

CCMU NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2004

CCMU IS COMMITTED TO ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, TIMELY, QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE IN COLORADO

UPDATE ON AMENDMENT 35

The election is less than two weeks away and the **YES ON 35 CAMPAIGN** is mounting a door-to-door literature drop-off effort. The campaign needs **volunteers** willing to work a couple of hours and distribute literature. Walking is a great way to be healthy yourself while making voters aware of how their **YES vote on 35** will make others healthy, too. Precinct maps and literature are available: no need to stop and talk unless you choose, and you can walk on your own schedule as long as it is before **November 2!**

Amendment 35 protects kids from tobacco, encourages adults to quit and provides more access to health care in Colorado by increasing the price of tobacco to the national average.

It's very important to let your friends, family members, and co-workers to know you are supporting Amendment 35. Help spread the word by e-mailing ten people why you support this initiative.

The estimated \$175 million in new revenue will:

- Provide health insurance for Colorado kids and families

- Support health centers that serve uninsured and low-income patients

- Restore tobacco prevention and cessation programs that are proven to keep kids from ever starting to smoke

- Fund prevention, early detection and treatment of heart and lung diseases and

- Maintain support for local governments, the state's old age pension fund, and Colorado's general fund

CCMU encourages its members to volunteer. Contact *Citizens for a Healthier Colorado* and find out to help. Call Sarah at 303-225-8877 or sarah@healthiercolorado.org
The campaign's newsletter *The Advocate* can be accessed at www.healthiercolorado.org

On October 28, the University of Colorado School of Law will present "Health Access Through Tobacco Taxes: Exploring 2004 Colorado Ballot Initiative 35." For more information call 303-735-5717. Fee is \$25 and 3 CLE credits are offered.

MICHAEL DUKAKIS TO SPEAK IN DENVER ON NOVEMBER 18

Former Governor Michael Dukakis will be in Denver on Thursday, November 18 to make a presentation on *“The Uninsured . . . Forty-five Million and Counting.”* Mr. Dukakis will be introduced by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. Tickets for this benefit event may be purchased at www.blacktie-colorado.com or call CCMU for more information. A flyer giving details of the event follows this newsletter. This opportunity is CCMU’s major fundraising event for the year, so your support and participation are essential. If you have sponsorship ideas, please contact Barbara in the CCMU office.

CCMU UPDATES

Executive Director

On September 16, CCMU’s Board of Directors welcomed its new Executive Director, Molly Markert. Molly comes to CCMU with an extensive legislative background including experience as a member of Colorado’s General Assembly. She currently serves as a member of the Aurora City Council. Molly volunteers on school- and health-related boards and cherishes her time as Mom to Emily (age 15) and Joey (almost 12).

CCMU Office Opens

A few days before Molly started her tenure as Executive Director, CCMU opened a new office at 1160 Sherman St. in Denver, inside Central Presbyterian Church. Calls to CCMU at 303-832-7727 will likely be answered by a staff member or volunteer. Thanks to Barbara Shaw for making the office functional. We are still seeking a few supplies such as hanging file folders, flip charts, a white board and pens, and a desk lamp.

Sincere thanks to the church for hosting us. We are also looking for a creative volunteer to make up a display/bulletin board featuring current events in health care for the uninsured to add to the church mission display for all to see. Call the office if you are interested in assisting with any of our office needs.

JANUARY MEMBER MEETING

Mark your calendar for CCMU’s January Member Meeting on Wednesday, January 19. The program will include a presentation of the recent Surveillance Report from the Governor’s Office of Health Disparities. We will have refreshments at 3:00 p.m. for the “buzz” of networking that is the lifeblood of CCMU and we will begin the meeting and featured presentation at 3:30 p.m.

NEWS FROM CCMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors welcomes a new board member, **David Dennis, CPA**. Dave’s significant experience in the financial arena will complement current CCMU board strengths.

CCMU Board Member **Larry Wolk, M.D.** will be honored at this year’s National Philanthropy Day in Colorado as the state’s Outstanding Volunteer

BIG HORN CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND THE COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE BEGIN A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This leadership development program has a specific intent to impact health care policy in Colorado. Because the issue of health care is critical to Colorado's citizens and intersects with both the public and private sector, the Bighorn Center believes it is imperative that more individuals with experience in health care and an interest in Colorado's health care policy become involved in advocacy and public policy development.

Please help identify between 20 and 25 candidates for this program. Application forms are available at www.bighorncenter.org. Deadline for applications is October 29.

DU LAW SCHOOL TO INSTITUTE A PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

The DU Law School recently introduced a Public Service Requirements as a prerequisite to graduation with a Juris Doctor. This can be satisfied by completing a Public Interest Practicum requiring a minimum of 50 hours of supervised, uncompensated, law-related work in a court or government office setting, private law firm doing pro bono work, or nonprofit organization.

If your organization would like to become a pre-approved Public Interest Practicum Supervisor beginning in the Summer of 2005, contact the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver by calling or e-mailing Samantha Johnston, Administrative Assistant-Public Interest at 303-871-6045 or publicinterest@law.du.edu

WELLSTONE FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Families USA, a national organization for health care consumers, has established the Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice. Through this Fellowship, Families USA hopes to expand the pool of talented social justice advocates from underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups, particularly from African American, Latino, and American Indian communities. This fellowship honors the memory of the late Senator Paul D. Wellstone by increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of social justice advocates and leaders. The Fellow will work with communities of color to advance social justice by addressing health disparities and promoting equity in access to health care. For more information: www.familiesusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Wellstone_Fellowship_index.

**THE COLORADO COALITION
FOR THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED**

PRESENTS

**THE HONORABLE MICHAEL DUKAKIS
OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.**

**RAINER AUDITORIUM
ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL COMPLEX
19TH & LAFAYETTE
DENVER, COLORADO**

5:30 p.m. - Wine and appetizers

6:00 p.m. - Mr. Dukakis speaks on

The Uninsured: Forty-five Million.... and Counting

To purchase tickets, go to www.blacktie-colorado.com

CCMU Members - \$40.00

To purchase a ticket and join CCMU - \$50.00

Non-members - \$60.00

For further information, call CCMU at 303-832-7727

Or visit the CCMU web site at www.ccmu.org