" make a difference!

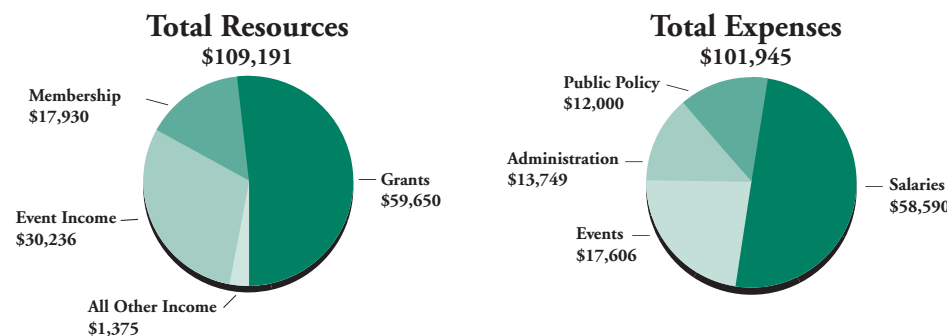
**Thank you for all you do!! Molly Markert, Executive Director, CCMU**

The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved is thrilled to accept support from Boettcher Foundation, Brett Family Foundation, Colorado Trust, Denver Foundation, Faegre & Benson Foundation, Jared Polis Foundation, Rose Community Foundation and Rutt Bridges Foundation for our ongoing work to achieve access to quality, timely, affordable health care for all Coloradans.

Our conference was a huge success due to the support of our sponsors CCHN, Colorado Trust, New West Physicians, CO Health Foundation, CO Medical Society, Aponte & Hogan, IMPCCA, Children's Hospital, Roet Realty, Centura Health, Kaiser Permanente, Gay & Lesbian Fund for CO, Caring for CO Fdn. and MCPN.

**CCMU expresses its appreciation to Denver's Central Presbyterian Church where its offices are located. The donation of this strategically located office space at 1660 Sherman St. is helping CCMU reach its vision.**

**Financial Highlights**



**Annual Conference Award Winners**

The 2006 Awardees are:

**Physician Provider Award:  
Dr. Jim Simerville**

When the El Paso County Medical Society Foundation received grant funds awarded by the Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence / Innovation to establish PracticeNet Solutions (PNS) a collaborative program of the El Paso Medical Society (EPCMS), the Dallas County Medical Society (DMS) and the Travis County Medical Society (TMS-Austin, Texas), Doctor Jim Simerville was the physician everyone looked to in order to make it all happen. Since the day he was asked, he has responded with a quick "you bet" and he has worked tirelessly to bring PHS and the associated CATCH program to life. In the short time he's been working on the project much has been accomplished. When a respected and genuinely caring physician champion comes along, wonderful things happen.



throughout the suburban metro area, developing mental health collaborations that have resulted in outreach services for people who are homeless and mentally ill and helped to create access to Behavioral Health and Health Psychology services for special populations including seniors, disabled and developmentally delayed.

**Lay Person Community Service Award:  
Julissa Molina Soto**

Julissa Molina Soto has worked to provide multi-cultural community outreach for the Alzheimer's Association, Hepatitis C Connection of Colorado, Community Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center, Hospice of Metro Denver, College Invest and now the American Diabetes Association. She coordinated a statewide vaccination program for Latino children, organized the largest Children's Day celebration in Colorado and created the Latino Family Dementia program during her time with the Alzheimer's Association. At the American Diabetes Association, she developed and implements the *por to familia* initiative which address preventative measures Latino families can take to decrease the risk of heart disease and diabetes. She serves on the board of directors of the Inner City Health Center, and is the past Vice-President of the Colorado Minority Forum.

**Membership Application**

Would you like to be a part of this group of individuals, foundations, agencies, and businesses that are supporting the work of CCMU through their membership? For additional information contact [MollyMarkert@comcast.net](mailto:MollyMarkert@comcast.net)

Your membership investment will keep you on our electronic mailing list for events, legislative updates, voting on the Board of Directors and supporting the Coalition's important work.

Please support CCMU as an investing member at one of the following levels:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_\_\_ \$45    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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All donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

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